

YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

DATE: 11/13/12

The regular monthly meeting of the Youth Bureau Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, November 13th at 4:30 PM at the Youth Bureau in the conference room.

Commissioners present: Gamitta, Steele, Tobin, Wright, Baier, Pudney

Commissioners excused: SanJule, Eberhart

Others present: Director McNerney & Assistant Director Scott

The minutes of the previous meeting, Financial, Director, Assistant Director, Recreation Supervisor and Youth Services Reports were read and accepted as part of the regular meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Baier, seconded by Commissioner Steele, the minutes were approved.

On a motion by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Tobin, the Youth Bureau bills totaling \$8,067.45 were audited and authorized for payment.

Other Business:

- A. John says the Beaudry Park Building is coming along nicely. Hope to be open by January or February with a Grand Opening Ceremony. John passed around a photo of the Skymaster Oaks; 10-12 trees will replace the cherry trees that were taken down due to disease.
- B. Reviewed bills for the month. Lowes bill for \$609.00 was for athletic marking paint for soccer, football (has to go out to bid). Grant Plumbing for \$3,085.07 was for repair to motor for pump at Wickwire Pool.
- C. Krissy asked about the Youth Bureau conference. The keynote speaker was Tom DiNapoli, Comptroller for NYS. He is originally from Nassau County and grew up in the Youth Bureau system. (John will discuss in greater detail later in the meeting). Tom asked about item 11, meeting with Martin Murphy and Brian Parker regarding gym cleaning detail. There were some complaints about the bathrooms. The maintenance guys are having to do other things. A solution may be to hire an independent cleaner. Krissy suggested the Murray Center as a possibility. Krissy asked about the Haunted House. John talked about Jim Coon's tremendous dedication to the event. This was the 30th year. Krissy said she attends every year and feels Jim does an excellent job.
- D. Cecile's Report: Talked about Wickwire Pool calendar which is available for

\$10.00 at the Youth Bureau and several downtown locations. The calendar sold well at the Pumpkin Fest. Morgan suggested that the Country Kitchen on Clinton Avenue might be a good location to sell them. She will ask the owners. The Cortland Community Center donated the first 50 calendars.

- E. Teen Center Report: Ang asked about School of Rock. Steve Daniels is providing the program. It has had a slow start so far. Krissy asked about the Youth Center's chicken barbeque. John said Matt Marcey does an excellent job and they usually sell out by 1:00 PM.
- F. John reported on the budget hearing for the Youth Bureau budget. The Tompkins County Health Consortium, if approved, will save the city 1 million dollars. John attended the Youth Bureau conference, which he said was excellent this year. Tom DiNapoli, the NYS Comptroller, gave a very informative keynote address on the soaring health care costs in New York State. Childhood obesity costs per year in New York State are 12 billion dollars! The medicare cost alone is 4.3 billion dollars. The state has studied all New York State counties and rated counties on how they are doing on this issue. They studied kids in grades 7th – 10th. Some counties were at 50% for percentage of children considered obese. Cortland County was in the bottom 10 counties, with a 30% rate of obesity. New York State has 21 juvenile detention centers. For 1 year, it costs \$182,000. The county's share is 51% of the cost. Cortland County had only 2 admissions to detention. DeNapoli talked about the keys to Youth Development:
- places for physical and psychological comfort
 - healthy, supportive relationships
 - sense of belonging
 - demonstrate positive social norms
 - integrated system
- These are all things that the Youth Bureau programs provide. John shared all the information on childhood obesity and costs of detention with the Common Council. Their response was very positive.
- G. Mayor's Environmental Committee. They sent out a memorandum on the use of toxic chemicals in the city facilities. We no longer use these chemicals. From 1970 – 2003 the turf renovation in the parks did include these chemicals. Now we do use chemicals such as round up around fence lines and in rock beds, sidewalks and parking lot, but very limited. Dennis Gallagher is certified for use of pesticides so he must oversee the use of these chemicals. The New York State Parks and Recreation has a written policy on the use of chemicals in community parks that John has recommended to the City's Environmental Committee for review and potential adoption.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecile Scott