

Minutes for the Commission for Children and Youth Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2011
Commission Room, Town Hall

Attending: Lynn Phillips, Ellen Weyrauch, Doreen O'Leary, Jeff Drobner, Jennifer Skor, Jenna Klaassen
Staff: Kristin Ferrara, Charlene Monn Guests: Dan Farrell (All Star Driver)

The meeting was called to order at 5:25 PM. Lynn agreed to take notes. The June meeting minutes had not been approved in September because they did not have a quorum. The June meeting minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Jennifer seconded by Jeff. The September meeting minutes were also approved as amended on a motion by Jeff seconded by Jennifer.

Based on the minutes, Kristin will look into getting us on the Selectmen's calendar so we can update our amended mission statement as discussed and approved by the Commission last June.

Dan Farrell the Operations Manager from All-Star Driver came in to talk about the transition from Top Driver to All-Star. All-Star recently bought the Top Driver franchise for the State of CT. Dan said that this will add more resources and generally improve the program. There will be more locations for classes as well as make-ups. They are exploring the possibility of offering road tests here in Weston. There would be an additional surcharge of \$99, but this would be a great convenience for us. We would probably need to allow students from other area's to participate in order to have the minimum number of applicants (13) at a test date. We inquired about the possibility of offering a weekend class, but Dan said that there were problems in getting a location in Weston due to DMV requirements. However, there are weekend classes in Westport that Weston students may register for.

Tara Tanzer had sent Lynn a letter resigning from the Commission. Lynn accepted her resignation with great regret. Tara has served on the Commission for several years. She has made many valuable contributions to the Commission. Her voice and her input will both be missed.

Office Reports: Charlene Monn reported that Fall programs are running well. She will be sending out emails to inquire about staff interest in running winter programs. She is being trained tomorrow on the new building use forms that are going to be on-line. Lynn will follow up with Central Office to see about getting room assignment priority for WOW program needs.

Kristin Ferrara reported that we have been running many programs for all different age groups as discussed last June. The day groups have been well received and attended with anywhere from 8-15 participants. Despite a concerted PR effort and outreach, the evening groups have not shown the same level of attendance. The Commission discussed the viability of evening programming since historically this has not been as successful. The Commission felt that we need to look into the ways to deliver information to working parents or parents that are not able to attend daytime programs. Some ideas to explore were links on our website and articles in the Forum, also blogs like "Moms of Weston."

The other workshops that were poorly attended were those targeted for the birth to five co-hort. We will continue to monitor these and also see about expanding publicity for these as well.

The Domestic Violence Task Force held a well-attended movie screening in a private home. Kristin participated in this. Jeff raised the possibility of tying this theme into the 7th Grade curriculum as it is a

topic in one of the books they read. Kristin will explore this idea further with Meghan Skelton and the Middle School administration.

As of three days ago a \$5,000 state grant has been re-instated in the budget for this year. Barring further changes, we will explore ways in which it could best be used at our November meeting.

There will be a Family University held by the schools. Kristin is on the Committee and will keep as posted once a theme has been developed.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 on a motion by Ellen seconded by Lynn.