

Westport Youth Commission Meeting
Thursday, April 11th at 7:15pm
Town Hall Room 309

7:15 Welcome and approval of the minutes:

Andrew Goldberg make a motion to approve the minutes, Sarah Corneck seconds

7:17 What's Up:

- Isabel is going to Wake Forest
- Staples Players one acts begin shortly
- Sam's We the People Government class is going to nationals for the We the People contest
- Eli got fourth place for his National History Day contest
- Stop & Shop workers were on strike today
- Patricio is launching a sports training website
- May 10th Toquet Hall has a drag show that they are co hosting with the library
- Jake and Katie are away fencing on the world stage somewhere in Europe

7:22 Youth Services Report:

- Ct Coalition to end homelessness is seeking to get youth input on the issue on May 16th in Hartford
- Youth services funding is looking good
- A recreational marijuana bill is being passed through the state judiciary committee
- A state bill is being worked on to make all high school graduations on the same day of the week

7:35 Will Haskell Comes to WYC:

- **School regionalization and keeping young people in Ct:** Will wants to improve efficiency of education across the country. He feels it would be a mistake to regionalize some schools such as Staples, however, there are school systems that need increased efficiency. Will talked to the commission about keeping young people in Ct and working on making them stay. Will talk about the fact that the issue of getting people to stay in Ct is that workers find it too expensive to live here.
- **Legalization of Marijuana:** Will wants a strict legalization. He wants to tax it heavily, ensure the minimum age of 21, banning edibles, etc. However, he is unsure if this could be a reality with the rest of his colleagues in the state legislature.
- **School Vaping:** From Will's experience as a convenience store worker, juul and vapes are detrimental to those that use them both physically and mentally. He wants to ensure that vapes are harder to reach for minors so that people cannot get hooked vapes.
- **Participatory Democracy:** Will welcomes visitors and for people to get in touch with him on issues. He then shared stories about people getting involved and urged the commission to reach out to him about issues they feel strongly about.
- **Getting Students Involved in Politics:** To vote in Ct and to get absentee ballots is a difficult and lengthy process which deters young people from voting from participating in

politics. One bill Will talked about was to give young people (ages 16 to 17) the power to vote in municipal elections.

- **Biggest Issues Facing Ct Youth:** Every youth has a different perspective on this issue. Some of them range from gun violence to climate.

8:10 Peer Education and Awareness:

- MDAD: Jennie gives a rundown of the program to Will. Peer hopes to run the event during prom season. Aside from addressing drugs and alcohol, Peer will also include natural high and positive mental health practices.
 - Each peer education member will be responsible for a different table which will contain a different topic
 - Peer is hoping to get speakers and a band
 - Peer is hoping to give away free things and will need an appropriation committee hearing to approve the money

8:26 Andrew makes a motion to appropriate \$100 to Peer and Rita seconds

Discussion:

- Adam inquires about costs for a drive in movie
- Colin asks Kevin about how the Youth Commission budget has been in prior years

Motion to appropriate passes unanimously.

8:30 Peer Education Part II:

- Real talk and its logistics including the panel of seniors set to talk. The date for the forum has yet to be set.
 - Peer want to try and schedule real talk for commitment day (May 1st).

8: 35 Town Improvements:

- Sam explain to Will the Students discount program and quickly gives a run down of Student Creation Market
- Brett tells Will about WYCs and the plans for the future
- Colin gives a quick run down of the mini golf project
- Sam talks about the Town Improvements focus on the community discussion about sleep and school start times. That proposal has been tabled while the issues surrounding Coleytown are addressed.
- Town has posted in Staples Super Fans Facebook about Student Creation Market applications
 - The commission is wondering if baking businesses can be included

8: 42 Adam wishes everyone a happy Easter and happy Passover

8:43 Colin makes a motion to adjourn Andrew seconds