

YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

DATE: 4/13/10

The regular monthly meeting of the Youth Bureau Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 4:30 PM at the Cortland Youth Bureau in the Conference Room.

Commissioners present: Schaap, Steele, Tobin, Wright

Commissioners excused: San Jule, Eberhart, VanGorder, Ryan

Others present: Director McNerney, Assistant Director Scott and Erica Danega

The minutes of the previous meeting, Financial, Director, Assistant Director, Recreation Supervisor, and Youth Services Activity Reports were read over. Since there wasn't a quorum for this meeting, there were no motions made.

The bills totaling \$14,657.57 were gone over.

Other Business:

- A. John introduced Erica Danega, Youth Services Supervisor. Reviewed minutes from last month's meeting. Chrissy Gambitta has been approved by the mayor and will be joining the board at the next meeting. John mentioned that from now on the Common Council has to approve the appointments as well.
- B. The Corn Ducky Derby is on May 1st and the new bridge over Dry Creek in Suggett Park will be in place that day.
- C. John explained to the board that, due to the tough economic times the city is going through, each department will now have to be accountable if a line in the budget is in the red. The department will need to explain the reason to the mayor and finance director and money will need to be moved to that line to offset the expense.
- D. John reviewed the bills for the month. Graphics Plus bill for \$2,762.00 is the expense for the brochure. Andrea designed the brochure in house to cut down on expense. It turned out beautifully, this year, as always. Also mentioned expense for busing for ski club.
- E. Reviewed John's activity report. Crown City Little League is in full swing with 280

participants. The fields are in great shape this year. Tom asked about plumbing problem at the Teen Center kitchen. John explained that there are ongoing problems with the three sinks set up in the kitchen. They all drain into one line.

Ang asked about #13 in the report. John met with Tasmin Smith about a Girl Scout project. Tasmin and one other scout are staining wood playground equipment for a Girl Scout badge.

Tom asked about the NYS Rec, Parks and Historic Preservation inspection. Yaman Beach received an excellent rating and the other parks received a “good” rating. New York State inspects our parks once every 5 years. John mentioned that Andrea Piedigrossi has passed the Civil Service exam and scored in the top three so she will continue in the Recreation Supervisor position.

Cecile’s Report: Cecile explained that OCM BOCES will no longer be working with teenagers in their GED preparation program. She expects the numbers in the GED program to dramatically increase due to this change. The April GED exam was comprised of 14 Youth Bureau students out of 21 students. Much of Cecile’s time in March revolved around finding a new home for the East End Community Center and packing everything up.

Erica’s Report: Allison asked about the change at the Teen Center with the ages allowed to attend the center. The new policy was instituted April 1st and is working well so far. We now accept 5th and 6th graders from 3:00 to 6:00 PM and after 6:00 PM teens only. So far the response has been very positive by the community. The older kids do not seem to mind having the younger kids there.

John mentioned that now Heather Johnson is overseeing the skate park due to Cecile’s part time status. One of the impacts of this year’s budget cuts is that the skate park will not open for the season until May 15th. There have been some repercussions such as more kids are skateboarding on main street. Also, youth have been breaking in to the skate park and have cut the fence twice. Heather posted a sign telling the kids that if they are caught skateboarding in the facility when it is not officially open, they will be ticketed and prosecuted. John has asked the CPD to step up patrols in the area as well.

Erica talked about the impact of the budget cuts on the Teen Center. The free music lessons have been cut, but the two instructors will continue and students will pay for the lessons. The Teen Center meal preparation program has been scaled back substantially and there will no longer be as many paid youth internships available.

Erica talked about the community garden and that she has completed the Master

Gardner program. The Teen Center will be represented at an event called Cortland Blooms on April 24th sponsored by the Cortland Leadership program.

Erica also spoke about this year's prom dress drive. The numbers are expected to reach last year's by the time the prom is held. The event was publicized so well last year that it has become pretty much self sustaining with not as much publicity required. This year Shaw & Boehler is donating free corsages to all the girls who receive a dress from the Youth Bureau.

John handed out the Beaudry Park project information to the board. He reviewed the funding sources which total (with in-kind included) \$267,500.00. John and Bryan Gazda met with 3 engineers and decided on Teter and Teter Design Consultants.

The first meeting concerning the demolition and construction of the new facility happened last week. The location of the new facility has not yet been determined. Bids from contractors are due back at the end of July with construction starting in August.

John handed out information about the status of Wickwire Pool. The letter, from Ken Teter, talks about the analysis of several civil engineers as to what it will take to repair the pool. The last major renovations were done in 1986 and Ken Teter was involved with the project at that time. The cost of the study is \$4,900 and will include tests of the drain and the walls (integrity of the walls, is there a chance of a wall caving in?). John will update board members once these tests are complete and determination has been made as to whether or not the pool is safe to open.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecile Scott