

**CITY OF NORWALK
YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Shirley Sarkin, Acting Chair; Jessica Fogg, Council Member
Anna Duleep, Candace Mayer, Betty Karkut, Michael
Mocciae, Ashley Gonzalez;

STAFF: Linda Wilock, Youth Services; Jasen Getner, Youth Services JRB Case
Manager; Donna Young, Mayor's Office

OTHERS: Cassia Fletcher, Mikhael Donovan, Student Youth Services

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wilock stated that Peter Wien and Shirley Sarkin could not attend and asked Candace Mayer to serve as Acting Chair. Ms. Mayer called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2009

** MS. KARKUT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2009.
** MS. FOGG SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORT ON MONITORING VISIT

Mr. Getner stated there was a hearing on a case involving vandalism with which there was a tie in with the Gang Prevention Steering Committee's involvement. He added that there has been an increase in involvement with the Committee, and he has been asked for input from the JRB on policy issues with the Board of Education referrals. He added that when policy statements are required, the JRB starts with a panel or sub-committee review process, but that this presents a roadblock for families who become afraid of jeopardizing the sensitive nature of the situation.

Ms. Wilock asked if it is the case that many times the JRB involvement is too late, or the case management factor is too intensive. Mr. Getner responded that the sub-committee looks at truancy issues to hopefully address the problem before it becomes criminal in nature, and the schools have a good system in place of tracking attendance with letters to parents. He added that there are resource officers that go to the schools, look up a student's schedule and determine whether they are in the class where they are supposed to be, and find the student if needed.

Mr. Getner provided copies of district surveys and stated that this is very effective measurable outcome of Mr. Gonzalez working well together with the JRB. Ms. Duleep asked how to make people aware of this process, and Ms. Mayer suggested the survey comments be added to the Housing Authority newsletter, and to make parent referrals open to the public and accessible to contacts.

Ms. Wilock commented that she is pleasantly surprised that the grant is up and running so soon, but they had worked on this for one year in the planning stages before the grant, which helped them get ahead of the program. She added that Youth Services is trying to carefully manage the budget for grant sustainability through year two and year three.

PRESENTATION OF YOUTH WEBSITE

Ms. Young introduced the student members, Cassia Fletcher and Mikhael Donovan, the student volunteers with Youth Services and said they have worked very hard with the website development and are to be complimented on their commitment and knowledge with this project.

Mr. Donovan presented the “N-Zone” website from a power point presentation platform and defined it as an acronym for “involved, inspired, and energized” youth of Norwalk. He displayed the site as it is currently up and running, showed graphics that incorporate the youth-oriented theme, and showed links for the Norwalk Public Schools, Norwalk Library and community calendar of events. Ms. Fletcher explained that there is much more in development that will soon include entertainment, school event schedules, volunteer opportunities and local issues on politics, environmental awareness, and college education. She added she had the opportunity to interview Mayor Moccia and stated that it was a valuable learning experience for her, and she was grateful for his time and support of the project.

Ms. Karkut offered her help with providing volunteer information, and Ms. Fogg suggested the “N-Zone” information could be included in the upcoming mailing to Norwalk high school sophomores on the Outward Bound program. Ms. Mayer stated that these two young people have “wowed” the Board, she thanked the students, and the Board Members applauded their efforts. Ms. Young commented on how lucky the Board was to have such talented students on the project and stated that the site is an impressive example of their combined talents and ingenuity.

OTHER

Ms. Duleep asked for a status report on Personnel issues, and Ms. Wilock said there was nothing new to report regarding staffing and she would keep the members informed as the next budget cycle begins.

Ms. Wilock asked the members to continue to look for new members to join the Board.

There was a brief discussion about possibly having no November meeting, Ms. Wilock suggested that the next meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2009, and the members were in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services

