

Youth Services Commission
Special Meeting
May 23, 2011

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dan Doak, Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Ellen Weyrauch, Matthew Kalmans, Jennifer Skor, Tara Tanzer, Charlene Monn, Kristin Ferrara, Lynn Phillips, Dawn Egan Guests: Gayle Weinstein

Meeting was called to order at 5:19PM

The purpose of the meeting was to further discuss the possibility of bringing former NY Knick Allan Houston to Weston on June 18 to speak at a Father's Forum.

At the start of the meeting, Lynn Phillips relayed that Carl Filsinger and John Troxell, who sit on the Committee Ex-Officio, were both in support of Houston coming to speak.

We discussed the possibility that we may need to find an alternate site to accommodate a larger than usual crowd. We will explore what options are available. One possibility might be the High School depending on whether or not there is already something scheduled.

Houston would be speaking at a Kiwanis Club meeting, but the presentation will be open to all Weston residents. Kiwanis would probably make a donation to the Allan Houston Foundation, but would not help cover the cost of bringing Houston to town.

Jennifer Skor felt strongly that Allan Houston was not the right fit in for Weston. In the past, he had made some remarks that had been of concern to the ADL. Gayle Weinstein was aware of this matter and contacted the ADL on our behalf. She was told that they no longer have any concerns about these remarks.

There was an issue about whether Houston's message was appropriate in Weston. Kristin provided references which were all good. In several instances, the messages he had delivered were modified from the mission on his website, which is predominantly about absentee fathers. His most recent speech was yesterday at West Conn graduation. It was very well received.

Kristin also provided Houston's agent with specific speaking points that Youth Services would like Houston to focus on. They are:

- Roles of fathers throughout the lifespan (young fathers to grandfathers)
- Maintaining a presence as a father when balancing life stresses (working long hours, financial pressure)
- Role of fathers in youth sports – conduct as coaches, spectators, as well as balancing encouragement v. pressure on young athletes
- General sportsmanship and values of hard work, definition of success-translating that through fathers and children

Lynn Phillips made a motion that we accept the messaging to be presented by Allan Houston as outlined in the email from Kristin Ferrara (see above.)

Matthew Kalmans seconded the motion.

Lynn Phillips, Dawn Egan, Ellen Weyrauch and Matthew Kalmans were in favor.
Jennifer Skor and Tara Tanzer were opposed.

We then had a conversation about the costs associated with bringing Houston to Town. Upon review of the contract, it was noted that Houston was also seeking monies to cover the costs of his transportation to Sag Harbor. The costs of this transportation were not specified in the contract. The Commission was quite concerned that these costs might add up to over a \$1,000 above his speaking fee of \$5,000. The Commission was unanimous in its concern that these costs were excessive.

Pending the outcome of further negotiations, the final contract will still need to reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney.

On a motion by Dawn Egan and seconded by Ellen Weyrauch it was moved that Weston Youth Services approve up to a total of \$4,500 toward hiring Allan Houston for our June 18 Father's Forum.
Lynn Phillips, Dawn Egan, Ellen Weyrauch and Matthew Kalmans were in favor.
Jennifer Skor and Tara Tanzer were opposed.

On a motion made by Dawn Egan and seconded by Lynn Phillips the meeting was adjourned at 6:14PM

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Phillips, May 23, 2011.