

YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 5, 2011

ROOM 119

DRAFT

In attendance:

Alicia Sillars	Diane Barston	Sarah Smith
Joann Sawitsky	Dan Wood	Katie Farren
Karen Brennan	Christine Wood	Ryan Gonzalez-Falla
Mackenzie Begley	Meghan Moore	

The meeting was called to order by Alicia at 7:40 pm. Kit Savage, a candidate for the vacant Youth Commission board position, was introduced. Minutes of the December meeting were read. Motion to approve by Diane Barston and seconded by Christine Wood.

Past Programs:

Mistletoe Magic: Fantastic turn-out. 555 children attended. No big issues and very few unregistered kids. Photographer was very busy and the kids enjoyed having their pictures taken. However, the price to purchase the photos on-line is very expensive. Alicia recommended paying the photographer a small fee next year (perhaps \$200) and lowering the cost of the photos. This would be more lucrative for the photographer and more reasonable for the kids wishing to purchase photos.

Social Services Holiday Gift Drive: Very low turn-out (only about 25 children attended). The movie *Elf* was shown. Might not have been the best choice of movies. It was also shown on a school day during elementary school conference week which may have had a negative impact on attendance. Good news is that the Holiday Gift Drive turned out to be very successful. An e-blast was sent to the schools asking for donations and Social Services were inundated with toys. They were able to provide toys and gift cards for all their clients with additional gifts sent to needy children in Norwalk.

TOPS 7th and 8th grade bowling: Will be held Friday, 1/21/11 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm.

TOPS 6th grade gym and swim: Will be held Friday, 1/21/11 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

Performance Measures: Alicia to prepare a presentation of the Youth Commission's goals and accomplishments of 2010 and will present them on 1/22/11.

Volunteer Fair: To be held at DHS on 1/28/11. Youth Commission will have a table at the fair. Alicia recommended that Safe Rides also have a table this year. Safe Rides transition going well. Alicia meets

with youth officers once a month. She has invited them to attend the February Youth Commission meeting.

Summer Camp/Middle School Summer Activity Program: 7 to 8 directors have already agreed to return. Invitations were also sent to last year's staff asking if they wanted to return. Only 1 response to-date. There was a discussion regarding the start date of camp: either 6/20 with a 7/28 end-date or 6/27 with an 8/4 end-date. Alicia is leaning towards a 6/20 start-date. This needs to be finalized by February. Karen Brennan suggested that Alicia consider offering 2-week sessions next year instead of 3-week sessions. This would give parents greater flexibility. Alicia mentioned that this might be more expensive, but she would consider it for next year. Karen also suggested that parents of this summer's campers be surveyed to see if they would prefer 3-week or 2-week sessions.

Concert Series: To start the 3rd Wednesday in June (6/15) and run for the following 2 Wednesdays (6/22 and 6/29).

Thriving Youth: Sarah Smith spoke about the breakfasts to be held at DHS in January for students, faculty, and the administration. The breakfasts will start in January and be held separately for each grade in the cafeteria from 7:00 to 7:40 am. The breakfasts are expected to promote conversations between the students and the faculty and administration. This is the first time these breakfasts are being held. Trying to determine how many students will attend and who will donate food. It was felt that more seniors would attend than lower classmen primarily because seniors can drive and be at school by 7:00 am. Alicia mentioned that the Youth Commission might be able to donate money to help offset the costs of the breakfast. She asked Sarah to write a proposal requesting funding and submit it to her. Meghan Moore suggested a donation of \$200 per breakfast for a total of \$800. Faculty has also been asked to reach out to students before mid-terms to help improve student/teacher relationships. Homeroom teachers will send an e-mail to students to reassure them about the upcoming mid-terms and offer help if needed.

Parent Awareness: Many upcoming programs, mostly technologically oriented, will be offered in January. Parent Awareness is also interested in sponsoring another showing of *Race to Nowhere* which was standing room only when shown at the Darien Library last month.

Budget: Alicia presented the 2010-2011 budget. The overall budget is projected to increase by approximately \$7,000 over last year. Program expenses are projected to increase by \$4,000 over last year. Program expenses have remained basically the same for the past 3 years, despite cost of living increases. The Commission supported the budget as presented, but offered a couple recommendations for cutting costs/increasing revenue if necessary. Karen Brennan suggested eliminating one of the drive-in movies at a cost about \$900. Diane Barston recommended increasing the price charged to families for the outdoor concerts from \$10/car to \$12/car.

Next Youth Commission Meeting: Alicia asked if it could be moved to Thursday, 2/3. Alicia to contact Geoff Ball and confirm the date. Alicia adjourned meeting at 8:40 pm. An adult executive meeting was held immediately afterwards to discuss the role of adult Youth Commission members. This conversation will continue at a later date.