

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 11, 2005

MINUTES

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PRESENT: Joe DeVito, Chair, Bob Staulo, Terry Sack, Donna Gordon, Rick Dyer, Joanne Kazarian, Steve Ross, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Catherine Ehrhardt, Mike Harris, Ali Shmerling, Emily Tabas, Ruru Wang, Rachel Corey

STAFF: Beverly Stachowicz

GUESTS: Noor Narula, Sarah Laski, Brandon Harris, Samantha Lappin, Beverly Droz

New Staff Person

Joe introduced Beverly Droz. Beverly will be the City's staff person to the Youth Commission effective July 1, 2005. She will be replacing Beverly Stachowicz who is retiring from the City at the end of June. Beverly Droz gave those present a brief summary of her professional background. She is presently Director of the Office for Volunteer Services which works out of the Department of Human Services and prior to that has chaired and/or worked with numerous non-profit organizations. Beverly Droz stated that she is looking forward to working with the Commission.

Beverly Stachowicz informed the group that due to her retirement the City's administration is looking to place the Department of Human Services' programs, except for Senior Citizen services, under the oversight of the Health Department. A newly established Department of Health and Human Services will be created if all is approved by a Public Hearing and the Board of Aldermen. A newly created Department of Senior Services will also take place as a result of the reorganization.

Annual Service Award Recipient

A discussion took place regarding the two persons that were nominated at the April meeting for consideration for the Youth Commission's Annual Service Award. The names were Lowell Haynes and Andre Kominetz-Holtz. Peter and Matt spoke in favor of Lowell receiving the award due to his vast work with youth in various positions that he has held throughout his career. Donna spoke in favor of Andre and described her endless volunteer work as a parent. It was decided that Lowell be the recipient of the award since his work was more far-reaching in advocating for the general youth population in the City.

Budget Report

Beverly reviewed the budget handout that was distributed to the Commission. The only expenses to date from the \$2,500 budget were Autumn Invasion...\$327.48 and Freedom From Chemical Dependency Workshop (FCD) at Newton South...\$748.96. Newton North has not submitted its bill to date for the FCD workshop. Ruru will look into this matter. The total spending to date is \$1,076.44 (without Newton North's expense). There will be sufficient monies available to fund an end of year dinner in June.

Annual June Dinner

Two dates were given out for the June dinner meeting. They were June 2nd and 14th. Bev will check which date will be better for the City's Cafeteria vendor who will cater the event and for Lowell Haynes who will receive the Service Award that evening. She will e-mail everyone once the date is confirmed.

Autumn Invasion 2005

Never too early to start preparing! Rachel Corey, North, and Noor Narula, South, have volunteered to Co-Chair the October event. Hopefully a date will be set at the June meeting and some organizing will begin over the summer.

Youth Foundation Subcommittee Report

Joe stated that the subcommittee plans on having another meeting after the present Youth Commission meeting. It is brainstorming the possibility of developing a Youth Foundation to help defray the costs of youth programs in the City.

Youth Commission Goals and Programs

The Commission reviewed sections of the City Ordinance governing the Youth Commission. It was decided to create a subcommittee to look at developing a Mission Statement for the Commission. This subcommittee will be chaired by Rachel Corey. Joe, Ruru, Donna, Joanne and Terry have volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Rachel will contact members with a meeting date in the near future.

It was felt that it would be good for the Commission to develop By-laws. This would be done in conjunction with the Law Department. Beverly stated that she could get copies of the by-laws which have been developed by the Human Rights Commission and Council on Aging as examples.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.