

Youth Advisory Board Minutes  
June 4, 2015

**Members present were: Ken Lesser, Rachel Bahouth, Emily Daigle, Eric Knapp, and Leslie Esoian. Also present were: Rachael Sunny, Erica Texeira, and Kathy Bagley.**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by acting chairperson Leslie Esoian**

**Approval of March 26th 2015 Minutes:**

- Amended with date on top to read March 26, 2015, not March 3, 2015-All in favor. Ken Lesser made a motion to accept the minutes and Emily Daigle seconded. All approved.

**Financial Report:**

- Rachael Sunny noted that there is currently \$8,043.02 in the Youth Advisory Board account. Draw down was from purchase of cake from the Youth Volunteer Recognition Event. Emily Daigle made a motion to approve a \$1000.00 check be written out for the scholarship award. This will bring the amount down to \$7,043.02 –Eric Knapp seconded. All approved.

**Youth Services Report:**

- Friday Night Hang Out
  - Wrapped up- about 80 youth attended with many mentioning they had a great time. Asking about next year and expanding to possibly 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders (offering two separate evenings each 2x a month). Currently have \$950.00 in wilderness acct. This money will be used for next Friday Night Hangout.
- a.s.A.p. (formally Crossroads)
  - Wrapped up spring session – Cooking and Lights, Camera, Action (cooking continues to be very popular, possibly a 2<sup>nd</sup> class next year?)
- Intramurals at the Middle School
  - Not as many students as anticipated signed up for the spring sampler. (30 youth)
  - Fall will have the opportunity (from a grant awarded by the Keane Foundation) to support 80 youth to participate, each youth will be able to attend twice a week. Such activities as dodge ball, basketball.
  - Emily Daigle mentioned that in the Fall the BOE can use CHOICE/CREC money for homework support afterschool.
  - Police and Youth Grant- no word yet on the approval of this grant through OPM. If approved we would be awarded \$10,000 to have positive youth interaction with patrol police in town.

**Old Business:**

- Youth Advisory Board Composition
  - The board will need to speak with Sophia Fortunato. (Youth member) about position and if not interested she will be asked to give her notice of resignation. YAB would like to have two Youth members, one from the high school and one from the middle school.

- Member terms that are up this in July are Chris Healy, Patricia Tiberio, Emily Daigle, Eric Knapp, Leslie Esoin and Sophie Fortunato. Please let the town know if you are still interested in participating on the board. Eric Knapp, Leslie Esoin and Emily Daigle shared they are all interested to continue.
- Youth Volunteer Recognition Night
  - Everyone shared that it was a great evening and successful. Members enjoyed having Youth speak. The others speaker and scholarship award was a big hit. Impressive!!
  - It was suggested that since May is a big sports month, to possibly hold the event in March when not so much is going on.
  - Discussed how to make the application and invitation process easier, as well as more advertisement ideas.
- YAB IT!
  - Everyone felt that it was successful and that it was an easy process for members and applicants.
  - Looking for ideas to advertise for next year and possibly raising enough money to offer two scholarships. Maybe advertising on Facebook , or with the Chamber?
- Mentoring Program
  - Rachael has been able to communicate with the woman who runs the mentoring program in West Hartford. The West Harford contact will be out for a while so we will not have her available as a resource anytime soon. Rachael has followed up for with the Governor's Prevention Partnership, as they have a whole training/curriculum to start a mentoring program. Rachael plans to participate in the ongoing training available and bring information or presenters to the board.
  - The members mentioned interest in the mentoring program and are encouraged to discuss further, perhaps in a sub-committee on what it takes, logistics, and who would be responsible.

**New Business:**

- Proposed budget cuts
  - Rachael shared that the YSB funding has most likely been restored from the state. Youth Services will be applying for the full amount of funding and the enhancement grant (which funds the Youth Employment Service program), both grants due mid-June.
  - Leslie shared that she likes the updated Youth Services website and finds it helpful.
- Hunger Action Teams (HAT) - Ken Lesser mentioned the thought of starting one in Wethersfield to focus on poverty and ending hunger. Other towns have them established so it's a matter of Wethersfield doing research. Wethersfield Social and Youth Services has been in contact with coordinators from End Hunger/Food Share CT to get more information. YAB is interested in having high school volunteers be part of HAT.
  - Leslie mentioned that she can possibly arrange to have someone come in from [ctsummerfood.org](http://ctsummerfood.org).

- Erica shared information about the summer lunch program that will be starting at Wethersfield Housing and how the Wethersfield Food Bank is working on kid-friendly weekend meals. Erica will continue to provide information on programs with Social Services. It was mentioned that End Hunger has open sites across the state for youth to get free lunch. If you go to End Hunger website you will find a complete listing

At 8:35pm Eric Knapp made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Emily Daigle.

Next meeting is September 3rd, 2015, (with a possible planning meeting in July-not an official meeting) at 7:00 PM Town Hall, Lower Level, Conference Room #1.

Respectfully submitted:

Erica Texeira