Youth Commission
Regular Meeting
Windsor Town Hall – Ludlow Room
February 7, 2007

Present: Chair Barlow, Commissioners Gange, Novak, Owens, Speed-Copeland, Webber, and Student Member Michael Gray; Mary-Liz Sullivan, Youth Services Bureau; Amy McCue, Windsor Public Library; Kathy Wise, Windsor Public Schools; and Deja Wright from Windsor High School.

1. **Call To Order** – Chair Barlow called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. **Chairperson's Remarks and Welcome** – Chair Barlow welcomed Deja Wright, 9th Grader at Windsor High School who is deciding on whether she would like to become an Alternate Student Member of the commission. Michael Gray, a junior at Windsor High School, was also introduced as a new Student Member. The new Alternate Member to the Commission, Yvette Owens, has considerable experience with youth while being a Youth Director in her former church and currently works with youth ministry in her current church. She also has a daughter in the Windsor school system.

3. **Election of Commission Officers**

The following slate of officers was presented:
Hillary Carpenter – Chairman
Florence Barlow – Vice Chairman

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Novak, second by Commissioner Webber to approve the slate of officers as presented (H. Carpenter – Chairman and F. Barlow – Vice Chairman). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Minutes of January 3, 2007**

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Gange, second by Commissioner Novak to approve the minutes of January 3, 2007 as submitted. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Commissioner Webber abstained – she was not in attendance).

5. **Standing Committee Reports**

CASAC (Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council) - Ms. Sullivan reported on a meeting last week in Bloomfield. In response requests for more resources, Ms. Sullivan indicated she is receiving a lot of resource information.

Youth Services – Ms. Sullivan stated the Youth Services Bureau is located at L. P. Wilson Community Center. Every town has a Youth Services program which serves as a gateway for youth. There are currently 18 middle school and 12 high school students enrolled in the program. The main focus is the after school program for the middle school students and a leadership program for the high school students.

During the month of January, the students were able to complete clean up projects at several public properties; including J. F. Kennedy and Clover Street schools. This month they are focusing on the indoor gardens at L. P. Wilson. (Captain Kearse & Officer Baboolal arrived).

They were able to purchase six new computers and set up a computer lab. The students previously used the computers in the Senior Center. The kids will be looking for some way to thank the Seniors for letting the youth use their facilities.

There is a youth leadership meeting this Friday. They will be discussing future activities. National Youth Services Day is April 22. They will be hosting an Alex's Lemonade Stand.

Ms. Sullivan informed the Commission of three bills in the legislature that affect Youth Services. She encouraged the commissioners to contact the legislators to support these bills. A handout outlined the bills that will be considered.

PAL – Captain Kearse reported the Windsor Giants asked if their organization could become affiliated with PAL. This would increase the membership of PAL and would provide a space for the Windsor Giants to practice and meet. The Windsor Giants organization is a very active group. PAL is currently discussing the pros & cons to this arrangement.

Captain Kearse voiced concern with the availability of meeting rooms as the Recreation Department currently rents out rooms at 330 Windsor Avenue and is hesitant to allow PAL to schedule the rooms and lose income. When PAL had grants available and were able to pay for the homework club, this did not seem to be an issue.

Basketball is going great. The last two home games are this week. Captain Kearse still wants to have the Police vs. student basketball game. It was noted that they are trying to get more programs at 330 Windsor Avenue.

In an email, Mr. Bosch noted the PAL basketball team has their games on Saturdays. During that time, the Drop-in Center is not open. The Center was never open during that time and due to budget cuts, Recreation does not have the capacity to staff the center during the basketball games. PAL and Recreation are working to determine how the Center could be opened during the home games to allow more exposure to the PAL program.

Commissioner Webber asked if police officers are assigned to work with PAL. Captain Kearse stated this was eliminated because of the budget.

Library Services – Ms. McCue is working on a survey at the Library asking teens what they would like and how often they use the Library. She would like to establish a teen advisory group at the Library.

A Chocolate Tasting Party is scheduled on February 14th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 15 kids have already signed up.

At the Wilson Branch, there are 100 people involved in a tutoring program three days a week. This program is for students up to 8th grade.

There was discussion on the large number of teens hanging out at the Library. Ms. McCue stated some come to use the computers, some just hang around, and some do use the Library. She is trying to gently encourage the students to use the facilities and not just hang around. She noted that several students have asked why the Library is not opened on Fridays.

Ms. Sullivan would like the Youth Council to collaborate with the Library Advisory group on activities

Windsor Schools – Mrs. Trinks, via email, reported the Board of Education is currently working on the budget, February vacation is coming soon, and preparations are being made for the CMT and CAPT testing in March. The elementary school students are looking for warmer weather so they can enjoy some recess.

Mrs. Wise reported that the author, Yoko, made her annual visit with the 6th graders. She also reported the Enrichment Clusters have started for this semester.

Recreation – No report

Police Department – Captain Kearse reported that graffiti has become a problem. It appears that two sources are responsible for the graffiti, one is gang related and one is related to skateboarders. Most of the problem is in the Center of town and is found on signs.

He reported they continue to monitor "My Space" and have made some arrests. Gang involvement continues to be an issue because several popular rappers are gang members.

6. **Reports on Projects**

Youth Council – Katie was not able to attend this evening.

Ms. Sullivan reported the Youth Council sent out flyers to Windsor churches and all clubs at the high school. The Youth Council meeting was also announced on the high school announcements and only one new person attended. They are actively looking for new members.

Commissioner Webber noted the Youth Council was developed so teens could bring concerns to the Youth Commission. Ms. Sullivan noted there are other teen advisory groups in town which she would like to get together with the Youth Council to share information and bring issues to the Youth Commission's attention.

End of WinterFest – The committee meeting on February 15th to discuss and coordinate the events. This is an annual event using CASAC grant money to promote healthy lifestyles. It was previously hosted at the 330 Windsor Avenue facility, but moved to L. P. Wilson this year. It is an event that is geared toward families. The event is March 30th from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

6. **New Business – None**
7. **Round Table**

Captain Kearse reported that three new officers, including Officer Baboolal, will be out on their own starting Sunday.

Commissioner Owens offered information regarding a charity basketball game on March 10th with a team from Harlem.

Commissioner Novak discussed his concerns regarding property tax reform and the affect on school spending.

Commissioner Webber stated St. Joseph's Church will be holding an auction on March 31, 2006 for their scholarship fund.

In response to Mrs. Wise, it was noted the tutoring program at the Wilson Library is extended up to 8th Grade. Mrs. Wise asked about the middle school dances at the VFW. Ms. Sullivan stated that because she has such a small department, she has to hire staff to chaperone the dances. She had to cut her budget and these dances were getting very expensive. It was noted the Recreation Department has the Middle School Extravaganza at the Athletic Club each month.

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Gange, second by Commissioner Novak and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Burke
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Youth Commission at their march 7, 2007 meeting.