

**CITY OF NORWALK
YOUTH SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Peter Wien, Chair; Shirley Sarkin, Co-chair; Candice Mayer, Darlene Young, Betty Karkut, Mayor Richard Moccia; Anna Duleep (4:05 p.m.)

STAFF: Linda Wilock, Youth Services Director; Jason Getner, Youth Service JRB Case Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wien called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. He announced that the Mayor had agreed to appoint Ms. Sarkin as acting as Co-chair when he could not make the meetings.

MAYOR RICHARD A. MOCCIA

Mayor Moccia said that he wanted to come back to give the Committee an update about the grant funding request for \$500,000 for mentoring and intervention. He said that the program was being worked through the YMCA. Wherever the afterschool programs can be shifted through the YMCA, they will be in order to help to support the YMCA.

Ms. Duleep joined the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

MAYOR'S SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Mayor Moccia said that he and Ms. Young were at Grand Central Terminal earlier in the day and Norwalk is the first city to have youth services employees working at MetroNorth. The Mayor said that our students were in their own office and doing the work that included spreadsheet planning and PowerPoint presentations. The Mayor said that he was very proud of these two students, who commute to the City via the train every day to participate in this program.

The Mayor said that the Youth Board's work was greatly appreciated and that it was very important. He added that Ms. Pytleski was only one person and that if someone came across any grants for youth services, please notify either Ms. Wilock or Katherine Pytleski about the grant information so it can be researched.

Mayor Moccia then left the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009 AND JUNE 2, 2009

MAY 5, 2009

- ** MS. MAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR MAY 5, 2009.**
- ** MS. KARKUT SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

JUNE 2, 2009

- ** MS. KARKUT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 2, 2009.**
- ** MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MAYOR'S SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM Cont'd

Ms. Young explained the City had originally received a phone call from MetroNorth regarding the intern program. The City of Stamford had turned down MetroNorth's request. Five applicants were interviewed by MetroNorth and two were selected for the program. Ms. Young said that she believed that MetroNorth would continue to participate in our Summer Youth Employment Program. Ms. Karkut asked how many students were in the program. Ms. Young said that there were 198 students and that good things were happening every day. A group is also working on the City youth website. The new name of the website is "N-Zone" with the "N" representing Norwalk.

Ms. Young said that there is now a financial literacy component. A local author is doing a seminar and Wachovia came in to do a presentation on banking. Ms. Young said that there were about 15 positions available for interns that she could have filled, but was not able to do so due to finances.

Ms. Mayer suggested having some of the students who were doing well speak to the Chamber of Commerce about their experiences.

Ms. Wilock asked whether the City received any Federal funding. Ms. Young said that the City did not receive any State or Federal funding and that the Federal funding stayed with the WorkForce, which was somewhat competitive.

Ms. Duleep asked about the online application process. Ms. Young said that this process would need some serious attention so that it would work better. There were a number of applications that never were received by the City and other various glitches.

JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD CASES AND ISSUES

Mr. Getner said that there were 27 cases that were equally broken between males and females (14 males, 13 females). The law will change in January and 16 year olds will eligible to be in the program.

The Juvenile Review Board (JRB) just had a recent case with two girls involved in an altercation that resulted in assault. Later there were co-pays and medical bills involved. One of the parents felt that the case should go to court. The question of whether a victim has the right to deny another party the right to the JRB was raised. The answer from a prosecuting attorney for the State of Connecticut was no. Mediation was offered to both families, but the victim's family was not interested. Therefore the decision was made by the JRB staff to let the case go to court. Mr. Getner said that it was likely that the court penalty would be a slap on the wrist and would be likely not be heard by a judge. From now on, an intake process will not be started until the victim's family signs document indicate their intent with the case.

Ms. Mayer asked if there was a limit on the number of cases. Mr. Getner said that it was planned for 50. He added that in some of the cases, the parents are on top of the situation, and he just has to check in. In other cases, he is almost a parent in loci. Mr. Getner said that the families can bring their child back if they sense trouble before another arrest occurs to talk about issues. If there is a re-arrest, then it goes directly to the juvenile court system.

Mr. Wien asked about the various causes, which Jason reviewed with the Board. He said that the actions cover the broad spectrum of offenses from domestic violence to drug dealing, cyber bullying, gang involvement and general threats.

One student who is eleven years was recently removed from his home and placed in residential treatment for a mandatory 18 months. If he acts out again, the Court could rule that he remain in residence until he is 18 years of age. In this particular issue, there were mental health issues involved and problems with medication. Following his time with the JRB, the 11 year old was arrested three additional times before being sent to residential placement.

Ms. Sarkin asked what the major referral source was. Jason said that it was the Police Department. Ms. Sarkin asked about school referrals. Jason said that most of their referrals did not work out for a number of reasons.

Ms. Duleep asked about the Gang Prevention Steering Committee. Ms. Wilock said that there had been discussions about having people from the Juvenile Steering Committee on

the Steering Committee. Part of the goals would be to look at policies from around the State and to create Norwalk's policies.

Ms. Wilock said that for having the grant less than a year, the program is working well. The grant will run out in 2010 and the Board needs to begin looking at other sources of funding.

DRAFT BY LAWS UPDATE

Ms. Wilock said that issues like what would constitute a quorum and what the structure should be. There are a few members of Board that have not attended meetings in many months. Ms. Karkut asked if the Board was waiting on the Mayor for direction. Ms. Wilock said that she had a question about whether an Advisory Board could have bylines.

Ms. Wilock said that it would be important to have some clarification to have structure. Ms. Sarkin said that because of past practice, the Mayor would want to continue to appoint the Chairman rather than be elected by Board members. Discussion followed on the wording and the length of terms. It was decided that Ms. Wilock would make the suggested changes and email the updated By Laws to Board members.

Ms. Sarkin said that she had some concerns about Board members who don't attend. It was decided that the Board would recommend the member's removal to the Mayor.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting will be on September 1 at 4:00 p.m. and the November meeting will be on the November 6th because of Election Day. Ms. Wilock will do a calendar with the meeting dates on it for the year.

OTHER

There was no additional business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. DULEEP SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Youth Services
Regular Meeting
August 4, 2009
Page 4