

SPECIAL HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

August 21, 2007

Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Judy Rossow, Bill Grady, Ed Kamin
Committee Members Absent: Ruth Booth, David Arrington
Staff Present: Tedi Winnett
Others Present: Co. Bd. Suprs Jan Marrelli, Dick Kessler, and Jennifer Jackson

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Judy Rossow, Chairperson.

1. Comments by the Chair - None
2. Citizen's Comments - None
3. Presentation: Youth in Governance

Tedi Winnett, Director of UW-Extension, said that in March, a resolution came to the County Board to accept the Youth in Governance Program to allow youth to have a voice in county government. A planning committee was formed to include business leaders, KUSD employees, Judge Wagner, and youth. This project will be launched next month.

Jan Marrelli explained that Mark Molinaro brought this idea to the UW-Extension Committee. The interviews of these youth were fantastic. These kids are just great. She was just really impressed with them. They can come to the County Board meetings, but they will be sitting on a committee. There is a mentor for each committee. Bill Grady will be a mentor of the youth on the Highway & Parks Committee. Ruth Booth will mentor the youth on this Human Services Committee. We need to make the youth feel welcome and keep them from getting bored. They met a youth from Waupaca County who said she was intimidated at first but now feels that she is accepted, and they make her feel welcomed.

Dick Kessler added that Kenosha is the third county in Wisconsin to start this program. The other counties are Waupaca and Douglas. Our youth do have a voice. This will be a plus-plus situation. The youth will be learning what government is all about.

Ms. Marrelli said that she won't be running for re-election, and there is a 22-year old in her district who plans to run.

Ms. Winnett referred to the packet mailed out to the members. She did not see too many shy kids in the interviews. The committee members will be impressed with the caliber of youth we have. Of the 44 nominations they had, they received 12 applications. One person chose not to interview. They interviewed the 11 and now have all of them assigned to committees. Most of the youth got their first or second choices of committees they wanted to be on. Both youth on the Human Services Committee chose this committee as their first choice. All mentors will go through criminal background checks.

This also creates the opportunity for others to do this program: City Council, Library Board, etc.

The youth will vote on committee items prior to the committee members, and it will be recorded in the minutes, but their votes will not count. They will need to leave if there is a closed session. They will not be paid an honorarium. Their term will run from October, 2007 - April, 2008.

All 11 youth will also meet as a group to share what they are learning on their committees. And they will be asking for feedback from the mentors.

Youth in Governance will be a topic at the WCA Fall Conference.

On September 18th, a reception and swearing in ceremony will be held at 6:30, prior to the County Board meeting. Parents will also be invited.

Ed Kubicki commented that this is a great program and it's great to get youth involved.

Judy Rossow complimented Tedi Winnett for encouraging this program.

4. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None

5. Committee Members Comments - None

6. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Ed Kubicki, seconded by Judy Rossow. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary

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