

Newton Youth Commission Meeting

March 1, 2006

Minutes

Present: Joe DeVito (chair), Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon, Joanne Kazarian, Terance Sack, Don Fleming, Peter Harrington, Stephanie, Pelkowsky, Stephan Ross, Rachel Corey, Brandon Harris, Rachel Park, Sara Sinicropi-Yao

Regrets: Beverly Droz, Anthony Bibbo, Catherine Ehrhardt, Matt Green, Sarah Laski, Noor Narula

Staff: Linda Walsh

Guests: Katie Sanders, Kira Mascho, Karen Manning

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 and held in the City Hall cafeteria.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made and passed to accept the 2/01/06 minutes.

Freedom from Chemical Dependency Program

- Held at Newton South on February 15th. Joe and Donna reported that it was an excellent program attended by over 500 students. Speakers were excellent.
- To be held at North on April 10th. All youth commission members welcome to attend.

Bake Sale

- Was held at the democratic caucus on February 4th. Peter reported that it was a great success. Thanks to the participating students..

Annual Award Dinner

- Will be held on June 7th
- Joe asked everyone to begin to think of nominees for the award.

Youth Foundation

- Brochure is in draft form. Copies were made available for comments/suggestions.
- Next steps are to update the executive office then proceed into the community in an effort to involve organizations and businesses.
- Joe is working on the paperwork to file for the Foundation to become a legal entity.
- Charter members will be recruited to create a board of interested individuals
- These board members would help to carry the message into the community, increase awareness and generate ideas to raise funds for the Foundation
- Peter explained that the money would be used as seed money for groups or organizations to start a youth program. Details accessing the funds (how the money would be accessed and distributed) have to be worked out. Programs of all kinds (educational, arts, sports) would be included.

New Business

- Linda distributed copies of the 'Youth Services in Newton' booklet and requested feedback. The number of copies to be printed will be determined by available funding. A list of possible distribution sites was given and recorded.
 - Joe spoke about the ongoing work to create a link on the City website for youth services.
 - Discussion continued about ways to fundraise money for printing costs, ideas for distribution, comments on the booklets contents and suggestions for changes
- Peter asked about interest in the golf tournament. There seems to be enough interest to proceed with a plan to hold the event. He will try to get time in May for a small tournament of up to 20 players.
- Karen Manning from the Barry Price Center spoke about the new aftercare program for youth with developmental disabilities. Currently there are 8 teens enrolled in the program but they expect the number to grow. The goal is to make connections in the greater community. They are available to volunteer for projects or for summer employment. Just contact Karen or the Center for more information.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, April 5, 2006**