

Youth Advisory Board Minutes
February 5, 2015

Present: Barbara Ruhe, Kathy Bagley, Rachael Sunny, Eric Knapp, Colleen Keane, Erica Teixeira, Leslie Esoian, Ken Lesser, Rachel Bahouth, Patricia Tiberio, Chris Healy, Todd Willard, Kim Bobin, Jeanine Berasi, Alex Bobin, Ryan Berasi, and Zane Tinker

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Approval of January 2015 Minutes:

- No edits were noted. Ken Lesser made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted and Patricia Tiberio seconded. All approved.

Financial Report:

- Rachael Sunny noted that there is currently \$8,088.01 in the Youth Advisory Board account.

Youth Services Report:

- CYSA JRB Grant
 - Youth Services was awarded the CT Youth Services Association Juvenile Review Board grant – total amount is \$4930
 - The grant will provide funding for mental health services (counseling, drug and alcohol assessments, etc.), a boys support group and parent education
- Friday Night Hang Out
 - 86 6th graders have registered for the winter session of the Friday Night Hangout
- a.s.A.p. (formally Crossroads)
 - Only running one a.s.A.p. class – Cooking
 - Didn't have enough students registered for the other 3
 - Spring session starts April 6th – hope to be able to run more
- Internet Safety Program
 - Scott Driscoll, former police officer and director of Internet Safety Concepts, is scheduled to come April 17th to host 2 internet safety programs at SDMS. Have asked Hartford Foundation to cover cost.
 - Scott will also be doing a PARENT ONLY presentation on April 20th at 7:00 pm at the Community Center

Old Business:

- Youth Advisory Board Composition
 - Rachel Bahouth was approved by the Town Council so she now officially serves on YAB as an under 21 member

- Sophie Fortunato has not been actively participating in the YAB meetings. Barbara Ruhe is going to contact her and ask her to formally resign from the Board so that her seat (under 21) can be filled by someone else.
- Youth Volunteer Recognition Night
 - It was decided that there will be a minimum number of volunteer hours required in order to be recognized at the youth volunteer recognition event
 - High school – 20 hours
 - Middle school – 12 hours
 - 3rd-6th grade – 5 hours
 - The board decided that the best avenue for distributing the forms to the students is via the schools which is what has been used in the past
 - Rachael will update the form and send to the Board for approval prior to the next meeting
 - Rachael will coordinate with the superintendent and principals to get them distributed
 - Rachael will also ask the superintendent if he can send out an eblast to the parents letting them know that the forms have been distributed in school and asking them to encourage their children to fill them out if eligible
 - Social and Youth Services will also post on the website, along with the form, so that parents can download
 - If you know of any organizations in town that have Wethersfield student's volunteering please give Rachael the contact information so that she can send them the volunteer nomination form. Boyscouts, Interact, the EBW Nature Center, and the high school Ecology Club were all mentioned.
 - Guest speaker – Nicole Harte has been doing a lot of work with sending seeds to third world countries. The group decided she would be an appropriate person to ask to be the guest speaker at the event. Jeanine Berasi will contact her.
 - Todd Willard will once again donate seeds packets to hand out to the students along with recognition certificates.
 - Leslie mentioned how she really enjoyed hearing the students speak at last year's event and thinks it would be great to have more students talk about their volunteer work. On this year's nomination form we will include a box asking students to indicate if they would be interested in presenting at the recognition event.
- YAB IT!
 - Kathy Bagley mentioned that there are no town rules that prevent the YAB from using money in their account to support scholarships but from a sustainability aspect it would be beneficial to fundraise the scholarship money
 - Barbara Ruhe said she is willing to do the "Will Writing Fundraising Event" – only need 3 people to have their wills done in order to raise \$1000
 - Barbara will get the flyer out to the Board – can post in library, town hall, and senior center as well as other locations
 - The Board unanimously voted to go forward with YAB sponsoring a scholarship (YAB IT!)
 - Will call it 2015 YAB IT! Instead of 1st annual YAB IT!

- To help advertise the scholarship we will share the flyer with the high school counselors. Will also post on the Social and Youth Services website as well as on the Wethersfield Public Schools website (they have a section earmarked for scholarships).
- If you have any suggested edits to the form please submit them to Leslie by Thursday, February 12.
- Website/social media
 - Barbara Ruhe will track down the YAB Facebook username and password so that we can start updating the page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wethersfield-Youth-Services-Advisory-Board/150603848332670>
 - Erica said that Social and Youth Services will work on updating their webpage to include the above 2 recognition events

New Business:

- **Mentoring Program**
 - Due to the packed agenda for the February meeting and the great discussion that was had the group decided to table this item to the March meeting
 - Will also allow for Rachael to meet with the woman who runs the West Hartford meeting since they had to reschedule due to snow
- **WECC – BMI Presentation**
 - Kim Bobin, WECC Program Coordinator, and Martha Conneely, WECC Accountability Coordinator, presented on the BMI (Body mass index) Scorecard for Wethersfield.
 - The Board can access all of the health scorecard information at <http://app.resultsscorecard.com/Scorecard/Embed/5521>
 - The Board will talk more about the results and what we can do to address what the scorecard shows (obesity is on the rise) at the March meeting.

At 8:46pm Patricia Tiberio made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Eric Knapp.

Next meeting is March 5, 2015, at 7:00 PM.

Action Items Before Next Meeting:

- Wethersfield Youth Advisory Board Facebook page – Barbara will track down the username name and password so that someone on the Board can work on updating the information.
- Wethersfield Social and Youth Service Webpage – Social and Youth Services staff will post the information for the Youth Volunteer Recognition Event and YAB IT! on their webpage
- Volunteer Recognition Event – Board members need to review the updated Nomination Form and provide suggested edits to Rachael by February 23rd. Jeanine will contact Nicole Harte to see if she is interested in being the guest speaker.
- YAB IT! –Barbara will share the Will Writing fundraiser flyer with the Board. Suggested edits to the YAB IT! form need to be submitted to Leslie by Thursday, February 12th. Once the form has

been finalized Rachael will share with high school counselors and connect with BOE to post on their website.

- Youth Advisory Board Composition – Barbara will reach out to Sophie.

Respectfully submitted:

Rachael Sunny