

Westport Youth Commission
Regular Meeting
MINUTES AUGUST 25, 2022

Alex Laskin opens the meeting, introductions around table

I. What's Up

- A. Kevin Godburn (Westport Youth Services Director) thanks everyone for helping with Corn-a-Cop redo for CNN on August 24
- B. Staples begins in 5 days
- C. Most private schools start September 6
- D. Staples class schedule released today
- E. Fall Sports have started pre-season
- F. First Staples football game September 9 against Conard (West Hartford)
- G. First Staples soccer game September 8
- H. Staples homecoming October 15

II. Youth Services Report

- A. Kevin shares that Westport Youth Commission, Toquet Hall, Teen Awareness Group, Juvenile Review Board, Westport Prevention Coalition, Westport Together all under Youth Services, which is a division of the Department of Human Services.
 - 1. Two contracted positions at Staples with youth services: student outreach counselor (through kids in crisis) and licensed drug and alcohol counselor (through Liberation)
- B. Kelsey Dynia started in August as the Westport Youth Services Program Specialist
 - 1. Coming up in September: 10th Rock Band tournament, 3rd trivia night, Super Smash Bros night, bands coming on the 16th
 - a) Live music coming back to Toquet Hall since COVID-19

III. Advocacy Group Overview

- A. Kevin says that Youth Commission is charged with advocating for youth issues in Westport and working to meet needs of our young population.
 - 1. Past projects/initiatives have included: creating Toquet Hall as a safe substance-free space, helping create the Compo skatepark, advocating for additional crosswalks on Myrtle Avenue, exploring early diversion programs like youth court & JRBs
 - a) Some initiatives are recurring (iMentor, police-youth activities)
 - 2. Other people from the community can come to Youth Commission to discuss issues and ask for changes
 - 3. Kevin says to be on the lookout for issues facing youth in Westport, what should be on radar/agenda

- B. Peer Education Subcommittee- Caroline Caggiano and Lilly Weisz
 - 1. Internet Safety: iMentor and miniMentor
 - 2. Police Youth activities: Dodge-a-Cop and Corn-a-Cop (done together with TAG)
 - a) iMentor and Police youth are all hands on deck activities
 - 3. People can participate in activities from both subcommittees

 - C. Town Improvements Subcommittee - Alex Laskin
 - 1. Skatepark, Student Discounts, mini-golf, open-campus policy at Staples
 - 2. Helped with parks and rec survey
 - 3. All new ideas are welcome

 - D. Caroline says the subcommittees each have meetings once a month, as do specific projects, helps for planning execution
- IV. Kevin says Youth Commission is part of the town charter
- A. Meeting are public and minutes are recorded
 - 1. Can't conduct business over email/text
 - B. A quorum is needed to vote on anything
 - C. Commission has 15 youth voting members and 15 adult voting members
 - 1. Non-voting members are active participants, still members, but do not form quorum
 - 2. No youth slots currently open, but slots tend to open over the year
 - 3. Traditionally 9th Graders are part of the 9th Grade Committee and not voting members

Jared Evan makes a motion to end the meeting, Lilly Weisz seconds

Motion passes unanimously, meeting is adjourned