

Weston Commission for Children and Youth
Minutes from the October 20, 2014 Meeting

In attendance: Michelle Albright, Chris Spaulding, Charlene Monn, Ellen Weyrauch, Lynn Phillips, Catherine Minter, Lindsey Kappel, Makenzie Daffner

Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm by Lynn Phillips.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from last meeting could not be approved because we did not have enough members for a quorum.

Membership

- We have some vacancies that we would like to fulfill with representatives from parents of varying age groups such as preschool, Hurlbutt and WMS. Members were encouraged to spread the word and help recruit individuals who would be interested in serving on the Commission.

Program Updates

- Charlene described the success of some new summer programs including LegoFlix and the addition of new fall and winter programs including Mad Science and Space Explorers.
- Charlene and Michelle also discussed the tech camps offered in collaboration with WPS this summer. Some of these were quite popular with students and families, however we encountered some difficulty coordinating these. As this is an area of growing interest we will continue to explore whether to offer such programs in collaboration with WPS or simply as WOW! programs.
- Michelle and Charlene discussed plans to run a new program called "Taste of WOW!" aimed at students with identified special needs and typical peers.
- Michelle reminded everyone that Chris Herren will be speaking in Wilton tomorrow evening.

Goals for the year

- Members reviewed the goals of Youth Services and the Commission (to serve children ages 0-18 years) and how current initiatives are meeting these. Michelle expressed the intent to focus more on preschool aged children through presenting workshops/playdates and coordinating with Miss Joy's preschool groups and Hurlbutt's Kindergarten registration.
- Lindsey and Makenzie discussed the desire to hold some social events for high school students such as concerts, movie nights, Zumba, and inquired about a Teen Center. Michelle will work with Lindsey, Mackenzie, and Dan Doak on planning several events.
- Michelle described how she hopes Commission members can take a more active role on initiatives, perhaps selecting what most interests them and taking on a leadership role in program planning, publicity, or organization.
- Members discussed whether the Commission wanted to take the lead in running Family University and debated whether our 'hallmark' should be a single/annual large event or other series or targets (such as Tackling the Tough Stuff).
- Members discussed various topics of interest and relevance such as issues for graduating seniors, bullying (what is and isn't), changing families (e.g., divorce, grandparents), respect & responsibility, and stress management. Members also discussed involving students who have graduated as panelists or speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Albright

