CITY OF NORWALK
YOUTH SERVICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2008

ATTENDANCE: Peter Wien, Chair (4:12 p.m.); Darlene Young, Mayor's Office; Jessica Fogg, Spinnaker, Betty Karkut; Shirley Sarkin

STAFF: Linda Wilock, Youth Services

OTHERS: Katherine Pytleski, City of Norwalk Grants Coordinator; Diane Witkowski, Spring Hill/Norwalk Hospital Neighborhood Association; Diane Cece, Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Coalition

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Fogg called to order at 4:10 p.m. as Chair Pro Tem. She then asked everyone to introduce themselves. Ms. Cece, who was present, informed the members that other than public hearings, the committees and commission do not have the right to ask the public to identify themselves.

Mr. Wien joined the meeting at 4:12 p.m. and assumed the duties of the Chair.

He then introduced himself and requested that everyone else do so, also.

Approval of the Minutes of June 10, 2008

The following corrections were noted:

Page One, Under Attendance: Please move "Michael Mocciae, Recreation and Parks Director" from **OTHERS** to **ATTENDANCE**

Page 2, Under OTHER: please change the following from:

> "Ms. Karkut said that the Human Services Council sponsors one of the programs for the school based health centers."
>
> To: "Ms. Karkut said that the Human Services Council sponsors the school based health centers in the three Norwalk high schools."

**** MS. KARKUT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2008 MEETING AS CORRECTED.**
**** MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Gang Prevention Coordination Grant

Ms. Pytleski mentioned that about a year ago, the City had applied for this two year grant and was one of 12 cities that received approval for funds. She then explained that while Norwalk does not have a major gang problem, Norwalk is on the I-95 corridor and that there is some spill over from other areas, like New York.

Ms. Wilock distributed copies of the grant objectives to the members present.

Ms. Pytleski then reviewed the objectives that were listed on the grant applications. These goals include revitalizing the Coalition of Urban Youth Initiatives; conducting a needs and resources assessment; cataloging prevention activities on the City's websites; setting aside the slots for the Summer Youth Employment program; convening the Juvenile Review Board to expand services, matching the youth in the Juvenile Review Board program with case managers; and other related activities that would support the Juvenile Review Board.

Ms. Wilock explained that the Norwalk Youth website had been done by student under supervision of the IT department.

Ms. Pytleski then explained that part of one of the objectives was to have some scholarship funding for YMCA programming for the students who are 11, 12 and 13,which is too old for day camp but too young to work. The focus is to keep these children from hanging around and being involved with the wrong people. Ms. Wilock said that the biggest need that has been identified is for supervised activities. Transportation is a major hurdle and also the fact that there are not that many programs for middle school students. Discussion about these issues followed.

3. Staffing Issues

Ms. Wilock pointed out that this grant will create a staffing issue because the person who has been filling the part time JAG grant staff member will transfer over to the full time position. This will have the part time position open. Ms. Wilock expressed concerns about retaining the part time position. Ms. Wilock reported that a full time employee had been hired for the Early Childhood program. A discussion about continuing grant funding and being proactive in this area followed.

Mr. Wien asked about the progress on the website. Ms. Young said that progress has been slow and that the program needs someone to troubleshoot and help the interns through trouble spots. The Justice grant funding will help locating a consultant for the website construction. Discussion about the details of this then followed.

4. Future Meeting Dates

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the meeting might be moved to Mondays. Ms. Sarkin asked if a listing of the members of the Commission could be sent with the minutes. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18th.

OTHER

Mr. Wien asked the two visitors if they had any questions. Ms. Cece said that she would like to understand the structure of the Advisory Board. Ms. Wilock gave a very brief overview of the history of the Youth Services, which is a City department. Discussion about the role and goal of the Department followed.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. KARKUT MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services