

**MINUTES OF
YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 5, 2010**

ATTENDEES:

Alicia Sillars	Kate Fitzmaurice
Meghan Moore	Diane Barston
Jared Kindy	Christine Wood
Annie Maguire	Karen Brennan
Sarah Smith	
Mackenzie Begley	

The meeting was convened at 7:40PM. Minutes were read and approved, Geoff making a motion to approved and seconded by Christine and Jared.

Spring Fling had an attendance of 201 kids. This event raised \$646 for Triple Negative Breast Cancer research as a donation for which we received a letter of Acknowledgement.

Tilley Regatta – we had 50 boats registered and about 150 people attended.

Hindley Fair Night – could have 900 attendees. 5:00-6:30OM for 6th graders and 6:30-9:00PM for 7 & 8th graders.

Summer Camp – camp calendars sent to Camp Directors for theme days. Alicia met with Olive Hauser in Social Services for scholarship requests.

On May 23 we will have non-resident enrollment for summer camp.

MSSAP is fully booked.

Human Services Planning Council – on May 14 Alicia sent in two senior names for volunteer recognition.

Push/Pull Parade YMCA --- The Youth Commission will again sponsor entertainment. Taking place 7/4 @ 10:30 a.m. prompt.

Halloween Window Painting – Community Fund has less volunteers than needed – merchants who want windows painted should pay for right to have them done. Community Fund is re-evaluating what they will commit to. The Chamber of Commerce and YWCA not a good fit – perhaps only to partner with Community Fund for window painting. Should maybe get Darien Arts Center involved. This idea should be presented to Peter Saverine on Chamber of Commerce Board. We need manpower to canvass merchants every year for window painting. We could send letter to invite them to participate and get them to agree and pay for

windows to be painted. Youth Commission would get the kids and match them to the merchants.

The clean up of these windows after painting is a consideration – should merchants clean their own windows and pay less or no fee for cleaning. The winners of this Window painting contest usually are invited to a reception at TD Bank and get gift certificates like donations for ice cream for Gofer Ice Cream.

Karen Brennan made the suggestion that adult members on the Youth Commission board are under-utilized and could go out and do the canvassing of merchants.

Safe Rides – this organization is under the umbrella of the Red Cross. At this time, the Red Cross doesn't want to carry the insurance liability any longer. Karl Kilduff, Town Administrator feel insurance creates a great liability to Safe Rides. Any mishap with too many kids and alcohol in cars can create a lot of trouble and that peer policing is not efficient. More specific guidelines are needed to define responsibilities and liabilities. Karl wants to create policy and procedures to firm these up. Safe Rides also needs to define and update training procedures for volunteers. This may fall under the Town of Darien Youth Services Department.

The Youth Commission would have an administrative role in this only. The Parent Board would get volunteers and run activities. Parents will then take charge in enforcing these procedures and make suggestions when needed. A booklet should be given to parents on what to do in different situations. Karl, Karen and Alicia will set up a meeting to discuss this further. Alicia will contact Greenwich Safe Rides to see how they operate their Safe Rides.

Thriving Youth Based on asset-based survey. The YAT (Youth Asset Team) participated in a presentation for Hindley Parents' Association. The panel included– police, students, and social workers. Deal with self-esteem issues, communication between child and parent and solving problems and differences. Parents were not afraid to ask questions on what to do to prevent problems. When there is an emphasis on assets, risky behavior decreases. There were some direct questions asked of the teenagers which were getting awkward to answer. Increase awareness of the needs of youth and make them feel appreciated. All elementary PTA's should do this and have discussions which the YAT is considering for next school year.

Alicia is participating in the Depot's Strategic Planning exercise, which has developed mission and vision statements and how to approach critical issues. Deborah Hertz, Fordham University Prof. well-versed in non-profit is the facilitator.

Family Concerts will begin at Weed Beach with "Annie & the Natural Wonder Band." Second will be "Dre Towey & Friends" with "Jeffrey Friedberg & the Bossy Frog Band" filling the final. The last concert will be preceded by the 4th Annual

Sandcastle Contest with TD Bank sponsoring. Following the concert will be the movie at the beach – “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.”

We need another Republican adult member – preferably a male with middle school kids.

Next scheduled meeting for the YC is at The Depot on June 3, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

**Angela Clark
Recording Secretary**