

# NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

**April 1, 2009 MINUTES**

**Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

---

Present: Joe De Vito (Chair), Marianne Cook, Matt Green, Police Officer Jeffrey Mace, Ellen Manning, John Staulo, Kirsten Tuohy  
Students: Annie Staulo

Regrets: Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon, Terance A. Sack, Robert Staulo, Anthony Bibbo, Chris Fortunato, Peter Harrington, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephan Ross  
Students: Sam Arsenault, Alison Clott, Emma Collins, Jason Green, Maya Guttman, Greg Kelley, Jennie Krems, Tyler Large, Tamara Matama, Kyle Olson, Zoe Pepper-Cunningham, Kyle Russo, Adam Sangiolo, Ariana Tabatabaie

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: none

---

The meeting was opened at 7:05pm and chaired by Joe De Vito.  
**Introductions** were made.

**A motion to accept the minutes of March 4, 2009 passed.**

**Treasurer's report:** The FY budget is still \$2086.89 as the FCD seminars won't be held until May. The balance of the revolving account is \$846.12 since Bev has continued selling water, etc. at City Hall. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen have to annually authorize expenditures of revolving funds. For FY 2010, Bev will submit an estimate of expenditures of this account to the Chief Financial Officer. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report passed.**

## **PROGRAMS**

### **March Madness**

Joe De Vito thanked everyone for helping, and acknowledged the disappointment we all felt that we had to cancel it. But we couldn't go through it with a low turnout. We will use it as a basis of planning experience and will start planning sooner next year. Kirsten suggested by planning ahead, we can plan on earlier in March when we could secure more students.

### **FCD Seminars**

The format for the Freedom from Chemical Dependency seminars has changed and that is why we had to schedule them later this spring. We want to get approval from FCD to have the seminars taped by New TV. Then we'd need to contact New TV with this request and provide them with the dates. Bev will email Donna Gordon and Jeanne White about contacting FCD.

According to Donna's email, FCD is scheduled Thursday, May 7 at Newton South:  
8:40-9:35 Marijuana how harmless is it: discussion of the new law legalizing marijuana  
9:50-10:45 Progression of Addiction  
10:50-12:05 (long block) When alcohol becomes a problem  
12:40-1:35 Helping a friend/intervention process

According to Jeanne's email, FCD is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 at Newton North.

## **Youth Service Leadership Award Event**

This June will be our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Service Leadership Awards.

We discussed nominations such as Officers Russell (Bussy) Adam, John Panica, Dave Spirito, and Probation Officer Rhonda Smith. Bev will send an email to the Youth Commission about it and check the City Calendar for 2 or 3 dates to offer the nominee.

Dates that students are not available due to graduation, etc. include 6/8 and 6/10 at North, 6/9 and 6/11 at South.

Since there is no longer a café vendor at City Hall to cater the dinner, Kirsten will check with a restaurant in West Newton to see if they would cater the event at a reduced cost.

### **Chris Fortunato's Idea**

Chris had made previous excellent suggestions about having monthly events and getting an intern to help make it happen. Since he could not be here tonight, he emailed his support about looking into a graduate student or other young professional who is able to volunteer his/her time on a regular basis and help establish a teen leadership group.

Chris suggests putting this group together in the next week or so and arranging meetings every other week with the students and a facilitator or two. Chris would volunteer over the next two months to make it happen. It would be helpful for one or two Commission members to also help out. He suggests we could reach out to secure a meeting space at one of the youth agencies, schools, or City Hall. With respect to budget, perhaps the Commission can decide on a small budget to come from the fundraised dollars so we can run an event.

Matt Green has reached out to Bob Johnson at BC School of Social Work who will talk to the Dean there. Matt will keep in touch with him. But a grad student would not start until September. The goal would be to make a permanent position for placement with a college.

A discussion followed: May is too soon to plan an event especially after what we experienced with the 8 week time frame for the March Madness Tourney. Right now we need to focus on:

- Getting kids involved with the Commission between now and June, for next year
- Working on a securing a partnership with a college
- Organizing the June annual award event and meeting

Marianne is willing to network with 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselors for recommendations. Matt said younger ones could serve as "counselors-in-training". This would get the younger ones on board.

### **Youth Foundation – no report**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00pm in the City Hall cafeteria.**

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Droz