

Youth Commission
Wednesday, November 3, 2010
7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

In attendance:

Ryan Baity	Jared Kindy
Geoff Ball	JoAnn Sawitsky
Karen Brennan	Alicia Sillars
Nicole Briganti	Cheyenne Tilford
Kate FitzMaurice	Christine Wood

The September 1, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved.

New members were introduced: Ryan Baity, freshman from Brunswick Academy; Cheyenne Tilford, and Nicole Briganti, freshman from Darien High School. Two additional members, one freshman and one sophomore, were unable to attend tonight.

Review of past programs:

- Movie at the Beach (September 3) – Over 150 people attended to see “Up” on a cool, breezy night.
- 8th Grade Beach Party (September 17) – 217 students attended.
- 7th Grade Tokeneke Fair Night (October 15) – 245 students attended. It would have been more had the 8th graders not been returning from their trip to Boston. There was a lengthy discussion about allowing unregistered students to attend the event once parents are called and the time involved in having volunteers have to make those calls (this has been a reoccurring theme for all TOPS events). There was strong agreement amongst the group that for all TOPS events going forward, only registered students would be allowed to attend. There should be no exceptions and parents should be asked to respect deadlines. This is important because to date we have been calling parents and adult friends and have been getting verbal consent via phone for students to attend events. The question of whether it is legal to get verbal consent from a friend and not a parent was raised as a major concern for liability. Having students meet registration deadlines will reduce the need for volunteer scrambling at events and give us assurance that parental consent has been secured. It was suggested that e-mail blasts be used to inform parents of the new process. Going forward, it was also suggested that there be a financial incentive for those who register online before the first event (i.e., having a significant fee increase after the first event occurs). Ideally this will help people register ahead of time (FYI you can register for the entire year or by event).
- 6th Grade Bowling (October 22) – 200 students attended.
- Halloween Window Painting Contest (October 23) – Given the crazy ups and downs of October, this event was very successful! We had 29 windows and 28 teams (with a bit of last minute scrambling). Over half of the merchants paid to have their windows cleaned and we cleaned a few of them for free (e.g., event sponsor TD Bank). The winners were posted on the web site today and there will be a pizza party at TD Bank for them on November 10. Next year, we’ll recruit teams earlier in October and have the adult members help with merchant recruitment. All in all, it was a great team effort.

Upcoming programs:

- 8th Grade TOPS “Crazy *8*-ties” Dance (November 5) – The DJ is bringing a movie to show in the small gym (a throwback to the 80’s ... either “Flash Dance” or “Back to the Future”) and mood rings will be sold to benefit the RE Children’s Project.
- 7th Grade Afternoon at the Movies (November 22) – This was rescheduled from November 1 due to there not being an appropriate movie available for this age group. They will be able to see the new “Harry Potter” movie ... hopefully this will be a huge draw.
- 7th/8th Grade TOPS Mistletoe Magic (December 3).

The Community-Wide Movie – to benefit the Social Services Holiday Gift Drive – will be held during the first week in December. We are going to pick our own movie (there will not be a good movie in the theater at this time). Choices include “Elf” and “Santa Claus”. The target date is Thursday, December 2.

Parent Awareness programs are going well, following the assets based needs identified last year.

Safe Rides is in great shape. They have tightened up their protocol, redone their web site, and completed all the appropriate paperwork. The parents of the officers are serving as parent advisors.

In December, Alicia will have a first draft of the budget for us to review.

A tentative meeting schedule was shared. We will continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month with the exception of June, when we’ll meet on a Thursday because of the concerts at the beach, and August when we don’t meet.

A discussion around new program ideas was tabled until the December meeting when more members will hopefully be present. With no old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Brennan