



YOUTH COMMISSION

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center
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RECEIVED

MAY 23 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Special Meeting
Wednesday, May 21, 2008
Pro Access

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman, Richard Merritt, Hilda DeLucia, Teen Center Director, Claudia Fortunato, Assistant Director

Members: Lisa Bergh, Kim Keough, and Melisa Pelikan

Absent: Jane Kraver and Janice Stevenson

CALL TO ORDER: Rich Merritt called the meeting to order at 6:49 pm

PUBLIC INPUT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There being no quorum, acceptance of the April 15, 2008 was tabled for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: R. Merritt questioned the status of the Ex-Officio Youth Commission member. It was agreed that the candidates be 15 years old by the beginning of the next academic year and that a senior would not be a beneficial candidate. H. DeLucia will check the ages of the candidates and present that information at the June Meeting.

H. DeLucia presented the Teen Center Director Report dated April 15, 2008. Meeting with Eileen Earle regarding the recent last minute schedule changes. H. DeLucia inquiring where we stand in the future in regards to scheduling. Checking to get a handle on the frequency of being required to move the teen group from the GP Room to the Gym or other room. This has not happened in the past, Parks & Rec. has been very cooperative and supportive. Lisa Bergh noted that Hilda is trying to make this work without a building. R. Merritt noted that the parents might not know where to pick up students if there is a last minute room change. H. DeLucia stated she would cancel in advance if possible. H. DeLucia attended the Activity Fair at Bethel High School. Results of the survey given to 40 students for reasons why they don't attend Pro Access programs were: 1. Too busy with after school activities. 2. Didn't know about Pro Access. 3. Friends don't want to go. H. DeLucia also attended BMS parent meeting to discuss risky behaviors in teens. Membership updated: 148 members with 168 participants in programs conducted from April 23 through May 21. See attached Pro Access Activity Report for specific program attendance information. Hilda stated it is very difficult without a building to have contact with students to sign up for events. We are incurring costs for "no shows and low attendance at programs held at commercial businesses. For example Updoos on May 21

was only attended by 1 person. We felt an obligation to give the salon \$50 for the cost of their hairdresser's time. H. DeLucia read minutes of Friends of Pro Access meeting dated May 14, 2008 (attached). Discussion followed in regards to the suggestions made for community support of the reopening of the building. Friends of Pro Access will circulate a petition for support of money to be allocated for the clean up (attached). It was decided, as the director of Pro Access Hilda should not participate in this petition work.

H. DeLucia met with Bob Burke to discuss steps that can be taken to move this loan request forward. She also contacted State and Local Representatives. H. DeLucia also met with Phyliss Kansky regarding bonding, Bonding Commission did not meet in April. See Pro Access Building Timetable (attached). It was recently brought to Hilda's attention that if the town receives a loan to complete the repairs on the building, the Board of Selectmen need to present to the Board of Finance a repayment plan. Once the BOF approves the plan, this information needs to be brought to a Town Meeting for approval from community members. Lisa Bergh will check Town Charter for the dollar amount of loans that needs approval by a town meeting. President of BMS PTO is willing to write a letter to the parents in support of Pro Access. H. DeLucia will email a copy of the letter to commission members for their approval. Discussion followed on fund raising for the teen center building. Motioned made by Rich Merritt to pursue private funding and donations from corporations. Seconded by Kim Keough, vote, all in favor, motion passed. H. Deluca will send a donation to St. Thomas Church to thank them for allowing Pro Access to use their kitchen, with money coming out of the Pro Access budget. R. Merritt questioned the status of Republican Jerome Ochs to be an alternate on the Youth Commission. Lisa Bergh will check to see if Mr. Ochs has submitted a letter of intent to the Board of Selectman. Discussion followed on summer membership with decision made to allow 6th graders entering 7th grade in Sept. to join Pro Access. Date set as June 17th (last day of school) for 6th graders to join. June 17th also set as last day for seniors to attend any Pro Access programs.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

There being no further business, R. Merritt entertained a motion to adjourn, Kim Keough seconded. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Meeting ended at 8:03 pm.

The next regular meeting will be June 17, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Beote
Recording Secretary