

# NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 14, 2005

## MINUTES

.....

**PRESENT:** Joe DeVito (Chair), Anthony Bibbo, Rachel Corey, Rick Dyer, Catherine Ehrhardt, Donna Gordon, Peter Harrington, Mike Harris, Steve Ross, Terry Sack, Bob Staulo, Ruru Wang,

**STAFF:** Beverly Droz

**GUESTS:** Brandon Harris, Sarah Laski, Noor Narula, Sarah Sinicropi-Yao

**NOTE:** Tonight was the Youth Commission's **annual Youth Leadership Award Dinner**. Officer Don Fleming was able to attend the pre-session before the dinner. The annual leadership award for 2005 was given to Lowell Haynes. Joe De Vito made the presentation, with supporting statements of Lowell's distinguished accomplishments by Peter Harrington and Tony Bibbo. A brief meeting followed the festivities:

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bev reported on the expenditures to date for the fiscal year 2004-05 budget of \$2,500. A balance of \$441 remains but we expect billing from the Buildings Dept. regarding the use of City Hall for Autumn Invasion '04. *A copy of the expenditure summary will be attached to these minutes in the official files.*

### **Discussion of Action Plan**

Members were given a copy of a "Youth Services" Memo (May 26, 2005) the Mayor presented to the Board of Aldermen. The memo, drafted by Bev and Linda Walsh, contained a suggested Action Plan to initiate a Youth Interagency Task Force and youth services needs assessment in order to give feedback to the Board of Aldermen by early 2006. *A copy of it will be attached to these minutes in the official files.*

One of the actions is to include Youth Services webpages on the City's website in order to provide accessible resources to residents.

The memo generated discussion of ideas, including:

- Stephan: Invite monthly speakers and advertise the meetings.
- Perhaps return to holding meetings in rotation at various youth agencies and schools?
- Tony: Must be accessible, youth must be represented and their voices should be heard.
- Peter: A needs assessment had been done in the 1990's with NSHS and NNHS. Where is it?
- Bev: the stress symposium held at the 2004 Autumn Invasion is an example of a program that may be more beneficial if the Youth Commission sponsored it directly within the schools.
- Bob: Teens don't have enough services, particularly students in grades 9-12. If a teen is not involved in sports or theatre, there are few programs that can fill their free time.
- Joe: Have interagency participants provide information prior to the meeting if possible. Hold summer sub-committee meetings to work on Autumn Invasion, mission statement, etc.
- Bev: gave overview of providing Youth Resources booklet or brochure, the webpages, etc., as vehicles to promote youth services around the city.

**Mission and goals**

The student members discussed working during the summer on a mission statement and goals for the Commission. We need something that is more understandable, more inviting than the wording in the City Ordinance.

**Autumn Invasion 2005**

Noor Narula and Rachel Corey will meet to start planning the Autumn Invasion. The day will include bands and food. Possible dates for this event are October 16 (first choice) or October 23 (second choice).

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.