

**Youth Commission
Regular Meeting
Windsor Town Hall – Ludlow Room
September 5, 2007**

Present: Vice-Chairman Barlow, Commissioners Gange (arrived 7:12 pm), Gauthier (arrived at pm), Novak, Owens (arrived 7:30 pm), Speed-Copeland; Rick Bosch, Recreation; Amy McCue, Windsor Public Library; Barbara Trinks, Superintendent's Representative; Captain Kears, Police Department; Kathy Wise, Windsor Public Schools.

1. **Call To Order** – Acting Chairman Barlow called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Chairperson's Remarks and Welcome** – Ms. Barlow noted that during the summer, Chairman Hilary Carpenter resigned as Chair for a conflict of interest and also resigned from the Commission.
3. **Minutes of June 6, 2007** – tabled – no quorum
4. **Election of Commission Chair** – Since Commissioner Barlow was voted as Vice Chairman of the Commission, she will assume the Chair until the January elections, unless someone else comes forward. (Commissioner Gange arrived and a quorum was established) There was a brief discussion on the number of vacancies on the Commission.

3. **Minutes of June 6, 2007**

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Novak, second by Commissioner Gange to approve the June 6, 2007 minutes, as corrected (spelling error & *high school*, page 3 should read *Sage Park*). The motion passed 5-0-0.

5. **Youth Behavioral Issues – Windsor Journal Article**

A copy of the Windsor Journal Article "*Youth Commission: More cops in schools*" was distributed to the Commission.

After the April 4, 2007 meeting, the Youth Commission sent a letter to the Town Council recommending they consider an increase of police staff in the schools to the previous level during the Partnership program. This was in response to concerns that conflict resolution and bullying programs may no longer be provided in the schools. The Commission was of the understanding that the June meeting with the Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools, and the Chief of Police was in response to that letter.

Chairman Barlow noted the Commission did not ask for more police in the schools because of problems. Captain Kears noted the presence of police offers a feeling of security and the intent of the Commission was to establish a contact with the kids beginning in elementary school and to provide educational programs. The intent of the April motion was to request the level of police officers in the Partnership Program be restored to the previous level of five. Captain Kears noted the police were requested to provide educational classes in some of the schools and the officers are taken from patrol to accommodate this request.

The Commission was informed by Dr. Feser that the schools are now providing the educational piece, however the Commission feels with a police presence in the schools, there is an opportunity for a relationship to develop between the police and the students.

Ms. Trinks noted at the June meeting, school staff identified programs that were being provided and the programs being developed by the social workers. It was the feeling of staff, that the Board of Education is providing the necessary services to the students.

Commissioner Gange suggested a follow-up on the recommendation to the Council. Ms. Trinks suggested contacting the Town Manager first to determine if the letter was sent to the Council. Captain Kears noted the Superintendent of School made it clear at the June meeting they did not feel a need to move forward with additional officers in the school.

Commissioner Speed-Copeland is concerned with the negative tone of the Windsor Journal article. There was a suggestion that a response be prepared to correct any misconceptions this article may have raised.

5. Standing Committee Reports

CASAC (Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council) – Chairman Barlow received a letter from CASAC requesting a candidate for their executive board. It was suggested the Commission nominate Ms. Sullivan, if she is interested. (Commissioner Owens arrived.)

Youth Services – No report

PAL – Captain Kears reported the Windsor Giants Cheerleaders are now practicing at the PAL Center. Ms. Anderson, Recreation Department, has reported to Captain Kears an increase in use of the PAL center. Membership to PAL has also increased with the addition of the Windsor Giants and the travel basketball at the center.

Chairman Barlow asked Captain Kears if there was any more discussion regarding a police staff basketball game. This will be discussed at PAL. There was also mention of PAL developing a track & field and double dutch programs.

Library Services – Ms. McCue reported on the first teen reading program as being a success. There were 81 teens signed up and 37 participated in the program. Points were given for each 15 minutes of reading during the summer. There were 750 hours logged in.

This fall the Library will be hosting an “Teen Iron Chef” cooking contest with local celebrity judges on September 19 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Captain Kears volunteered to be a judge and Mayor Trinks will also be asked to participate. Ms. McCue will purchase all the ingredients and will include a mystery ingredient.

A video game system is going to be purchased for use in the teen area.

Regarding communication between the Windsor Public Library and the school libraries, Ms. McCue has been to the schools to talk about books and has gone into classrooms to discuss services offered at the library.

Windsor Schools – Ms. Wise reported a smooth opening at Sage Park. Sports and other activities are getting started. Ms. Wise reported on the VIP program (Very Invested Person) that has been developed at the middle school to teach and focus on certain behaviors. This is a positive behavior support program. This program will be discussed at the Open Houses which begin tonight and will be highlighted in the PTSA newsletter.

Ms. Trinks reported she visited all schools the first day and agrees everything seems to be going well. There is a transition in many of the schools with new teachers and with a new principal at Roger Wolcott.

Summer school at Oliver Ellsworth was filled to capacity. Ms. Trinks reported there are 4 early release days on the calendar this year which will be used for staff professional development. She also noted there are actually 182 days this year. Ms. Trinks also reported on several reading programs being introduced in the middle school.

Commissioner Owens asked if any curriculum has been developed regarding the female self-esteem issues discussed at previous Commission meetings. Ms. Trinks noted with the new administration and the introduction of the block schedule, this has most likely not been discussed.

Recreation – Mr. Bosch reported 1,000 people attended the special pool events and an average of 300 kids participated in the camps. It was further noted 1,200 kids were swimming lessons. Commissioner Gange asked about putting back the adult lap swim and the winter swim program. Mr. Bosch reported this is being discussed.

Police Department – Captain Kears reported a fairly quiet summer. He did note there are still some female issues and there was discussion on what type of program could be offered. There was discussion on a mentoring program and Chairman Barlow noted Ms. Sullivan and Commissioner Owens are looking into what might be available.

7. Reports on Projects

Youth Council – No Report

8. New Business – None

9. Round Table

Commissioner Owens invited the Commission and teens to a Youth Gathering at First Cathedral on September 14th at 7:00 p.m. There will be different activities and all are welcome.

Commissioner Gauthier reported she is working with Windsor Social Services department and Dr. Petrillo on emergency management issues. She is working on developing an accurate listing of nurses who live in Windsor. She also noted the Windsor Food Bank always has a request for diapers.

10. 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 by the Youth Commission at their regular meeting on October 3, 2007.