Commission for Children and Youth

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 27th 2020, 5:30 pm

Weston Town Hall Meeting Room

Commissioners Present

Shara Kolodney, Chair

Bridget Angus

Jane Hoeffner

Hilary Misiano

Michelle Tivey

Knox Watson

Michele Albright

Denese Marshall

Denise Harvey (Phone)

Commissioners Absent

Other Attendees

Laura Cleary, Youth Services Director

Allison Lisbon, Social Services Director

Charlene Monn, Program Director

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Kolodney called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Approval of minutes

**Motion:** *Move to approve the minutes of the Regular December 2019 Meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.*

3. Speaker from OK2 Delay program was not able to come. Laura will re-invite for next meeting.

4. Reports as needed:

* Social Services update: Allison attended a recent presentation in Westport with Vince Benevento from Causeway Collaborative, with a focus on raising boys. Alison has notes from this event. They had a Good turnout- 75 ish people. Most of what he said applies also to girls but focus on parenting boys. Michele A. heard about a great speaker on the role of fathers, in Westport. Alison will ask Elaine at next week’s social services meeting. Charlene: We do programs for girls so may be a good idea to do something for boys or parents of boys.
* Student update: Emma S. is absent due to illness.
  + Bridget: Just had midterms, stressful. Lots of complaints from students about the way teachers try to cram info before midterm and even have final tests just before midterms Staples changes the way they do midterms, have a review day then you go to 4 midterms and then another review day. Bridget and Knox are advocating for students at WHS re: making some changes that make midterms stress more manageable.
  + Knox: He is testing the community service recording platform that tracks service hours, using friends to try it out. Also, doing food drive in schools, and upcoming valentines for vets.
  + Laura mentioned Weston Kindness initiative and how these activities would be great to add to the Weston Kindness website when it is up and running (Soon?) Laura will talk to the leaderof the Weston Kindness initiative, Craig Tunks about how to connect students, particularly Knox and Bridget, to this initiative?
* Charlene: WOW! Winter programs going well, lots of programs offered. Charlene is working on summer camps plans.
* Laura: Coalition report: Mike Rizzo presented a quick overview of school climate survey results and more detail will be shared at BOE meeting. Results overall were good. Re: Attitude and behavior survey for students at WHS and WMS- it was agreed to delay this survey until at least Fall 2020. Lisa Wolak made the point that after the School climate survey and the school start and end time survey, people may be “all surveyed out”
* Laura WYS update: Upcoming programs include a Bullying prevention speaker on march 4th, with Weston Field Club as co-sponsor. Mental health breakfast in March- invite sent out. Welcome any ideas for Weston based mental health providers who may be interested- to send invite. Send Laura names/contact info.

Update on mini grants- Four awarded, one may be delayed to next year due to illness of grantee. Still have some funding and will advertise the mini grants again soon to see if any additional interest this school year. No middle school students applied.

* NAMI: Jane: re: Community NAMI event- helpful info, OK turnout. Laura notes that from Laura and Alison’s perspective it was a good turnout for this type of event. Consider having Weston NAMI Group if interest but for now, groups in area towns seem to be meeting the need.
* WHS: Hilary will circle back with Lisa Wolak re: DBT posters for high school. We need clarification re: what she is looking for.
* WIS liaison: Michele Tivey: Ideas for WIS to WMS transition for parents and possibly kids. Unified sports at WIS is being considered/explored. Jordan Gladstone, Co-president of Unified Sports at WHS is spearheading this along with her mom, Melissa Gladstone. Michele has asked WIS special ed. Laura noted thanks to Shara for connecting Jordan Gladstone to WYS and YC.
* BOE: Denise Harvey: Did connect with Tony Pesco, BOE. He is tied up with budget but interested in connecting with the Youth Commission and (either him or other BOE member) visiting a meeting.

5. **ADL Program**: Shara: Had first planning meeting, to plan a Strengthening the Bonds of Our Community program here in Weston; meeting went well. Plan is to have this community event at the end of March or end of April on a Sunday afternoon: The outcome of the program is not known as those who attend will be part of driving any follow up activities. Possibilities include a human rights commission or a one town one book event. Goal is multi-faceted and includes: How do we have conversations proactvely and also reactively (when X happens). ADL fights hate, not just anti-Semitism. Create bonds among leadership to help respond effectively to incidents of hate and bias when it happens in Weston. Looking at funding options; hoping for funding from multiple groups so everyone is invested. Next planning meeting is 2/3. Planning committee has a good amount of people. Bridget is the only student involved. Per Bridget, she is working on possibly getting another student involved.

6. Member Roundtable: Denese M, Laura, ADAP and PTO are meeting to discuss family/community dinner ideas. Denese: Needs to be a big enough event to make an impact.

7. New ideas/discussion

No other matters raised.

8. For the good of the order

10. Adjourn:

Jane Hoeffner motion to adjourn 6:38 PM