

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

May 6, 2009 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe De Vito (Chair), Marianne Cook, Richard Dyer, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Police Officer Jeffrey Mace, Ellen Manning, Stephan Ross, Terance A. Sack, Robert Staulo, Kirsten Tuohy Students: Alison Clott, Jennie Krems, Tamara Matama, Zoe Pepper-Cunningham, Annie Staulo, Ariana Tabatabaie

Regrets: Donna Gordon, Anthony Bibbo, Chris Fortunato, Stephanie Pelkowsky, John Staulo Students: Sam Arsenault, Emma Collins, Jason Green, Maya Guttman, Greg Kelley, Tyler Large, Kyle Olson, Kyle Russo, Adam Sangiolo,

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 and the agenda was reviewed.

A motion to accept the minutes of April 1, 2009 passed.

Treasurer's report: The report has not changed since last month. We have a balance of \$2086.89 and will receive the FCD seminars bills totaling about \$1,600 by mid-May. This should leave us enough to cover the annual Award Dinner. The balance of the revolving account is \$846.12 and Bev will make another deposit from water sales soon.

FCD Seminars

The Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD) seminars were held today at Newton North High School. They will be held tomorrow at Newton South. Kirsten Tuohy reported she went to one entitled "On the Path to Addiction" and it was excellent. She had heard from students that the seminar on Marijuana was phenomenal. These were not taped by New TV as far as Kirsten knew. It was unclear as to which Commission member was going to contact New TV.

Youth Service Leadership Award Event

Our 7th annual Youth Service Leadership Award dinner will be in June. This year we've nominated Officer Russell (Bussy) Adam. We're looking at June 16, 18 or 22. Bev will confirm with Officer Adam and then email the Commission to confirm. Kirsten will check with a restaurant in West Newton to see if they would cater the event at a reduced cost.

Student Membership

Joe addressed the issue again that our goal is to get students involved now for next September. We involve the students in the summer planning meetings for the fall Autumn Invasion event. Marianne sent an email to the 8th grade counselors for recommendations but hasn't heard back. We thanked Allison, Jennie and Annie and wished them well as they head into graduation next month. Tamara, Zoe and Adriana indicated they would like to stay on the Commission next year. Bev will email everyone, asking which students are available and willing to stay on board for the next school year.

General discussion of outreach to students

Rich asked if the Youth Commission (YC) could have a presence at Back to School Night but students said that is a night for parents, not the students. Matt suggested a deadline for non-seniors to commit to the YC for the next year.

Students suggested having information at "Step-Up Day" when middle school students visit the high schools. That will happen June 12 at NNHS and NSHS for 2 hours. Jenny suggested "Club Day" held in September or early October when students tell the incoming freshmen about the various clubs and activities for which they can sign up. Again, the problem with that is that it is very close to the YC Autumn Invasion and we need student support over the summer. Jennie learned about the YC through the Community Service office.

Marianne said we need to market YC better. Ellen suggested advertising YC to the Mock Trial groups. Rick added we should also provide YC information to the Leadership & Diversity groups. Ariana said she can bring it to the Leadership group's attention. Kirsten mentioned that they are mostly seniors but it's still worthwhile.

Peter suggested a special flyer that students can take home. Marianne said it should describe how students can benefit from serving on the YC – what's in it for them? She volunteered to take the existing information and jazz it up for current distribution.

Ellen also suggested we advertise in the Newton TAB.

Youth Foundation – no report

Announcements:

Bev announced that any YC members are welcome to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Youth Interagency Task Force on Tuesday morning, June 9 at City Hall.

The graduation dates are June 10 for NNHS and June 11 for NSHS.

Peter brought up a needs assessment done in 1996 and sponsored by the YC. The school principals distributed a flyer the 1st day of school and then collected it. Bev has the copy in her files. Marianne asked how it was different from the Risk Behavior Survey done by the Health and School Departments in conjunction with a professional polling company. Bev mentioned we've been doing these surveys for about 10 years so they have probably taken the place of the old needs assessment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

The next meeting will be in June following the Award dinner (now known – June 22), therefore the meeting starts at 7:30pm and will still be in the City Hall cafeteria.

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Droz