

**Youth Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Windsor Town Hall – Ludlow Room  
May 4, 2005**

**Present:** Florence Barlow – Chair; Commissioners Gange (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Hymes (arrived at 7:08 p.m.), Mascola, Novak, Reynolds (arrived at 7:19 p.m.), Speed-Copeland, Thrall, Webber (arrived at 7:10 p.m.); Mary Liz Sullivan, Youth Services Bureau (arrived at 7:10 p.m.); Captain LePore, Police Department; Kathy Wise, Windsor Public Schools.

I. **Call to Order** - Commission Chair Barlow called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. **Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2005**

**MOTION:** A motion by Commissioner Novak, second by Commissioner Mascola to approved the minutes of April 6, 2005, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Reports on Projects**

**Street Sign Theft** – Ms. Barlow distributed information on the Amnesty Sign Collection. Twelve signs were collected at the three locations. (Commissioners Gange and Hymes arrived) The Commission expressed appreciation on the news coverage on the program. It was noted that other towns are interested in doing something like this. Ms. Barlow will make sure that the president of the Board of Education gets this information. Thanks to Commissioners Webber and Rispoli for their work. The committee is working on sending out thank you notes to all those who participated in the collection of the signs (Ms. Sullivan and Commissioner Webber arrived)

V. **Standing Reports**

**A. CASAC** –Ms. Sullivan reported that the Second Annual Thank You Breakfast for all CASAC Prevention Committee Members will be held at Bart's Restaurant on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m.

Waiting until the end of May to hear about the grant. Ms. Sullivan also reported that there is a grant provided by CVS, which she will look into. There has also been discussion on gambling issues.

**B. Youth Services** – Ms. Sullivan reported that they made a brochure about Windsor Youth Services Bureau and a Summer Adventure flyer that was distributed to the Commission. Also distributed for the Commission's information was a flyer regarding a Family Fun Night at Bart's to raise funds for pediatric cancer in memory of Alexandra Scott – Alex's Lemonade Stand on May 9<sup>th</sup>. (Commissioner Reynolds arrived)

Ms. Sullivan wants to work on developing web site. She also indicated that the "increase" in next year's budget is another portion of her salary. Fifty percent of salary and operating budget comes from program fees or grants.

The Teen Center operates out of the hallway at L. P. Wilson and in the Senior Center.

**C. P.A.L.** – Commissioner Novak reported that registrations are up and the financial situation looks good. He noted that this also reflects an increase in fees. They are signing up for spring basketball.

Captain LePore reported there are not too many problems. He noted that Police Officers come in and out the building at 330 Windsor Avenue. He noted some issues with outside "elements" and loitering outside. Commissioner Novak also noted that is an issue of kids being dropped off. PAL has had discussions of restricting movement in and out of the building. Ms. Barlow thinks someone from the community center should talk about this. There is also an issue of not allowing food in the building. Commissioner Novak will talk with Mr. Norris, Recreation Director, to see if they can designate an eating area on the premises. Commissioner Mascola suggested a vending truck come to the facility. Ms. Sullivan will check into this.

**D. Library Services** -. Construction is progressing. Commissioner Novak noted that the contractor wants to finish early. There is a problem to the town since the library staff did not include operating costs in next year's budget to provide for this.

**E. Windsor Schools** –Ms. Wise reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are going on a field trip to Boston (this is instead of the Philadelphia trip). Spring sports are underway. She noted that there are still students around and in the building participating in after school activities.

The transition from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Sage Park is in progress with elementary schools visiting this week.

It was noted that the leading candidate for the high school principal opening has withdrawn from consideration, putting Windsor back to "square one". Commission Gange noted that several surrounding towns have just filled their vacancies.

**St. Gabriel's School** - Mr. Reynolds reported that the Spring Concert is next Wednesday. There is a greater emphasis on community service. They are developing this aspect into the school curriculum. There are approximately 200 students at the school.

Commissioner Gange noted that a lot of kids leave Windsor to go to St. Timothy's and St. Mary's. Commissioner Hymes' new magnet concentrates on personalized planning for each student. There was discussion on other opportunities available to Windsor students.

There was discussion on advertising programs and opportunities in the high school. It is difficult to get information items distributed to the students.

## **VI. Reports on Projects**

**Underage Drinking** – Ms. Sullivan reported that South Windsor did spend \$6,000 on their program. It was noted that all but approximately \$1,000 was spent on making the event into a video. Commissioner Gange stated that since there isn't any principal at the high school, it might be difficult to proceed at this time. Ms. Sullivan indicated that both Windsor Locks and South Windsor representatives would be happy to meet with Commissioner Gange to discuss the process. Commissioner Webber and Chair Barlow also expressed an interest on working on the committee.

Ms. Sullivan has not heard anything from the state regarding the grant

**Youth Council** – There was a Pathways workshop at the High School on Wednesday. The YC students were disappointed that the participants were not cooperative.

## **VII. New Business**

**Youth Crime Prevention** – Ms. Barlow stated that there have been several newspaper articles lately regarding "gang" violence. She feels there is a lot of information that the Commission does not know

about this and thinks that youth crimes committed in Windsor should be brought to the Commission's attention. Captain LePore did indicate an increase in youth violence in Windsor. He noted that the "gangs" (kids hanging out) do not have any alignment to larger groups (Bloods, Latin Kings, and Crypts). He noted that the violence against kids does spill over into the schools. He noted that the school Partnership is working to mediate this situation.

Captain LePore was asked to create a report for the Commission regarding police activity regarding youth in Windsor. Captain LePore discussed the changes in the Partnership. He noted that the partnership element was put back into the elementary school. The program will now be known as the Community Services Unit, which will combine the partnership, detectives, and crime suppression unit. (This is supervised by Captain Kears)

Commissioner Reynolds noted that in a discussion with elementary students they expressed concerns with gangs. The newspapers are giving towns a bad name. It was noted that a "gang" could be a gathering of three or more people. It was agreed to ask Captain Kears to attend the next meeting to discuss with the Commission these issues. It was noted that if the Commission has accurate information they could help to quiet rumors.

Commissioner Thrall also voiced concern with the rumors about the Windsor Schools. There was discussion on the educational issues at the High School and Sage Park. It was also noted that the Windsor High School does not have a representative on the Youth Commission. Captain LePore indicated he might be able to bring in the officer assigned to the high school in to give some insight to the Commission.

#### **VIII. Round Table**

It was reported that Wild Woolly Sheep Day would be held at Northwest Park on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

**MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Gange, second by Commissioner Webber and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Burke, Recording Secretary