

MINUTES OF YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2009

ATTENDEES:

Kendall Kyritz	Jo-ann Sawitsky
Tim Murphy	Karen Brennan
Jared Kindy	Dan Wood
Sarah Smith	Christine Wood
Mackenzie Begley	

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM. The minutes were read, with Karen making the motion to approve and Christine seconding motion.

Alicia introduced Dan Wood, new freshman on Student Board. Other freshman candidates were suggested - Kate Fitzmaurice & Caity Lowden, and sophomore candidate Tim Murphy. Motion made to approve new candidates.

Past Programs:

September 4 "Mall Cop" - Movie at Weed Beach. Turnout was great, with 300 people attending.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Beach Party - September 18 - 275 kids attended this event. We had problems in the breezeway with not being able to turn on the lights.

Attendees at these TOPS events are not allowed to leave or walk anywhere. We had a problem with a child being left that ended up with a parent acting in a disrespectful way, resulting in a call to the Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff. It was suggested that if parents show up late to these events, they should be charge for "babysitting" or have to chaperone at the next event.

Upcoming Programs:

Tokeneke Fair Night - October 16 - will be attended by 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders.

Bowling for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders - October 23

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Afternoon at the Movies - We are currently choosing the movie with Peter Vivian, Theatre Manager. "Where the Wild Things Are" may be too young a movie for middle schoolers.

Halloween Window Painting Contest - October 24 - We need volunteers as participants or workers for this event. We have two shifts for Saturday 9-11AM and 11-1PM.

Parent Awareness

Middlesex School hosting this event this evening with Laura Gauld speaking on "Successful Parenting". Two of our adult members are attending this event - Meghan Moore and Diane Barston. There will also be an upcoming program on "Kindergarten Readiness."

Asset Study - October 12 - There will be a discussion and review about this study, open for students to attend. Faculty of Middlesex and Darien High School from 9-11AM; student session from 2:00 - 4:00; community presentation 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Peer Leader Group to

help work with Community Fund and DCARB - we should have a student rep from the Youth Commission attend this.

A topic to be discussed is what else the community can offer for teens to do. Study indicates that drinking and pot smoking increases in the older grades.

Youth of community felt they were not valued and felt that adult role models set no limits. It was also felt that the focus in school was on "fashion" and not schoolwork.

Parents should also sign up for E-Mail Parent Awareness. One discussion suggests a dress codes for Middle School and High School students as well as another presentation on limiting all communication devices such as phones, texting, and computers (esp using Facebook). Most high school sports teams communicate with Facebook.

The CARE Campaign is striving to instill respect for others - starting with not texting or using cellphones in public.

Healthy Choices Expo:

When to have this?? Sometime in Winter - perhaps SuperBowl Weekend.

We would like to have a broader sweep of vendors and attendees at this Expo - representing nutrition, sports, martial arts, cheerleading, dance, - with each group demonstrating their specialty. Others, such as Moore Rehabilitation could show proper stretching and warm ups to prevent sports injuries.

We will be brainstorming this in November and will need suggestions for participants and the format of the event.

It was mentioned that the Youth Commission did more teen-oriented things before The Depot. Alicia mentioned that other groups also use The Depot for events.

Dan Wood had suggested perhaps sponsoring a Battle of the Bands in the courtyard of DHS. It was suggested he approach the Community Council at DHS and present his idea.

Announcement: Greenwich Library has a Nathan Sawaya Lego Expo if anyone would like to see it.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Clark  
Recording Secretary

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