

## NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

September 9, 2009 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

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Present: Joe De Vito (Chair), Marianne Cook, Richard Dyer, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Officer Jeff Mace, Ellen Manning, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephan Ross, Terance Sack, John Staulo, Kristen Tuohy, Students: Zachary Eagle, Gerry Lueng, Tamara Matama, Zoe Pepper-Cunningham and Ariana Tabatabaie

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Chris Fortunato, Donna Gordon, Robert Staulo. Students: Kyle Olson and Adam Sangiolo

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: none

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The meeting was opened at 7:10 PM and chaired by Joe De Vito.

Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed.

A motion to accept the minutes of June 22, 2009 was made by Terry and seconded by John. The motion to accept the minutes passed.

**Treasurer's report:** The budget for FY 2010 operating budget is \$2500. A deposit of \$40 from ongoing water sales was made to the revolving account for a balance of \$951.12.

### Nominations

Bev noted that the Commission previously voted on Tamara Matama, Zoe Pepper-Cunningham, Adam Sangiolo and Ariana Tabatabaie. Terry moved to nominate both Zachary Eagle and Gerry Lueng and to reappoint Kyle Olson. The motion was seconded by Marianne and was approved unanimously.

### New or Old Business

- Internship: Bev thanked Matt for putting her in touch with the Boston College person but noted that their graduate internship program is for social worker clinical placements. Bev described that an intern position in her office would be for a wide variety of administrative support, and it could include support of the Youth Commission but would also include other work. She has a request out to local colleges at the undergraduate level.
- Youth Foundation Subcommittee Report - No report

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Invasion: Planning Agenda

Joe described the Annual Autumn Invasion and how it started with the concept of "invading" city hall to learn about the city and many resources, as well as having bands and performances from both high schools. It has evolved over the past years to a smaller event just involving the bands and musical groups. It was noted that last year, there were only a total of 150 in attendance verses 400 in previous years – and that weather plays a role in this.

There was discussion of whether to keep sponsoring this event, and if so, should we have a different model.

- Kirsten had mentioned holding it on an early release day instead of on a weekend which is difficult for teens.

- Ariana stated that sports teams still practice on early release days.
- Stephanie said that we should decide first what type of event it should be.
- John suggested that it be combined with another event.
- Ellen and Marianne suggested it be a nighttime event and that a possible venue would be the teen center in West Newton.

### **Coffee House**

Other suggestions included having the event at a coffeehouse with bands and food. The Unitarian Church in West Newton hosts an annual spring coffeehouse that supports their work with teens in the Greater Boston area. Locations suggested included: the West Newton teen center, a church, the War Memorial Auditorium at Newton City Hall, one of the high schools, the auditorium or the gym at NCSC. Potential dates are Friday, December 4 or Saturday, December 5 in the late afternoon or early evening.

There was discussion about whether or not to charge admission and to have raffle items. Some of the teens felt that teens wouldn't want to pay admission unless it went to a good cause. Tamara suggested the Ucal McKenzie Foundation, which was developed for the young soccer coach at NNHS who died recently. We can consider a benefit cause from NSHS, and also it needs to somewhat benefit our Youth Commission, so we could split the proceeds several ways.

It will be necessary to start publicizing the event as well as to get bands and performers. We'll finalize the planning at our next meeting.

### **March Madness**

There was brief discussion that when we tried to plan the 2009 March Madness, only two and a half teams signed up. While we did not have a very long time frame, it still involved a lot of work. The members agreed that it is too difficult to undertake a project like this.

### **Other Business**

The Newton Harvest Fair is coming up the weekend of October 3 – 4 and the Touch-a-Truck event for families with children is Sunday, Oct. 18. We could take a resource table at either or both events to promote the Youth Commission. We could also sell candy bars and water bottles to raise funds. Bev will email the whole Commission to see who is willing to help staff a table, and if we get volunteers, she will make the arrangements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**The next meeting** will be Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Droz