

**Youth Commission
Regular Meeting
Windsor Town Hall – Ludlow Room
April 6, 2005**

Present: Florence Barlow – Chair; Commissioners Cave, Gange, Novak, Reynolds, Speed-Copeland, Thrall; Katie Nowiszewski, Student Member; Mary Liz Sullivan, Youth Services Bureau; Captain LePore, Police Department; Cathy Moreton, Board of Education; Michele Smith, Superintendent's Designee; Kathy Wise, Windsor Public Schools; Paul Norris, Recreation Department.

I. **Call to Order** - Commission Chair Barlow called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Chairperson's Remarks and Welcome

Ms. Barlow recognized Commissioner Novak, who introduced Mr. Andy Giza from the Windsor Prep. Program. The Windsor Prep. Program is part of the Windsor Board of Education and is a program for young adults with special needs who have graduated high school and are not yet 21 years of age.

Mr. Giza has been a teacher at the Windsor High School for several years in Special Education. This is a new program that enables Windsor to provide services for young adults until they reach their 21st birthday. There are 7 students currently enrolled in the program. Prior to this year, several students received services from other towns.

The program housed at the Pierson House on Palisado Avenue, assists in developing the life skills necessary for these students to be on their own. All trips and programs are developed by the students and funded using their own money that they earned through the program. (Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Moreton arrived at 7:14 p.m.)

In addition to learning life skills at the house, some of the students had the opportunity to work at interns at Pet Center, Jordan's Florist, and Farley's. The students also started a car detailing business to earn money. Mr. Giza introduced his wife, Susan, who showed a Power Point presentation created by the students to market their detailing business. (Commissioner Mascola and Paul Norris arrived at 7:24 p.m.) The students have also made meals for various community leaders.

Mr. Giza invited the Commissioners to visit the Pierson House between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. He asked the Commission's assistance in providing intern opportunities. Mr. Giza indicated that he works with the students and sends them on intern programs when they are ready.

III. Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2005

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Novak, second by Commissioner Gange to approved the minutes of March 2, 2005, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Standing Reports

A. CASAC – No meeting this month – No report.

B. Youth Services – Ms. Sullivan distributed a March/April Report for the Commission's review. Ms. Sullivan attended a training seminar on Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning for State Department of Education grants.

Ms. Sullivan invited any interested Commission members to attend a breakfast at the state capital on April 13 in celebration of Youth Services Day. There will be displays by area Youth Services Bureaus.

A training and appreciation luncheon is scheduled for the Conn. Youth Services Association on June 3. Ms. Sullivan has additional information if you are interested in attending.

C. P.A.L. – Commissioner Novak noted that most of the programs provided to the P.A.L. program are developed through the Recreation Department and include a homework club, basketball, and a poetry slam contest.

A special program, called Impact Day, will provide “manpower” by Deloitte & Touche employees to renovate and paint the P.A.L. Center.

Mr. Norris reported that during 3-6 p.m. there has been a drop in the number of attendees, however during 6-9 p.m. there can be up to 80 students at the Center. The Recreation Department is trying to office as many programs as possible, at a minimum cost.

D. Library Services - It was reported that the renovation project is on schedule.

E. Windsor Schools – Ms. Wise reported that Spring sports are underway at Sage Park, the transition from 5 to 6 grade is in progress with 6th Grade Ambassadors returning to their elementary schools to talk about Sage Park, A pilot testing for spring CMT's was given to 6th and 7th graders, PTSA is sponsoring “Ball in the House” program, Knowledge Master Open was attended by several Challenge program students. Ms. Wise also distributed a copy of the quarterly Sage Park student newsletter.

St. Gabriel's School - No report

Board of Education - Cathy Moreton reported that the Board of Education made their budget presentation to the Town Council. There was a brief discussion on the CMT results, the Board is in the process of hiring a new principal for the high school and will be searching for a new principal for Clover Street School.

Commissioner Novak brought up a discussion on gang activity during a recent meeting and questioned the impact of the budget on this. Captain LePore indicated there is an increase in youth violence in town over the last year and the police department is taking a proactive stand on the problem. Graffiti at Sage Park has been removed. Captain LePore indicated that most activity is at the middle and high school levels. It was noted that each school has a monitor to sign in visitors, the high school and a police officer on duty and the middle school has a part-time officer from mid-morning to the end of school. Captain LePore stated that the elementary school officer, provided by the Partnership, spent a lot of time teaching in the classrooms. This function will now be facilitated by the elementary school social workers.

Regarding the number of physical altercations at the high school, Ms. Moreton reported that the police department and the administration have worked closely to prevent escalation in this problem. It appears a lot of the problems are a result of neighborhood rivalries.

Ms. Moreton stated that there may be ways to help mediate the situation and get the parents involved. Commissioner Novak indicated that there was a community forum several years ago that was held at Sage Park. Ms. Wise suggested the parents of the P.A.L. program could be a group to get involved. Mr. Novak stated that there are plans to hold neighborhood barbecues. It was also suggested that someone from the Youth Commission attend one of their meetings to enlist their help. Ms. Sullivan also indicated that the Community Development department and the Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee might be sources to lend assistance.

V. Reports on Projects

Street Sign Theft –Ms. Smith reported that the high school would have an announcement during homeroom regarding the Amnesty Day next weekend. Commissioner Novak indicated that Public Works has been notified.

Underage Drinking- Grant application was submitted. Ms. Sullivan thanked Ms. Smith and Captain LePore for their assistance in obtaining the information.

Ms. Sullivan is waiting for information from South Windsor on the “Every 15 Minutes” program. Need to determine the actual costs. It was suggested that WIN-TV and the high school could be asked to video tape the program. Ms. Smith suggested asking a representative from South Windsor and Windsor Locks to attend a meeting to discuss this. It was also suggested that CVS be approached for a grant. It was agreed that the Commission should form a subcommittee to determine what steps should be taken and begin planning for this program. Commissioner Gange will set up a meeting.

Youth Council – Katie reported that there was a meeting with about five students. Discussed Sound Stage for the summer and they are looking for talent for that program. It was suggested that the program might be held at L. P. Wilson so that weather does not become an issue. There were several suggestions for a poetry/singing slam and Katie will talk with Ms. Sullivan regarding a theme dance to raise some money. They are currently working to update their flyer and have also agreed on their new name – “Windsor’s Young Voices”.

Need to get additional student volunteers for the Regional Summit in Windsor on August 26-28. Youth Council may also help with the June 11 event on the green for Alex’s Lemonade Stand.

VI. New Business

Needs Assessment Survey – survey is ongoing.

VII. Round Table

Commissioner Novak reported that there are grants available for 501C3 programs. Mr. Norris is looking into this further. Commissioner Mascola is looking for old cell phones. Katie reported that Loomis is holding a shoe drive for Haiti.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Novak, second by Commissioner Gange and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Burke, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Youth Commission at their regular meeting of May 4, 2005.