

**Youth Commission
Special Meeting
Windsor Town Hall – Ludlow Room
January 3, 2007**

Present: Chair Barlow, Commissioners Carpenter, Cave, Gange, Novak, Speed-Copeland, and Katie Nowiszewski; Mary-Liz Sullivan, Youth Services Bureau; Rick Bosch, Recreation Department; Barbara Trinks, Superintendent's Representative.

1. **Call To Order** – Chair Barlow called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. **Chairperson's Remarks and Welcome** – Chair Barlow welcomed the new members. Amy McCue is the new Youth Services Librarian and will represent Library Services at the meetings. Michael Gray is a junior at Windsor High School and will be a student member of the Commission.
3. **Minutes of December 6, 2006**

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Gange, second by Commissioner Novak to approve the minutes of December 6, 2006 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Standing Committee Reports

CASAC- Because of the holidays and school vacation, Ms. Sullivan reported there has not been a CASAC meeting since the last commission meeting.

Youth Services – In December, Ms. Sullivan reported the teens cooked dinner for their parents and she stated this was one of the best meals she has had. A cooking class has been added to the curriculum this year and is extremely popular.

The kids also helped with the WIN-TV sponsored fundraiser – “Battle of the Bands”.

PAL - Commissioner Novak reported there are a lot of new members. This is mainly due to the traveling basketball program at 330 Windsor Avenue for 6-8 graders. He noted that John Zito is coaching and the students are expected to maintain a certain grade average in order to be eligible to play. The league would like to donate money toward having the gym floors resurfaced. Cost information is being obtained. It was noted the basketball program is bringing in many kids from all over town and is a good racial mix.

Chair Barlow suggested this program be advertised. One issue is that the Teen Center is closed during basketball games. It was thought that if the teen center were open, more people would see what is offered at the Community Center. The Teen Center is not staffed because of budget cuts and PAL is considering paying for staff to open the center during the 6 home games scheduled at 330.

It was noted that the departments have been asked to generate some income through their programs. Recreation uses the Windsor Land facility to be rented for birthday parties. It was noted that this sometimes conflicts with the basketball program.

At the PAL meeting last night, Commissioner Novak reported that Captain Kearsse informed the group of the concern regarding gang activity on the internet.

Library Services – Ms. McCue distributed a pamphlet on the 2007 Winter Newsletter from Kidspace and an Invitation to the Snowflake Gala sponsored by the Windsor Library Association on January 27, 2007 from 7:30-9:30 pm.

The Nutmeg voting will take place later this month. Ms. McCue is getting acquainted with the students who use the library and will be surveying them to determine what types of programs they are interested in. There will be a book discussion meeting on March 6th for both students and adults. The book is "Marlee and Me".

Commissioner Carpenter noted that a lot of the evening library programs indicate they are geared for Dads. She noted that working mothers would also like to participate with their children in evening programs.

Windsor Schools – Ms. Trinks reported a Professional Day is scheduled in January. Winter sports activities are well underway and staff is now gearing up for the CAPT and CMT tests, which will be administered this spring.

There was a brief discussion on the blocking schedule being proposed for the high school and the 6-day rotation schedule that is followed at the middle school.

Recreation – Mr. Bosch reported the Dinner with Santa was a huge success. The first year there were approximately 28 people, last year there were 50 people and this year there were 125 people.

The middle school extravaganza was also successful with 170 middle school students attending. The Ski Club is waiting for snow!!! The Recreational basketball games begin this Saturday with games scheduled in three gyms from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. The program is for boys and girls in grades 2-12.

Police Department - No report

5. Reports on Projects

Youth Council – Katie reported the next Youth Council meeting is schedule for January 9th. Flyers will be posted around town and given to area clubs. Pizza will be provided.

End of WinterFest – The event is scheduled for March 30 at L.P. Wilson. Ms. Sullivan is looking to schedule a meeting with the planning committee. The focus for this event is promoting healthy lifestyles. Commissioner Speed-Copeland noted the young girls seem to be into Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) activity.

Ms. Sullivan stated the reason the event is being held at L.P. Wilson is that she has to move everything from L.P. to 330 Windsor Avenue, transport all the kids, and the cleanup of the facility was very difficult because they could not access cleaning supplies at the end of the evening. Getting people to attend this event was never a problem at 330 Windsor Avenue.

Regarding DDR, Ms. McCue is aware of some libraries that hold DDR tournaments.

6. New Business – None

7. Round Table

Chair Barlow noted a Martin Luther Celebration event scheduled on January 15, 2007 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, sponsored by AME Zion Church, and featuring Dr. Gilbert Bond, Founder of the Institute of Reconciliation and Healing in New Haven. Donations made will go toward the David A. Gaither Scholarship Fund.

Commissioner Cave is looking for members willing to serve as officers of the Commission.

Mike reported there is a Windsor High School basketball game on Friday.

Commissioner Carpenter asked if everyone received the flyer on the "I Dream a World" art contest for 13-20 year olds. She will be meeting with the Youth Services Bureau to discuss the contest and would also like to meet with other groups to promote the program. She will contact the high school Art Department.

Commissioner Speed-Copeland will look into the bottled water fundraiser. She also noted the First Church youth group is planning a trip to Virginia this summer to help build houses.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Gange, second by Commissioner Novak and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Burke
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Youth Commission at their regular meeting on February 7, 2007.