

YOUTH COMMISSION
CJH MUNICIPAL CENTER
PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITY ROOM

1 SCHOOL STREET

JULY 21, 2009

6:45 PM

MINUTES

RECEIVED

JUL 22 2009

**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

PRESENT:

Chairman, Richard Merritt, Members: Lisa Bergh, Kim Keough, Jane Kraver, Bob Korin and Ex-Officio Teen Member, Greg Musumeci.

Absent: Melisa Pelikan, and Jerome Ochs.

Also Present: Director, Hilda DeLucia, and Assistant Director, Claudia Fortunato. Jackie and Barbara Mancher.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Richard Merritt called the meeting to order at 6:45PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rich introduced the proposed replacement for the Ex-Officio Teen member, Jackie Mancher, and her mother Barbara. After the members of the Youth Commission introduced themselves, Jackie went on to tell the commission about herself. She is currently a Varsity member of the Cross Country, Swimming and Lacrosse teams. She is also a Junior ROTC member. In her spare time she also enjoys playing the piano. Her future ambition is to be an Architectural or Civil Engineer. She believes in belonging to Student Council and involvement in student government to give kids a voice. She would like to work towards involving more kids in Pro-Access, and if appointed she will head up the Student Advisory Sub-Committee.

Lisa Bergh made a motion to recommend Jackie Mancher as the Ex-Officio Teen Member of the Youth Commission. Motion was seconded by Kim Keough.

Discussion:

Rich recommended that a letter come from the Youth Commission in addition to the minutes, it was decided that Bob Korin would be the member to write the recommendation.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Hilda reported receiving an award from the Relay for Life organizers. Pro-Access teams 1 & 2 were voted the Team Most Fun after Midnight.

ACCEPTANCE OF May 19, 2009 MINUTES:

Kim Keough made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from May 19, 2009, motion was seconded by Jane Kraver. Vote taken and motion passed. Bob Korin abstained.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Hilda DeLucia presented the Director's Report (see attached). Hilda was happy to report the membership is up 13.5%. The Journey to Work program was a huge success. Lt. Commander Dwinells did a wonderful job promoting this activity. Bob Korin asked that we recognize the Hampton Inn for being so gracious as to allow the use of a meeting room to conduct the mock interviews. Hilda created wallet size certificates for the programs graduates. She also created a letter (see attached) that will be sent to the Bethel Chamber Members promoting the hiring of these teens.

The Iron Chef cook-off was held with the "Whole Foods" lady Dawn Gulluspi. Instruction was not a focus and the cost was high. Future discussion will take place over a change in instructors.

Comcast contracts are up for renewal for the Teen TV Show. Rich will be at Comcast to sign a 13 week contract. A 6 week training program will start August 18th in the production, filming and creation of a television show.

Hilda reported that the website will be up and running soon. Markus Balas has been working on it and we believe the address will be ProAccessBethel.org. More information to follow.

Hilda will be working during the month of August to get the student advisory sub committee organized.

OLD BUSINESS:

This is the last meeting for our current Ex-Officio member Greg Musemeci. On behalf of the Youth Commission Rich thanked Greg for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

NEW BUSINESS:

The car wash fundraiser for the families affected by the fire will be held Saturday, July 25, 2009 from 9am-2pm. Gotham Auto Works has agreed to donate all supplies needed for the car wash such as hoses, soap, sponges, towels, etc.

Lisa volunteered to call "Big Y" and Caraluzzi's Bethel Food for donations of food for the volunteers on Saturday.

It was decided that all proceeds will be benefiting the families of the fire that took place at Hudson Glen Condominiums on Sunday July 12, 2009.

Regarding the Library Teen Services and the emails that have been sent out, it was decided that Hilda will forward all inquiries to the Library itself to avoid confusion and being a go-between.

Next Meeting of the Youth Commission set for August 18, 2009.
Agenda to follow.

Bob Korin made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Jane Kraver.
Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM
Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Bergh,
Recording Secretary

Dear Bethel Business Owner,

As the director of Pro Access, Bethel's Teen Center, I'm focused on how our current economy and employment challenges are affecting our teenagers; many who are struggling to find their first job or an opportunity to work. The competition is intense and the opportunities are few.

As a result of this challenge, the Bethel Youth Commission decided to sponsor a program with a local training and educational company called Inspired Learning to provide our youth with the knowledge and skills they need. The 5-hour program entitled "Journey to Work" gave students the basics on interview skills, customer service practices and conflict resolution. Upon the conclusion of the program, we had the students participate in mock interviews. The 14 students who successfully completed the program gained invaluable knowledge to provide a positive work experience to a potential employer. Here's what some of the students had to say:

"The program was helpful to me because it made me realize that jobs aren't only about going to a place and earning money."

"This program helped me realize how to come prepared for an interview. I'm shy, but this helped me feel confident."

"This program was very interactive and kept my attention. I learned how to engage the interviewer and it had a lot of valuable information about the entire work experience."

We are writing to you, not only to introduce you to this program, but also to ask that you seriously consider offering some of these students an entry level position within your business. I cannot serve as an employment agent, but I would be more than happy to forward your job opportunity onto these qualified candidates for them to follow-up.

Please feel free to contact me at 203-482-1732 or email me at hildadelucia@sbcglobal.net if you would like additional information about this program. Thank you in advance for supporting our local teenagers as they begin their "Journey to Work".

Sincerely,

Hilda Maria DeLucia
Director, Pro Access

**May 19, 2009 – June 16, 2009
PRO ACCESS ACTIVITY REPORT**

	Activity	Target Audience	Date	Number attended	Comments
1	Games and...	7 th & 8 th Graders	May 19	7	
2	Relay for Life Mtg.	7 th & 8 th Graders	May 20	19	
3	Games at Cascades	All Members	May 21	0	
4	Open Gym	High Schoolers	May 22	17	
5	Games and..	7 th & 8 th Graders	May 26	6	
6	Jacquelines	7 th & 8 th Graders	May 27	12	
7	Games and...	High Schoolers	May 28	6	
8	Open Gym	High Schoolers	May 29	8	
9	Rock Band Concert	All Members + Public	May 30	62	Lowest attendance for a rock concert we've hosted
10	Cooking Program	7 th & 8 th Graders	June 1	7	
11	Relay for Life Working Mtg.	7 th & 8 th Graders	June 2	12	
12	\$5 Manicures	All Members	June 3	15	
13	Games and	High Schoolers	June 4	2	
14	Cooking Program	7 th & 8 th Graders	June 8	7	
15	Training for Comcast	All Members	June 9	4	
16	Famous Pizza	All Members	June 10	18	
17	Games and...	High Schoolers	June 11	5	
18	Relay for Life	7 th & 8 th Graders	June 12	19	
19	Cooking Program	7 th & 8 th Graders	June 15	7	
20	Games and...	7 th & 8 th Graders	June 16	0	
Total participants served in May/June				233	Avg. = 12 participants per program
In April/May there were 22 programs with 264 participants					Avg. = 12 participants per program

**June 17, 2009 – July 20, 2009
PRO ACCESS ACTIVITY REPORT**

	Activity	Target Audience	Date	Number attended	Comments
1	\$5 Manicures	8 th Graders only	June 17	13	
2	Last day of school party	All Members	June 19	5	
3	Cooking Program	7 th & 8 th Graders	June 22	7	
4	Journey to Work	10 th – 12 Graders	June 23	15	
5	Journey to Work	10 th – 12 th Graders	June 24	14	
6	Breakfast at Jacqelines	7 th & 8 th Graders	June 25	12	
7	Matinee Movie	All Members	June 26	9	
8	Games at Parloa	All Members	June 29	13	
9	Journey to Work Mock Interviews	10 th – 12 th Graders	June 30	14	
10	\$5 Manicures	All Members	July 1	11	
11	Cooking Program	7 th & 8 th Graders	July 6	7	“Iron Chef Cookoff”
12	Sportsplex	All Members	July 7	17	
13	Manhunt	All Members	July 8	33	
14	Sportsplex	All Members	July 9	17	
15	Movie Matinee	All Members	July 10	11	
16	Games at Parloa	All Members	July 13	10	
17	Sportsplex	All Members	July 14	20	
18	Sportsplex	All Members	July 16	20	
19	Harry Potter Midnight Show	All Members	July 15	27	
20	Homerun Derby	All Members	July 20	0	
Total participants served in June/July				275	Avg. = 14 participants per program
In May/June there were 20 programs with 233 participants					Avg. = 12 participants per program

I. Membership Update

Grade	June/July # of members	May # of members	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
			June/July		May	
7	5	0	2	3		
8	46	38	25	21	20	18
Freshman	90	88	34	56	33	55
Sophomore	49	47	12	37	11	36
Juniors	47	40	17	30	14	26
Seniors	33	25	9	24	5	20
Totals	270 13.5% increase	238	99	171	83	155

II. Program Attendance (see report)

- III. Events/Programs for discussion
- i. Manhunt
 - ii. 6 week cooking program
 - iii. Job Bank's "Journey To Work"
 - iv. Comcast

IV. Website Update

V. Student Advisory Group