

# NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 2, 2005

## MINUTES

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**PRESENT:** Joe DeVito (Chair), Rachel Corey, Rick Dyer, Catherine Ehrhardt, Matt Green, Brandon Harris, Sarah Laski, Noor Narula, Rachel Park, Stephan Ross, Sarah Sinicropi-Yao

**STAFF:** Beverly Droz

**GUESTS:** Kipaya Kapiga

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to accept the 10/5/05 minutes.

### **Autumn Invasion 2005 Report**

Joe thanked everyone, especially the students for their good work. Rachel noticed that there were many more families this year. Noor said NSHS doesn't have homerooms so it was hard to publicize, but still there was a good contingent from South. All the bands worked out and the logistics flowed smoothly. Recommendations for next year: have more commissioners there; know ahead of time the location of the food vendors who are donating and have a plan to pick up their donations. Rachel and Noor can work with Bev on the thank you letters to the vendors.

### **Report from the Library's "Youth Focus Group"**

The Newton Library recently held a "youth focus group" to discuss how the library could better serve youth. Peter Harrington attended as a representative of the Youth Commission but attendance was very small so the library director asked the Youth Commission to give further feedback. The students suggested: more study rooms, going wireless, and branches can be used as possible tutoring sites. Overall the students think Main Library is excellent.

### **Grant Possibility for Youth Action Initiative for Tobacco Use Prevention**

A grant for Tobacco Use Prevention will become public on 11/4/05 via the web. Bev will check in to it, and suggested if it were appropriate, we could have seminars in two middle schools. Matt suggested poster campaign with No Smoking initiative. Catherine suggested we find out what's already happening. Brief discussion ensued about possibly rewarding non-smokers, use of arm bands, and what the kids think. But we'll wait until we can see the parameters of the grant once it's available, and then if it looks doable, we'll set sub-committee meeting.

### **Discussion of Commission's Plans for Programs in the Schools**

Last year we did seminars in both high schools in March/April about freedom from chemical dependency (FFCD). There was discussion of possible AA presentations. The "Improbable Players" do theatre presentations about smoking issues. Joe will look into it and will talk to Donna Gordon and report back at December meeting.

### **Youth Foundation Subcommittee Report**

Bev read Peter's memo (he had to be absent; his memo will be attached to the minutes in the office). He would like items about the Youth Foundation and the May golf tournament on the agenda for the December meeting. Matt thinks we need an experienced fundraiser to help organize us. His friend is willing to help and is willing to attend a meeting. Matt will host the meeting in mid-November. Anyone interested will stay after this meeting and discuss. We need to create an organization first and then we could undertake endeavors like a golf tournament.

### **Other Business**

Bev updated group that the Youth Interagency Task Force is meeting on 12/6/05 at the West Suburban YMCA and that a Youth Services booklet is being drafted.

The idea of rotating the Youth Commission meetings to youth agencies was re-visited, but the reality is that it takes more time to organize and coordinate, and results in less attendance.

NNHS student guest Kipaya Kapiga brought copies of their *Newtonite* newspaper with an article about the Autumn Invasion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2005.