

Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2011

Those present were: Rich Merritt, Bob Korin, Kristin Nauheimer, and Kate Shea

Those absent with notice were: Lisa Bergh, and Jane Kraver.

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 by Rich Merritt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no correspondence.

There were no members of the public present.

The Youth Commission then interviewed 2 candidates for the position on ex-officio member.

The first student who was interviewed was Brooke Ferraro. When asked why she would like to be the ex-officio member, Brooke replied that she really loves the teen center. It is a great organization that gives kids a place to go and things to do. She thinks that it is important that the teen center has a dependable schedule and that it is reassuring to know that there is always something going on. Her extracurricular activities include: student advisory, volleyball, winter track and lacrosse. She will be available on the third Tuesday of the month, unless she has a game. Her hobbies include reading and photography. Brooke is also interested in architecture and is planning an internship for the summer. She has been a member of the teen center for about a year. Her favorite activity was the lockout.

When asked what she would improve about Pro-Access, Brooke said that she would use her experience to revise certain programs. For example, she might change the order of activities during the lockout, and maybe change the length of some activities as well.

The Youth Commission then posed the same questions to Christopher Phelps. He has lived in Bethel his whole life and really loves it here. He started with the teen center when he was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, which the first year enrollment was open. He works for the local Park and Rec. department and is the first sophomore officer of DECA, in charge of running the school store in the High School. Chris plays tennis, manages the volleyball team and is involved with the student advisory group. He is able to make the meetings on the third Tuesday of the month. He also likes to socialize and meet new people, do community service work and really enjoys his summer job at the playground camp.

When asked how he would improve the teen center, Chris replied that he would trying to involve new members of younger grades, and be sure that the activities offered would be meeting the interests of all involved. He would like to see people talking about the teen center more.

Bob Korin asked both candidates what their best subjects were in school. Brooke replied math, and Chris replied math and science. Rich Merritt asked what their least favorite subjects were. Brooke answered History and Chris answered English.

RECEIVED  
2011 APR 25 A 9 51  
TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

Kristen asked each candidate what their strengths would be when it comes to planning activities. Chris said that he would get new kids of all different age levels involved and incorporate their different focuses into the activities. Brooke said that since she is really outgoing, she would be able to get people out to activities.

Both candidates are interested in architecture and architectural design.

The Youth Commission then had a discussion on how to get the word out more to our town. Bob Korin mentioned to both candidates that we have had numerous talks regarding the printed calendar which the teen center sends to its constituency. We understand that a lot of people like having the printed calendar sent to them, but in an effort to reduce paper usage and save money, we have been emailing the calendar. Bob asked what their opinion on this topic was.

Brooke likes the emailed calendar because it is always available and people lose the paper calendar. Chris also likes the emailed calendar, but understands that a lot of kids do not. He said that we should promote the calendar on the website more, and get people used to it.

#### Approval of March 15 Minutes

Kristin Nauheimer made the motion

Bob Korin seconded it

Motion passed on a voice vote.

Hilda DeLucia gave the director's report. She talked about the numbers for this month and Bob asked if these were new members or the same kids. Hilda replied that she couldn't really say, once you're a member of the teen center you are always considered a member. The only change is the level of participation. Last year at this time there were 48 7<sup>th</sup> graders and this year there are only 26. She is not sure what accounts for the difference but this has always been a concern of ours.

During summer we always have our highest numbers because the 6<sup>th</sup> graders are just able to join and the 12<sup>th</sup> graders are still considered members until the fall.

Since the 6<sup>th</sup> graders have an hour of extension, like a study hall, Brooke suggested that Hilda make a presentation to them during this time, to get them involved this summer. She also mentioned that getting kids involved during the week is difficult because many kids play sports after school and have homework that they need to work on.

The \$5 for pizza program had a huge turnout for March; Hilda attributes it to the "All you can eat" message attached to it. She also mentioned that the photo shoot had 11 girls, and next time she is advertising a "parent/child" theme.

There are currently not too many weekend activities offered but that could change. Chris mentioned possibly offering group rates for teams, pasta parties, or after-game pizzas at the teen center for teams. Hilda also said that we could offer the teen center for building homecoming floats.

The last open gym of the season was on April 15. The youth commission had a discussion about membership. Hilda said that the policy is that you can come to 1 activity as a non-member. For the second activity you need to come with the teen center application and enroll as a member.

Hilda then gave an update on the new teen center. She said that people have been painting and cleaning all weekend and it's looking great. She's going to start bringing things over soon. Many people have been generous and donating items for the new teen center. She is currently looking for computers, and is in the process of writing a grant application to fund them. Hilda said that we will be able to hold our next youth commission meeting in the teen center. She is planning the open house for the teen center in June and hosting nights specific for 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents.

Old Business – Rich asked Hilda if she had been asking the kids to verify their email addresses at different activities. She had asked them to at open gym. Nothing has yet been done with the giving club. Additionally, we need to keep looking into the banners for welcoming home Bethel soldiers.

Rich reported that 3 teens volunteered for Bethel Blooms. He also asked if the teen center is interested in donated instruments. The youth commission will get more details and consider it. Storage of these instruments is also a concern.

Rich gave the idea of a liaison between the teen center and the library to help teen better utilize the new teen section. Hilda suggested that he put in the request to the general teen center membership, and she will also speak with the teen librarian.

Chris will put the Nautilus equipment on eBay for the teen center.

The next meeting will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>. A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Korin and seconded by Kristin Nauheimer.