

Youth Advisory Board Minutes
March 3, 2016

Members present were: Barbara Ruhe, Ken Lesser, Colleen Keane, Rachel Bahouth, Emily Daigle, Eric Knapp, David Zagaja, Ryan Berasi, Jeanine Berasi, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Colleen Keane.

Youth Advisory Board members attended the Keane on Kids social event.

Approval of Feb. 4th 2016 Minutes:

- Ken Lesser made a motion to accept the minutes and Eric Knapp seconded. All approved.

Financial Report:

- The account balance is \$7,043.02. No changes. Eric Knapp made a motion use some funds on invitations and other Youth Recognition event needs. All approved.

Youth Services Report:

- Friday Night Hang Out
 - Winter session continues and successful. A possibility is to have a combined group for both 7th and 8th graders in upcoming sessions.
- a.s.A.p. (formally Crossroads) – Continues and is successful. New selection robotics is going great. They are having lots of participation and placed 3rd in a competition in Middletown, CT.
- Intramurals at the Middle School –continue and are successful. We will be applying for upcoming grant year with the Keane Foundation to offer intramurals next school year.
 - 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.
 - The state continues to discuss cuts to YSBs. Please contact representatives to support YSBs.
 - Rachael Sunny will no longer be working for Social and Youth Services. Rachael has accepted a fulltime position with Parks and Rec. Everyone wished her best of luck and she will keep us updated on the transition. Social and Youth Services will be filling the position.

Old Business:

- **Hunger Action Team – update**
 - Ken Lesser provided an update - The 6th Hunger Action Team Meeting will be held on March 11th at 1:30pm Community Center. Continues to be attended by over 20 community members. The group continues work with formed four sub-committees. Ken also announced that the Mayor's Charity Ball will be held Friday June 3rd at the

Wethersfield Country Club and the charity they will be donating to will be hunger locally (Wethersfield Food Bank). Tickets will be sold soon –online and at the Heirloom Market in Wethersfield.

- **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. The program will be held March 19th.

New Business:

- **Youth Advisory Board Vacancies**

- The Democratic Party nominated Cindy Clancy as a member of the Youth Advisory Board. Cindy Clancy is a Public Defender that works with Juvenile's. The group supports the nomination.

- **Sub-committee to plan annual recognition event/YAB IT scholarship**

- The event will be held on Tuesday April 5th at 7pm – Community Center. The group reviewed applications, and set a date of March 21st to go over youth that applied for scholarships, invitations will be sent out by Social and Youth Services, Rachael will host the event and Mr. Skipetta will be the guest speaker, youth will be asked to speak, and all the refreshments are being taken care of by Colleen Keane.

- **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 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. David Zagaja and Anthony Spinella shared that they confirmed hosting a social event to raise money at Lucky Lou's in May. The group agreed to hold the event on Wed. May 4th (this will take the place of the May meeting), tickets will be \$30.00 food and entertainment included. Tickets will be sold at Social and Youth Services- cash or check. Social and Youth Services will work on flyer and tickets.

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

Next meeting is April 5th, 2016, at 7:00 PM Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street; Youth Volunteer Recognition Event.

Respectfully submitted:

Erica Teixeira