

Community Services and Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES APPROVED

To: Community Services Commission Members

From: Gerardo Sorkin, Director

Re: Commission Meeting of April 1, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Laurie Jean Hannon at 5:35 p.m.

I. Attendance:

Present: Laurie Jean Hannon, Judith Mackay, Antoinette Giordano-McKeon, Walter Heinig, Michael Compare, Scott Leamon, and Thomas Balga.

Staff: Gerardo Sorkin, Director, Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director, Recreation and Dan Riccio, Jr. (Secretary),.

Absent: Frank Kruglik, William J. Carey.

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Ms. McKeon noted that the corrections from the February meeting were updated and accurate at this time. She would like to know if all information attachments were sent to the proper parties. All attachments will be included with the Minutes and posted in the Library, Selectman's Office, Town Clerk's Office, on the website and mailed to the Commissioners.

The Minutes were accepted by Antoinette Giordano-McKeon and Seconded by Michael Compare.

III. Correspondence:

Thank you letters and a number of telephone calls were received by the Commission and read in response to the Community Services/Recreation Recognition Breakfast. Thank you letters were received from Andy DelVecchio, Eileen Pettit, Joan Vulte and Nancy Leddy.

A letter was also received from Ms. Janet McCarty to the Community Services Commissioners regarding the hiring of Mr. Gerardo Sorkin as Director of Community Services/Recreation, with a start date of March 17, 2008.

IV. Director's Report:

Ms. Eileen Pettit introduced Gerardo Sorkin as the new Director of Community Services/Recreation. Mr. Sorkin thanked the Commission for this opportunity and is looking forward to working with the Department and Commission.

Ms. Hannon presented a plant to Eileen Pettit thanking her for all she did.

Community Services Division:

Energy Assistance: Community Action of New Haven uploaded a new program on the Department's computers and will provide training. This program will keep track of energy assistance applications and the Department will have direct access to information. This new program will begin the third week of October.

Counseling Services: Three counselors are available for residents of North Haven to receive outpatient services. Gerardo Sorkin is now listed as the Director of this Center.

Day Care: Dr. Suess' birthday was celebrated with a week long celebration of his works, with guest readers, and eating green eggs. The children had a lot of fun rhyming words and making Dr. Seuss-like creations.

Senior Center: Received a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Social Services to enhance the Craft Room. On April 8th at 1:30 p.m. there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new computer lab installed by a grant from AT & T and the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce.

V. Finance Report:

Community Services: As of 2/29/08, overtime over expended. Most of the overtime was paid to the Recreation Center staff for activities after working hours. It was explained that next year the Recreation Center will have a budget overtime line and it will not be reflected on the Community Services budget.

Welfare Budget: Under budget.

Senior Center: Bus maintenance/repair, and building maintenance. The buses for the senior center are serviced at the town garage. Gas and oil are charged to the Bus Maintenance and Repair line.

Day Care: The Finance Department has changed over to a new accounting system and therefore there will not be a report on Daycare, Special Funds of Emergency Funds. At the next meeting, a new report will be generated.

Project Graduation: Nancy Leddy, Youth Services Administrator, explained the venue this year has been changed to Quassy Park. Buses will leave approximately 7:00 p.m. from North Haven High School (immediately following the ceremony). They will return to NHHS between 2:00 – 3:00 a.m. A breakfast will be sponsored by PTSA from 3:00 – 5:00 a.m. Tickets will be purchased at the high school.

A Kevin Gilbride fundraiser will be held April 29th at the high school. The “Meet and Greet” is in the cafeteria from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. A light fare, consisting of finger sandwiches, etc. and cookies and drinks will be served. The presentation is in the auditorium from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. The presentation will consist of a 20 minute showing of highlights of the Giants Super Bowl Season, a 20 minute motivational speech, and 20 minute question and answer period. One hundred tickets will be sold at \$50.00 each for the “Meet and Greet” and general admission for the presentation will be \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students. New York Giants items will be raffled off during the auditorium event.

VI. Old Business:

Antoinette Giordano-McKeon spoke about the articles in the New Haven Register and Courier. All articles are to be an attachment to next month’s meeting.

Laurie Jean Hannon thanked everyone for having the breakfast for the Department.

VII. New Business:

Nancy Leddy spoke about the anti-tobacco presentation at the North Haven Middle School. A letter writing campaign is underway for increasing the warning label on cigarette packages in the U.S. as done in Europe.

A Smoke Screen presentation for the entire 7th grade was held. On May 20, 21, and 22 the Bus Express, sponsored by the American Lung Association will be at the Middle School for all of the 8th graders to tour.

All 9th graders experienced the Vision Goggle presentation at the high school. The goggles show a level of impairment with an increase in blood alcohol levels and commissioners were encouraged to try them on.

Summer employment opportunities were discussed. Also, high school students are placed at various points in town for community service hours.

The Commission Members were encouraged by Mr. Sorkin to call his office to set up a meeting time in which they could be given a tour of our facility as a group or individually. A new organizational chart will be made after the hiring of a new secretary.

The commissioners requested that we have Day Care and/or a counselor speak at our next meeting. They will determine who will report at the next meeting.

VIII. Public Participation:

None. The North Haven Courier took notes for their paper.

IX. Adjournment: Laurie Jean Hannon made a Motion to Adjourn, seconded by Michael Compare. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.