

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes
August 18, 2007

Members Present: Kate Camacho, Felicia Fotsch, Krista Pimentel, Brandon Jackson, Darnesha Adams, Kyra Daniel, Jessie Ammons, Gabriel Lopez, and Commissioner Velma Boyd-Lawson.

Members Absent: Justin Alderman

Staff Present: Susan Simpson

Guests: Mayor Vivian Jones

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Town staff liaison Susan Simpson at 9:05 a.m.

MINUTES

None. First official meeting.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Simpson welcomed the group and congratulated them on their appointments. She relayed the Town Boards comments that it was the hardest appointments they have to make. Ms. Simpson had notebooks for the group and encouraged them to keep all their meeting information in the book and bring with them to each meeting. She asked that they introduce themselves. Each young person told their name, what school they attended and what grade they were in.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Simpson stated that according to Code of Ordinances which establishes the Youth Advisory Board, they need to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of the board. The Chair's duties would be to preside at the meetings, i.e. call the meeting to order, call for approval and vote of the minutes, introduce items, etc. The Vice-Chair would do likewise in the absence of the Chair. The board decided to wait until next month to elect the officers.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Ms. Simpson passed out a meeting schedule for the year. The board will meet 10 months of each year which coincides with the traditional school year (August - May).

LETTER FROM THE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

Commissioner Velma Boyd-Lawson addressed the letter in their agenda packets from the Human Relations Council inviting them to participate in Good Neighbor Day. The event celebrates diversity and community relations within the Town of Wake Forest.

INFORMATION ON YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS

Commissioner Velma Boyd-Lawson and Mayor Vivian Jones talked about the Youth Summit sponsored by the League of Municipalities at their annual conference in Fayetteville this year. The summit is slated for Saturday, October 13. Both encouraged members of this board to attend. The Town will pay the \$25 registration fee for anyone wishing to participate. Members are to let Commissioner Boyd-Lawson know at our September meeting.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Ms. Simpson suggested that the group begin to brainstorm on workshops, activities, etc. that they would like to work on this year. The group began to offer the following possibilities:

- a workshop of Darfur was mentioned. Some event to raise awareness of hunger. The group mentioned collecting money, providing food, writing letters, etc.
- several members talked about pollution education.
- several members thought it would be good to solicit ideas for this board from other classmates by having a "suggestion box" in each school. Most schools also have regular announcements and this could be a way to get the message out.
- several members talked about starting off with a fun/ social event. A few things mentioned were: battle of the bands, "do-it-yourself" party, or festival.

Ms. Simpson stated that they probably should focus on one event for a kickoff/ introduction of the board. She also mentioned the Town's website could be a good way to advertise their events. There is already a page or two on the Youth Advisory and the recent forums. That could be expanded to a number of pages for their work and meetings. After some discussion, the group thought it would be a good idea to have a social event to introduce themselves to the community and their peers. Discussion followed about dates, locations, prizes, goodie bags, music, and food. Jessie Ammons mentioned that it would be good for the Youth Advisory Board to come up with a slogan. They could have t-shirts or sweatshirts to wear at their events. The group decided to

form committees to work on this event. The following represent the working committees: (1) location, date & time - Darnesha & Justin; (2) activities - Felicia, Kyra, & Gabriel; (3) slogan, shirts, color - Jessie & Brandon; and (4) Goodie bags/ sponsors - Kate & Krista. Each group will begin work and report to the entire group at the September meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

Gabriel Lopez mentioned the Yellow Ribbon Campaign which provides information on suicide awareness. Franklin Academy is holding an event on August 23 at 7 p.m. at the school. Admission is \$1. She also mentioned that she could get a lady to come and speak to the board on "Safe Place."

Jessie Ammons suggested a newsletter for the board. She thought it would be a great tool to get information out to students. Ms. Simpson stated that she could ask Bill Crabtree, Public Information Officer with the Town, to assist in a design. She will bring something back in September.

Ms. Ammons said that she thought it would be nice for the group as a whole to do some things together so that they could bond with each other. The group liked the idea and decided to go to lunch together after the September meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Simpson, Secretary