

Monday April 25th, 2011

Minutes for the Commission for Children and Youth Meeting

In Attendance: Lynn Phillips, Ellen Weyrauch, Dan Doak, Emily Weyrauch, Dawn Egan, Tara Tanzer

Staff: Charlene Monn, Kristin Ferrara, Charlene Chiang-Hillman

Guests: Jenna Klaasen

Meeting was called to order at 5:20PM

Minutes from last meeting

- Discussed and approved
- Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Dawn, seconded by Tara

Charlene Monn's Office Report:

- Today started the spring session of after-school activities
- 19 programs, 5 cancelled (compared to last year's 16 programs run)
- Creative writing class—very successful
 - Idea to bring that and karate program into intermediate school (both have very large numbers of students)
- Cancelled 2 clay program classes
- WIS—3 programs are being run (last year—2)
- Summer camp registration is picking up
- PTO blast went out announcing the after-school programs
- Idea of new book club for children next year—Jason Bluestein (Asst. Principal at WIS)
 - Already have Break Books during recess—not many people signing up, but those who do it, love it

Kristin Ferrara's Office Report:

- Domestic Violence Task Force
 - at Saxe Middle School on Wednesday the 27th
 - Follow-up to "Hit me on my Cell" (attended by 400+)
- Fathers' Forum
 - No date yet—wait until Fall to bring in speaker
 - Not Kiwanis-sponsored (Not target audience)
 - Westport Y-sponsored?
 - They would like more interaction with Weston
 - Or Independently sponsored
- Internet Safety Program
 - Thursday May 12
 - Rescheduled, during the day
 - Trying to find a replacement for Officer Matt Brodacki
 - Focus more on online gaming and online chat
 - FBI agents pose as 9-11 age kids online and are approached daily by people who want personal information

- People need to learn how to behave online, many are not aware of negative effects
- Tara has many internet resources, can share if requested
- Communication with kids about responsibilities and decision-making with help from parents
- Commission should have representative from police department, even a rotating officer would be acceptable (but would prefer continuity)
- New program should be developed to inform kids
 - Should be sponsored by Weston
 - Date: before June 5 or after September 15
 - Panel would make more people come
 - FBI representative, Meghan, and Matt Brodacki from Weston Police
 - Location: Weston library
- Pre-prom
 - Mandatory all-school assembly
 - Humor is important
 - Find out if there's a way 8th graders can see it too
- Bullying (Early fall program)
 - Not scare tactic!
 - Talk about what Weston already does to prevent bullying
 - Still in planning stages
 - Two-tiered program: aimed at 2 different age groups: K-5, 6-12
 - Teach people to be an “upstander” not a bystander
 - Bullying is a community issue
 - Promoting respect in our environment is important
 - Bullying-is not a clear-cut thing
 - Pull lots of organizations in: an ongoing a movement in Weston
 - Purpose: you can make a difference
 - Marketing campaign to culminate in one program
 - Civility, positive, uplifting
 - Message should be interwoven into everything
- Top Driver Survey
 - Not too much student involvement—should be more
 - People seem to be satisfied with Weston’s program
- Race to Nowhere
 - \$957 earned, each PTO gets \$240
 - Ongoing, community issue. It is an important message to have
 - 150 people participated, only 6 attended follow-up discussion

6:40PM Dan Doak made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Tara Tanzer

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Weyrauch