

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

MINUTES

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PRESENT: Joe DeVito (Chair), Rachel Corey, Rick Dyer, Catherine Ehrhardt, Donna Gordon, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Brandon Harris, Sarah Laski, Noor Narula, Rachel Park, Steve Ross, Terry Sack, Sarah Sinicropi-Yao

STAFF: Beverly Droz

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm with a round robin of introductions and a welcome to our “new year” ahead. All were reminded that the Youth Commission meeting dates are changed to the 1st Monday of each month.

The letter of thanks received from Lowell Haynes for the leadership award presented to him at the June event was read.

Beverly stated that letters of appointments for all six youths had gone through the Mayor’s office; the 6th position is that of “alternate” filled by Rachel Park.

Youth Interagency Task Force Update

Joe and Bev described the reasoning behind and the plans for the upcoming Sept. 20 Youth Interagency meeting. Given the merger of Health & Humans Services into one department, and the elevation of Senior Services to its own department, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen wanted more information about the status of youth services in Newton. Hence, Bev and her colleague Linda Walsh (Director of Health Services) proposed an action plan for the next year that includes:

- Pulling together a Youth Interagency Task Force
- Conducting a youth services needs assessment
- Establishing better mechanisms for public education and availability to youth services, such as webpages and a Youth Services Resource booklet.

There was various questions and general discussion. Peter mentioned we should look at the 1996 study that was done. Additionally, there is a survey given to high school students every other year that addresses risky behavior issues. A copy of the 9/20 meeting invitation that was sent to youth service providers was also mailed to all Youth Commission members.

Autumn Invasion 2005 Report

To be held: Sunday, October 16 from noon to 4pm at City Hall

The students have been holding sub-committee meetings during the summer to get a head start of this event. Rachel Corey and Noor Narula are the co-chairs. Letters have been sent to 9 food vendors asking for donations, and to the Red Sox, Pawtucket Red Sox, Celtics and Kiss108-FM to request a “star” for the event. Matt suggested WEEI and Boston College. The students are outreaching to line up bands and maybe some clubs. They’ve decided not to pursue resource

tables for groups that provide services because there has not been much interest in that in the past.

Youth Commission Mission & Goals

During the first sub-committee meetings this summer, the students worked on mission and goals. A draft of that was emailed to all Youth Commission members asking for any feedback. Tonight members were given a hard copy (draft 9/7/05) of the mission as taken from the City Ordinance, and then the goals as drafted and updated by the sub-committee. A copy will be filed with these minutes. We agreed we don't see the need for formal by-laws, but we'd like an orientation page for new members that would contain the expectations for participation and attendance.

Beverly had a meeting with Marie Lawlor from the Law Department, and reported that Marie suggested waiting to make any changes in the Ordinance until we had a better sense of "all changes" to be made. We know we want to change the number of youths that can serve on the Commission, but other changes might come up over the next few months with the development of the Youth Interagency and youth needs assessment.

Youth Foundation Subcommittee Report

Peter, Matt, and Rick Dyer are on the subcommittee. Peter has made contacts including meeting with the Mayor and has his support. They will work on articles of incorporation and guidelines for allocation of the funds. Judy Dore (Parks & Rec. Dept.) has information on how to run a golf tournament to raise money. Planning takes about a year. Target date is fall 2006. Beverly was asked to invite Judy to the next meeting. The foundation's goal would be to raise a million dollars to benefit youth programs. The subcommittee will meet after this meeting.

Beverly handed out updated copies of the Youth Commission and Advisory Board [contact list](#). Please note: Terry's email should read grsmetals@aol.com

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 even though it's during the Rosh Hashanah holidays.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.