

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

Present: Chairman Barlow, Commissioners Gange, Gauthier, Novak, Webber; Student Member Deja Wright and Alternate Student Member Brandon Rothchild; Debbie Anderson, Recreation; Amy McCue, Windsor Public Library; Mary-Liz Sullivan, Youth Services; Kathy Wise, Windsor Public Schools.

- 1. Call to Order – Acting Chairman Barlow called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.**
- 2. Chairperson's Remarks and Welcome –** A quorum was established. Ms. Barlow reported a nomination for a new Commission member will be submitted at the next Democratic Town Committee meeting. It was further reported that the next meeting will be on January 9, 2008.
- 3. Minutes of November 7, 2007 - tabled**
- 4. Standing Committee Reports**

CASAC (Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council) – Ms. Sullivan attended the monthly CASAC meeting. There was discussion on scheduling an activity with youth from Bloomfield Youth Services Bureau. Information on a program called IMPACT (Mourning Parents ACT, Inc.). This is an organization whose goal is to eliminate tragedies due to inexperienced drivers.

Ms. Sullivan has received the contract from CASAC, however the grant amount was incorrect. When the check was reissued, it had the wrong date.

Youth Services – The youth provided a Thanksgiving dinner for the seniors at L. P. Wilson. Ms. Sullivan showed pictures of the event to the Commission. Many compliments were received. The youth also went to Glastonbury to see the play "The Me Nobody Knows" and they are working on a variety of other projects.

PAL- Commissioner Novak reported Ms. Anderson is the staff contact person for the PAL Center. The center continues to be used frequently. They are currently looking for furniture for the 5 donated computers. It was noted that some of the trophies are currently being moved from L.P. Wilson to 330 Windsor Avenue.

Commissioner Novak reported on an incident that occurred at 330 Windsor Avenue that resulted in one student being banned from the building for one year, one restricted for 6 months and a third for two weeks. There was discussion regarding a reception at the PAL Center. Commissioner Webber suggested a police vs. student basketball game to bring people down to the center. Commissioner Novak noted there are a lot of older kids attending the program from age 13 and up. Commissioner Webber suggested reaching out to the Windsor church youth groups. Chairman Barlow stated the Commission would like to resolve the concerns addressed by the Youth Council at the last meeting.

Library Services – A written report was submitted. A self-esteem program called Looking Good was presented. There were middle and high school girls who participated in the program. The library was also a safe haven for many students to discuss the loss of their schoolmate. Future programs include a Duct Tape Festival, more free play video game days and a tournament. A "Happiness Quilt" will be constructed during the month of December.

Windsor Schools – Ms. Wise reported the Student Council at Sage Park completed a very successful food drive during November. The second phase of the VIP selection process is approaching. Reward activities are being developed and may include an after school movie.

Ms. Trinks reported on Veterans' Day activities through out the school system, including a graduation ceremony of a veteran from Windsor High School.

Clover Street School celebrated its 50th Anniversary with special events and many alumni returning for a visit. It was also noted that a student from J.F. Kennedy School will be featured on a Cheerios box for his efforts in raising money for the local food bank.

The Crisis Response Team was activated in the schools as a result of the fatal accident involving the death of a high school student.

Windsor High School was ranked by the US News as one of 16 Connecticut schools to receive a silver award. The evaluation of the high schools was based on several criteria including college readiness and the performance of disadvantaged students. Only 16 high schools in the entire state received this distinction and only 505 of the 18,000 schools nationwide that received honors. This is not a distinction the schools apply for.

There was a discussion regarding counseling at the schools.

Recreation – A written report was submitted. The Middle School Extravaganza is this Friday night. Last month there were approximately 200 students. There are new kids every day at the PAL Center. The travel basketball program begins this weekend. Dinner with Santa is scheduled on Friday, December 7 and 80 people have already registered.

Police Department – Captain Kears submitted a written report in his absence. Youth activity in the Police Department has been relatively quiet, with the exception of the fatal accident involving Michael Fairnot. Another accident on Dudley Town Road over the weekend did not involve any Windsor youth. Captain Kears urged the Youth Commission to pursue programs that would help avoid these tragedies. He mentioned a program (IMPACT) that was presented at the last CASAC meeting.

5. Reports on Projects

- **Youth Council** – There has not been a meeting since the last Commission meeting. Ms. Sullivan suggested collaborating with Recreation and Library teen programs to do something together in January. The Youth are making up trays of cookies to sell as a fundraiser. It was reported the student who was previously told there was no room for her to transfer from MLC to Windsor High is now able to transfer.

The students reported on the play in Glastonbury. AJ suggested hosting a band show or something similar. Chairman Barlow suggested the Youth Council could go before the Town Council and request additional funding for the Youth Services Bureau. This is the time the budget is being prepared for next year. It was decided to talk to the Town Manager first. It was noted Commissioner Gange will be discussing the skate park with the Town Manager and the Recreation Director.

Brandon reported on discussions regarding spring activities, which may include a sports night.

6. Old Business – None

7. New Business –

Youth Programs – Ms. Anderson from the Recreation Department distributed a worksheet to the Commission regarding any concerns they see regarding the youth in Windsor. The Commissioners were also asked to identify why this is a concern and suggestions on how the problem or concern could be addressed and/or prevented. It was noted the Youth Council members filled out the same survey. This survey is being conducted to determine areas where youth programs may be weak.

8. Round Table

AJ reported he is beginning an internship program in the Bloomfield IT Department. This opportunity is being coordinated through the Big Picture Magnet School, which he attends.

Ms. McCue reported she has completed her student teaching at the Windsor High School. She has one more test to take for the completion of her Master's Degree.

Commissioner Gauthier reported on Hartford Area Diaper Day.

Chairman Barlow reminded the Commission of the Carol Sing and First Thursday on the Green from 5-7 pm tomorrow.

Ms. Trinks reported that Lucille Brown has been appointed the Board of Education's representative to the Commission.

Connecticut Youth Services Association quarterly training program is next Friday. The topic is preventing stress and burnout.

Commissioner Novak reported the Public Building Commission is researching the installation of alternate energy sources in conjunction with some upcoming roof and heating projects at the schools.

Commissioner Webber reported the Windsor ornaments are now available for purchase. The cost is \$20.

Brandon reported he participated in his first track meet and ran the 100 meters.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Webber, second by Commissioner Gange, 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 January 9, 2008 meeting.