

Newton YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

April 5, 2006

Minutes

Present: Joe DeVito (chair), Donna Gordon, Terence Sack, Ofc. Don Fleming, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Stephan Ross, Rachel Corey, Brandon Harris, Sarah Laski, Noor Narula, Rachel Park, Sara Sinicropi-Yao

Regrets: Richard Dyer, Joanne Kazarian, Robert Staulo, Anthony Bibbo, Catherine Ehrhardt, Stephanie Pelkowsky

Staff: Beverly Droz, Linda Walsh

Guests: Hana Haver, Pat Kenslea, Shane Lyons, Kira Mascho, Katie Sanders, Rojay Wagner

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and held in the City Hall cafeteria. The meeting began with introductions around the table. There were many youth guests from the two high schools.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made and passed to accept the 3/01/06 minutes.

Treasurer's Report by Bev:

The balance in our budget is \$678.23

The estimated FCD forum cost is \$750

The estimated deficit is \$72

The revolving account balance is \$193, including the \$78 bake sale funds raised on 2/4/06. These funds can be used for the FCD programs and other expenses, if needed.

Update on Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD) Program

The flyer for the FCD program, to be held at Newton North High School on Monday, April 10, from 8:50 am – 2:20 pm, was distributed. Workshop facilitators from FCD Educational Services are recovering alcoholics and drug abusers.

Four workshops will be offered: (1) Choosing Not to Use, (2) Marijuana: How Harmless Is It? (3) Helping a Friend, and (4) Alcohol and College.

All Youth Commission members are welcome to attend. This is the Youth Commission's second year sponsoring these programs at the two high schools. Each program costs over \$700. and is a significant part of our fiscal budget.

Annual Award Dinner

Due to high school graduations, we will not hold the Youth Commission meeting on the 1st Wednesday in June. The annual award dinner is held at the June meeting.

- Will be held either on Tuesday, June 13th or Wednesday, June 21st – to be determined based on when the recipient is available.

- ❑ Motion to accept Judy Malone Neville as the award recipient. She is retiring after 30 years in the School system. Donna will contact her and let Bev know.

Fundraising

Peter said the West Newton Theatre would let us hold an event. We'd sell tickets and split the money with the Theatre. The students weren't sure it would be a draw. Students like the idea of going to something that already exists like Harvest Fest. The NSHS bake sale brought in over \$300. Students will think about if there is a way to capitalize on such fund raisers.

RVAC Meeting

Bev will be attending the April 26 Relationship Violence Action Committee (RVAC) meeting and has been asked to report what the Youth Commission does, regarding dating violence.

- Students described that there is a Mentors and Violence Prevention group at both NSHS and NNHS. The trained student reps go to the middle schools and run violence prevention classes. MVP is a curriculum from Northeastern University.
- Nancy Beardall is the City Coordinator of "Take Back the Nite," an annual City event which will be held on May 22, 2006. The students are also involved with this.
- Both high schools have counselors that work on anger management and these issues. Bev will report back on RVAC at the May meeting.

NewtonSERVES 2006

Bev gave an overview of NewtonSERVES Day of Community Service coming up April 30 and handed out registration brochures. She asked students to help outreach to other high school students for their participation in this city wide community service event.

Youth Foundation S-C Report

- ❑ A meeting was held with the Mayor a few weeks ago. A follow up meeting will be held in three weeks. They'll invite representatives from the YMCA, Barry Boys' & Girls' Club, and NCSC to get their feedback.
- ❑ Filing for non-profit status will take place in a few months.

Other Business

Teen REACH representatives Shane, Patrick and Rojay reported on the Teen REACH June 1st benefit concert "Tonight's Performance, Tomorrow's Legends." They asked if the Youth Commission members could help out by publicizing the auditions or co-sponsoring the event. It's a program to benefit the Newton Community Service Center's new Teen Center in West Newton. Auditions will be held during the week of April 24th. Chris Fortunato, Teen REACH director, is checking with the high schools to use the auditoriums. Donna Gordon volunteered to help at NSHS. The Youth Commission is interested in being supportive. We'll hear more at the May meeting.

The next Youth Interagency Task Force meeting is June 14 from 10-11:30am, location TBA.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, May 3, 2006**