

**Youth Advisory Board Minutes
February 04, 2016**

Members present were: Barbara Ruhe, Ken Lesser, Colleen Keane, Rachel Bahouth, Emily Daigle, Eric Knapp, Todd Willard, David Zagaja and Pam Harrison. Also present were: Anthony Spinella – Town Council Liason, Rachael Sunny-Youth Development Manager, Erica Teixeira-Assistant Director of Social and Youth Services, Katie Mezick-Social and Youth Services Intern.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM Chairperson Barbara Ruhe.

Approval of January 7th 2016 Minutes:

- Todd Willard made a motion to accept the minutes and Colleen Keane seconded. All approved.

Financial Report:

- The account balance is \$7,043.02. No changes.

Youth Services Report:

- Friday Night Hang Out
 - Winter session began-still very popular. A possibility is to have a combined group for both 7th and 8th graders in upcoming sessions.
- a.s.a.p. (formally Crossroads) - Winter session began. Youth services offered new selections such as robotics.
- Intramurals at the Middle School - Winter intramurals started at the end of January.
 - Police and Youth Grant- Continue to meet with positive interactions with youth and local law enforcement.
 - Juvenile Review Board is staying very active with cases.
 - Youth Services is waiting for final approval for a Needs Assessment Survey with grades 7-12 in the spring of 2016. The CASAC grant will financially sponsor the survey.

Old Business:

- **Hunger Action Team – update**
 - Ken Lesser provided an update - The fourth Hunger Action Team Meeting was held on January 8th and continues to be attended by over 20 community members. The group formed four sub-committees and the group took a tour of the Food Bank and storage areas. The next meeting will be held on Friday February 12th @ 1:30pm Community Center. Ken also announced that there will be a Mayor's Charity Ball held this June and the charity they will be donating to will be hunger locally (Wethersfield Food Bank).
- **Youth Conference**
 - Capital Area Substance Abuse Council event, collaborating with 5 towns, to provide information and prevention regarding substance use/at-risk behaviors for Youth. They are asking that each town brings 10-15 youth to participate. Rachael will be looking to recruit youth. Transportation will be provided to the event being held in Windsor.
- **March 3rd YAB meeting**

- Keane Foundation is hosting a social (at the community center) regarding youth activities in town, and it happens to fall on the same evening as our March meeting. Judy Keane invited the Youth Advisory Board to attend. The group was in favor of attending the Keane social and holding our regular meeting right after at the community center.
- **Mentoring**
 - It was mentioned that there was a nice article in the local newspaper that highlighted the Governor's Prevention Partnership and a national award for East Hartford. It was mentioned to possibly contact East Hartford BOE to get more information.

New Business:

- **Youth Advisory Board Vacancies**
 - Ryan Berasi (Wethersfield middle school youth) was appointed by Town Council as the under 18 youth slot for the board. David Zagaja was appointed by Town Council as a Democratic member.
- **Sub-committee to plan annual recognition event/YAB IT scholarship**
 - The board supported the idea of a sub-committee and they held the 2nd meeting tonight. The event will be held on Tuesday April 5th at 7pm – Community Center. The group consisted of Rachael Sunny, Kathy Bagley, Ken Lesser, Colleen Keane, Rachel Bahouth, and Eric Knapp, Todd Willard, Pam Harrison, and Emily Daigle. Other YAB members are welcome to join. The group discussed plans for applications, interviews, invitations, criteria, and party supplies for the event. The sub-committee will continue to meet and discuss.
- **Sub-committee to fundraise for camp scholarships**
 - Social and Youth Services offers help with camps to families that are in need. Each youth that qualifies can receive up to \$200 for one camp session. Currently the donated fund is low. The board continues to support the idea of the sub-committee and they held the 2nd meeting tonight. Other YAB members are welcome to join. The group consisted of Erica Teixeira, Katie Meziek, David Zagaja, Anthony Spinella, and Barbara Ruhe. The group narrowed in on ideas to raise money by June of this year. The group will continue research for different organizations in town to sponsor. Some ideas mentioned - Go Fund Me account (crowd funding), and holding a possible kick-ball tournament (depends on dates and locations availability). Also, David and Anthony shared that they will work on hosting a social event to raise money at Lucky Lou's sometime in April or early May. The group will come to the next YAB meeting with follow up research that they will report on.

At 8:15pm Dave Zagaja made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ken Lesser .

Next meeting is March 3th, 2016, at 7:00 PM Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street; please join us at 6pm for the Keane on Kids Social Event.

Respectfully submitted:
Erica Teixeira