

Youth Service Commission
MINUTES
October 25, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was call to order by A. Ellis at 4:40 pm.

Roll Call: A. Ellis (P); M. Nunn (A); County Rep. C. Britt (P); County Rep. K. Patronick (P); M. Alberto (A); Juvenile Lieutenant B. Emerick (P); Council Liaison G. Sopka (P); L. Monetti (P)

Reports: The Watchung Youth Service Commission had applied for the 2015/16 Annual Grant in order to offer three programs, Girls on Track, Girls on the Run and the Homework Club. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Girls on Track program was the only program run during the 2015/16 school year leaving \$3946.78 of available funds to utilize out of the \$5000. received. The commission agreed to utilize these funds by offering several summer camp scholarships to at risk students that would be recommended by the school's guidance counselor. Seven students took advantage of the camp scholarship opportunity utilizing \$2465.00 of the remaining 2015/16 grant funds leaving \$1481.78 leftover in this year's account. A total of \$504.84 of unused fund were left over from the 2014/15 grant leaving a total of \$1986.62 in the account from previous years. The Annual Grant funds were approved by the county for the 2016/17 school year giving the Commission another \$5000. to utilize for this year's programs. With the prior balances combined with the newly awarded grant the Commission now has a total of \$6986.62 available to run programs. All programs must be approved by the county before utilizing any available funds.

M. Nunn reported in an email that the school is currently running the Girls on Track program at Valley View School.

Treasurer report: The balance in the donation account remains at \$267.15.

Correspondence: Summer Camp Scholarship Breakdown of Funds Utilized
Youth Services Quarterly Report

Unfinished Business:

The Commission discussed running an afterschool program at Avalon or Wilson Memorial Church that could be run in addition to the programs now being utilized with the Annual Grant funds. (Girls on Track, Girls on the Run, Homework Club).

The members discussed the benefits of adding youth members to the Commission. K.Patronick mentioned that youth members can get the students perspective of what are good programs to run. She mentioned using peer group leaders as an option for Youth Service members. A. Ellis suggested focusing on one comprehensive program. He mentioned that cost is a factor as well as transportation. He mentioned that M. Alberto suggested running a program at Avalon.

New Business: C. Britt reported that Kaitlyn Patronick will be Watchung's newly appointed county representative as she will now oversee the Municipal Youth Service Commissions.

K. Patronick mentioned the county incorporated a monitoring process so that the county rep. can now reach out to the Youth Service program coordinators and observe programs as they are being run to better understand how well the program is functioning in each municipality. She mentioned two programs that are available through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) one is called "Student Success Skills" and training to run this program is available for \$75.00. The program is designed to help students set goals, monitor progress, build caring, supportive and encouraging environments, develop memory and cognitive skills, calm anxiety and manage emotions as well as build healthy optimism. The other program is called "Media Literacy for Safe and Healthy Choices". This program is designed to promote media literacy skills and reduce risk for violence, bullying, poor nutrition, and drug use. Another programs mentioned was the "I Run" program that is being offered in Hillsboro Township which is similar to the "Girl on Track" and "Girls on the Run" programs.

G. Sopko suggested having a teacher that is willing to run a program for Youth Services pick the program, dates and times.

C. Britt suggested using a combination of programs through Recreation and Youth Services. She mentioned that using an offsite facility is a good idea and that we could use a retired teacher to run an offsite program to save costs.

A.S. Ellis suggested asking M. Nunn and L. McCloud for suggestions on what the needs are for at risk students at Valley View and Bayberry.

Next Meeting Schedule: The next Youth Service meeting will be held on Nov. 22nd, 2016 at 4:30 pm at Valley View School.

Adjournment: As there was no further business A. Ellis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Monetti

Linda Monetti
Youth Service Secretary