

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

Present: Chair Carpenter, Commissioners Barlow, Cave, Gange (arrived at 7:10 pm), Gauthier (arrived at 7:12 pm), Novak, Owens (arrived at 7:20 pm), Speed-Copeland (arrived at 7:08 pm), Webber (arrived at 7:14 pm), and Student Member Michael Gray (arrived at 7:08 pm); Mary-Liz Sullivan, Youth Services Bureau; Amy McCue, Windsor Public Library; Paul Norris, Recreation Director; Debbie Anderson, Recreation; Captain Kears, Police Department (arrived at 7:08 pm).

1. **Call To Order** – Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. **Chairperson’s Remarks and Welcome** – Chair Carpenter welcomed everyone and introductions were made by those in attendance. Debbie Anderson was recognized as the new staff liaison from Recreation. (Commissioner Speed-Copeland, Student Member Gray, and Captain Kears arrived.)
3. **Minutes of February 7, 2007**
MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Barlow, second by Commissioner Novak to approve the minutes of February 7, 2007 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Standing Committee Reports

CASAC (Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council) – Ms. Sullivan stated the new coordinator is developing training programs and providing resources for the area towns. (Commissioner Gauthier arrived.)

Youth Services – Ms. Sullivan reported the after school programs are continuing. The students will be helping at the Senior Center for their St. Patrick’s Day celebration. They are working on the indoor gardens at LP and will move to the outside gardens once the weather warms. The students are also working on the End of WinterFest and will be doing something for Youth Services Month in April. A \$2,000 grant was received for the after school leadership program. (Commissioner Webber arrived.)

PAL – Captain Kears reported that PAL is going well and the basketball season is winding down. PAL had a meeting with the Windsor Giants and it appears that they will join the PAL organization. There are approximately 300 kids involved in the Windsor Giants program. There was a question on insurance for the football program and Windsor Giants agreed to continue their own coverage, since PAL’s insurance does not cover football. Commissioner Novak suggested that the Police officers might be interested in coaching the football teams. (Commissioner Owens arrived) Captain Kears noted that the kids from Windsor Giants will be joining PAL and it is hoped that some of the parents will become involved on the Board of Directors. He noted that one of the basketball parents is now on the Board.

Library Services – Ms. McCue reported that a Chocolate Tasting program had 11 kids participating. She will be having a book talk soon, but is currently working on Teen Technology Week.

There will be a digital art contest for youth from 12-18 years old. The contest will be a self-portrait using digital media and will be due on March 31st. There will be on-line voting (like American Idol). Press Releases will be sent out by the end of the week and announcements will be made in school.

Windsor Schools – No report

Recreation – Ms. Anderson reported this Friday evening is the Middle School Extravaganza at the Windsor Athletic Club. Approximately 170-180 kids have attended the monthly event (held the 2nd Friday of the month). This will continue until the end of school. The program is for Windsor students in Grades 6-8 and goes from 7:00-10:00 pm.

The Flashlight Egg Hunt will be on the Town Green on April 5, 2007 at 7:00 pm. The smaller kids will begin first.

Ms. Anderson reported on two new programs that will be held in April. 1) An American Red Cross Babysitting Course that will be held for three days during April vacation for kids ages 11-15. 2) A Taking Leads program will also be offered for 14 and 15 year olds on April 23. This program will help to help students refine leadership skills that could result in their future contributions in the community. Mr. Norris stated this is a pilot based on a University of Minnesota leadership program.

Mr. Norris reported they have been in contact with Glastonbury regarding application for a CADCA Grant the Recreation Department hopes to get. It was asked why this was being done by Recreation and not Youth Services Bureau. Mr. Norris indicated there are different purposes for Youth Services and Recreation. There was discussion regarding the different components that make them different. Ms. Sullivan noted that Youth Services Bureau previously came under the Recreation Department, but is not part of Human Services.

There was discussion on Youth Services Bureau funding. It was noted some towns fund the program, and others rely on grant funding. It appears there is minimal, if any, involvement by Windsor's State Legislators regarding Youth Services and it is believed they are aware of funding sources unknown to the towns. Commissioner Gauthier suggested asking other towns how they are funded.

The Commission discussed written reports for the meetings and also the need for direct contact with the schools. They would like to see representatives from the schools to participate in the meetings. It is difficult to provide for the youth in Windsor without input from the schools.

Youth Council – Michael Gray reported on their last meeting. There were discussions regarding high school dances, a teen night, and block party. Chairman Carpenter asked that a copy of the minutes be distributed to the members.

Police Department – Captain Kears reported on the task force activity on the internet. He also reported on an incident that occurred at Sage Park last Friday night. Police will monitor these games from now on. Captain Kears also reported on some graffiti issues.

5. **Reports on Projects**

End of WinterFest – scheduled for March 30, 2007 at LP Wilson. The committee met and came up with some great ideas for activities. The students are working on meaningful sayings that promote healthy lifestyles to be posted at each station.

Ms. Sullivan reported that a student from The Metropolitan Learning Center was an award winner for a No Smoking Campaign. The committee discussed asking her to help facilitate the creation of a mural during the festivities.

6. **New Business – None**

7. **Round Table**

Commissioner Gange voiced his concern with the incident at Sage Park. Captain Kears stated that if the Police Department had a schedule of the games, they could make sure the activity was monitored. Commissioner Gange would like to require that the Police be made aware of evening activities. Mr. Norris stated that the WIBL is a Recreation sponsored activity and he will take care of notifying the Police.

Commissioner Owens felt that the Commission should contact Sage Park and the Board of Education regarding the procedures on facility use. The Commission feels there should be a written policy. Commissioner Novak noted that the parking lot is dark. The school should make sure the parking lot is illuminated.

Commissioner Gange stated if the Commission wants to sponsor the "Every 15 Minutes" program next May, funding issues must be addressed and a commitment obtained from the high school. He estimates the cost to be approximately \$7,500. Mr. Norris reported on a Town Council fund that might be a possible funding source.

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Gange, second by Commissioner Novak 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 April 4, 2007 meeting.