Youth Commission
Regular Meeting
Windsor Town Hall – Ludlow Room
November 2, 2005

Present: Commissioners Cave, Gange (arrived at 7:18 p.m.), Novak, Speed-Copeland, Thrall, Webber (arrived at 7:17 p.m.); Sara Mahmood, Student Representative; Mary Liz Sullivan, Youth Services Bureau; Kathy Wise, Windsor Public Schools; Rich Henderson (arrived at 7:50 p.m.) and Paul Norris (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Recreation Department; Cathy Moreton, Board of Education; Captain Kearse, Police Department; and Peter Sousa, Town Manager (arrived at 7:17 pm).

1. **Call To Order** – Commissioner Novak, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. **Chairperson's Remarks and Welcome**

   Commissioner Novak noted that Chair Barlow was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

3. **Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2005**

   MOTION: A motion by Captain Kearse, second by Commissioner Speed-Copeland to approve the minutes of October 5, 2005 as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

(Commissioner Webber and Town Manager Sousa arrived.)

Town Manager Sousa wanted to respond to the letter from Commissioner Gange regarding the Commission's concern with the safety and security at 330 Windsor Avenue. He understands the concern is what measures are in place to check the outside contractor in the boxing program.

Mr. Sousa stated that Mr. Scully is the primary instructor for the program. (Dr. Gange arrived.) On occasion, other instructors have come into the facility to work with the participants. Mr. Sousa indicated there is currently an identification card system in place that requires showing a participation ID card upon arrival to the building. Background checks will also be conducted on the instructors. Visual monitors are also installed throughout the building.

Commissioner Novak stated that PAL removed itself from the boxing program because of supervision issues. The concerns are that the instructors are not supervisors, but boxers. Captain Kearse reported the instructors are qualified fighters. The concern is for the PAL kids enrolled in the program. Captain Kearse also stated he has the background information for the instructors.

Commissioner Novak also noted concern with other adults in the room that might not be involved in the program. Mr. Sousa understands better the concern of the Commission. Captain Kearse informed the Commission that the PAL kids involved in the boxing program must have a form signed. Commissioner Webber thought another concern is that other kids are intimidated by the boxing individuals.

Mr. Sousa stated that the monitoring system could be modified to include the boxing area. There was also discussion of security people in the building. Captain Kearse also reminded the Commission that 330 Windsor Avenue is a Police sub-station and officers come and go throughout the day. He also indicated the boxing program is currently closed for three weeks because Mr. Scully is out of town.

Commissioner Gange reported the lease expires in March 2006. He asked for a report to the Youth Commission on the program and the safety measures now in affect

4. Standing Committee Reports

A. CASAC – Ms. Sullivan reported she nominated two people from Windsor for recognition: Jane Gariby was the adult candidate and Alisa Kravshaar was the student candidate. Both Ms. Gariby and Ms. Kravshaar won awards presented by CASAC.

B. Youth Services – Ms. Sullivan reported that Youth Services made a presentation for the Citizens Academy and a Red Ribbon Week presentation to the Town Council. Red Ribbon activities includes a dance at Sage Park, The Night of 1001 Pumpkins, and involvement in Nightmare on Broad Street. Ms. Sullivan stated the 1001 Pumpkins was well attended, but she needs more adult volunteers to continue this activity.

There was discussion on keeping 1001 Pumpkins and it was agreed the Youth Commission does not want to see this activity stop. Commissioner Novak suggested contacting some civic organizations who could help staff the event and/or help with the planning and setup. He will ask the Civitan Club and Commissioner Thrall will ask the Junior Women's Club. There was brief discussion of combining this with the Nightmare on Broad Street, but Ms. Sullivan voiced concern that the Red Ribbon focus would then be lost and the funding used for 1001 Pumpkins would not be available. The ideal scenario would involve help in the planning, set up, and cleanup, as well as at least 7-8 adults to chaperone the event. The planning could begin in August.

Ms. Sullivan noted the amount of time expended on both Night of 1001 Pumpkins and the Nightmare on Broad Street. It would also be helpful if the events were on two weekends and suggested moving the Night of 1001 Pumpkins to the weekend before and use this event to start Red Ribbon Week.

Ms. Sullivan also reported that programs are underway. The after-school program now includes high school and middle school students. Youth Services still operates out in the hallway at L. P. Wilson. They really need more space. (Mr. Norris and Mr. Henderson arrived) Town Manager Sousa stated that space is coming available at L. P. and will be made available to Youth Services.

C. PAL – Commissioner Novak reported PAL discussed the coloring book fundraiser. It was noted the Superintendent of Schools requires anything being distributed throughout the schools to be approved by her office first. PAL will distribute the materials through other means.

Most of the programs using the PAL grant funding are facilitated by the Recreation Department.

D. Library Services – Commissioner Novak updated the Commission on the construction.

E. Windsor Schools – Ms. Wise reported Sage Park is also conducting "hallway sweeps". An extended detention has also been instituted on Thursdays until 5:00 p.m. This is being used in lieu of in-school suspensions.

A Crossroads Program is beginning with involvement from the Recreation Department, Town Services, Police Department, and the Schools to identify "at-risk" students and provide services

three days a week after school. Services include tutoring, recreation activities, social services and counseling.

The High School mentor program is beginning. The high school mentors will soon meet their middle school partners. Ms. Wise also reported that several of the adult mentors from the elementary school have followed their students to Sage Park and continue to work with them.

F. **Police Department** – Captain Kearse stated the primary concern through out the State is the resurgence of game involvement. Windsor is trying to keep ahead of the gangs and make it uncomfortable for them to be in Windsor. The Police Department is working to identify gang members and control their activities in Windsor. They are also working with the school system is modifying dress codes and other "gang related" issues. Town Manager Sousa stated Windsor is taking a pro-active approach.

G. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Norris reported on the installation of three new playscapes at Fitch, Trent, and Welch Parks. There was discussion on the graffiti problems which are being addressed. Mr. Norris also reported they are in the process of evaluating the skate park to determine if the skate park is needed and if so, what equipment needs updating.

6. **Project Reports**

a. **Underage Drinking** – No update

b. **Youth Council** – Ms. Sullivan noted the Youth Council is a function of the Youth Commission. Previously Sharon Rispoli, Mike Reynolds and Melissa Mascola have worked with the group. It was agreed the Commission should discuss this further.

7. **New Business**

A. **Nominating Committee** - Commissioner Cave volunteered to be on the committee. It was also noted that Chair Barlow would also be on the committee.

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Gange, second by Commissioner Webber and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Burke
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Youth Commission at their meeting on December 7, 2005.