

Newton YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

May 3, 2006

Minutes

Present: Catherine Ehrhardt, Ofc. Don Fleming, Donna Gordon, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Rachel Corey, Brandon Harris, Sarah Laski, Noor Narula, Rachel Park, Sara Sinicropi-Yao

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Joe DeVito, Beverly Droz, Richard Dyer, Joanne Kazarian, Robert Staulo, Stephan Ross, Terence Sack

Staff: Linda Walsh, Commissioner David Naparstek

Guests: Denise Passeretti (NNHS), Katie Sanders (NSHS) and others

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and held in the City Hall cafeteria. Peter Harrington served as Acting Chair and began with introductions around the table. We welcomed youth guests from the two high schools. Peter announced the passing of Rick Dyer's father; the Commission will make a donation in his memory.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made and passed to accept the 4/05/06 minutes.

Treasurer's Report from Bev:

Since we don't have enough funds in our fiscal year budget to cover the second FCD forum invoice, a motion was made and passed to move \$87.97 from the Revolving Account to the Commission's budget in order to meet the payment.

School Updates

- Students discussed the recent problems at South with false fire alarms and vandalism in the bathrooms.
- Sunday, June 4th is the annual Newton AIDS walk and many students are participating.
- We thanked the Youth Commission students who participated in the April 30 NewtonSERVES Community Service Day. Many youth from across the city participated.

June 13th Annual Award Dinner Meeting

Plans are underway for the award dinner on June 13th at 6:00pm. (High school graduations are the first week in June so we chose this date.) Judy Malone-Neville will be the award recipient and will attend with her husband. Donna will submit the wording for the plaque.

It was noted that the budget has insufficient funds for this event. Peter Harrington stated that this would not be an obstacle and the Commissioners would "take care of it". The Commission discussed additional invitees: Superintendent Jeff Young, Brenda Keegan and Jennifer Huntington. A final count is needed. Bev will send out invitations to all, as well as reminder notices to all Commission members. Please RSVP by email.

Old Business

- Information was presented about MVP (Mentors and Violence Prevention) program. Informational material about the program was distributed. Students described the program and emphasized the importance of having peers as role models.
- Linda reported that Bev attended part of the RVAC (Relationship Violence Action Committee) meeting on April 26 and reported information from the Youth Commission. They will put Bev on their list-serve so she will know about future meetings and we will begin to network with them since they are interested in working on prevention of violence in youth relationships.
- Fundraising ideas were discussed. Bake sales held in the school cafeteria before and after scheduled lunchtime seems to be the most profitable.

New Business

- Autumn Invasion – This event is usually held in October. Peter suggested meeting in the late summer in an effort to start planning early. This meeting would afford the group time to plan for Bands (music), food and fundraising. A raffle was suggested as a good fundraiser for this event. Prizes would need to be solicited over the summer.
- New members – new youth members are needed to fill the slots of the Commission as the seniors move on. Members should begin to think about recruiting students before next fall.

Youth Foundation Report

The follow up meeting with the Mayor and other community members (Boys and Girls Club, NCSC, YMCA, etc.) will be held on May 17, 2006. More information will follow.

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: **Annual Award Dinner - Tuesday, May 3, 2006**