

Westport Youth Commission
January 22, 2015
Update: Room 201/201A
7:15pm-8:30pm

7:15pm – 7:20pm Approval of the minutes

Kyle introduced First Selectman Jim Marpe and State Representative Johnathan Steinberg
Everyone approved the minutes.
Went around the room and introduced ourselves.

7:20pm – 7:30pm What's Up/ Public Input

Discussed Weekend – Counties, R&W, and SAT
Phoebe's Phriends – Skate n Glow
Broadcast Hearts at Toquet
Artist from Berkley School of Music performing at Toquet
Orphenians Conference
Downtown Steering committee having open house next Wednesday. Go to learn about what's going on, and Marpe suggests that you give your input.
Indoor Regata Saugatuck rowing club Sunday
Cop Shop on mean-spirited behavior last Monday was great.

7:30pm – 7:45pm Advocacy Reports/Presentations

- a. Peer Education and Awareness
Did a fantastic job explaining all they are advocating for, outlining their group's mission statement, their accomplishments, and their next steps. All is outlined in the following presentation:
<https://docs.google.com/a/students.westport.k12.ct.us/presentation/d/1pGQwjUkrq6B-inqfmlWHfX09tleG2tnOQ2LGwFDIBXM/edit#slide=id.p4>
- b. Town improvements
Did a fantastic job explaining all they are advocating for, outlining their group's mission statement, their accomplishments, and their next steps. Making a sticker that says, "We support student discounts." All is outlined in the following presentation:
<https://docs.google.com/a/students.westport.k12.ct.us/presentation/d/1JMVCfRxoR3ZoWXR30f1ZWoeeeIJBWuQeVObaTDpMGTI/edit#slide=id.p>

7:45pm – 7:55pm Jim Marpe and Johnathan Steinberg speak on what they'd like the commission to think about advocating for.

Marpe discussed skate park. Another example of advocacy, he went to see the skate park to understand what is going on down there.

Referred to downtown planning process in which we mentioned how we would like to see cheaper places to eat. Possibility of achieving that. Remiss in not inviting us to present to Board of First Selectmen. Aims to find some space for WYC to come talk to them. Different form of public meeting.

Appreciates how we have acknowledged younger youth of Westport. Poses the question of do we need more playgrounds in Westport? Would that be feasible?

How to better use our park spaces

Johnathan Steinberg: How important students have been in Westport. Students inspired the Westport Cinema Initiative.

Last night, Steinberg met with environment group. Westport passed first plastic bag ban in CT, now a bill for the whole CT.

That kind of advocacy about caring about the environment has been very effective. Our advocacy does not have to be limited to Westport. Think outside the borders, and also about our futures in and outside of Westport.

Marpe – Green task force has a huge youth presence.

7:55pm – 8:15pm Collaboration Time Break Out (3 Groups)

Groups 1 and 2 discusses the logistics of the Field Day, as in possible liabilities, who is sponsoring, where we would have it, who would be able to participate, opening it up to children who are not athletes but want to participate, making it more of a field day with activities, and figuring out what the date would be.

Challenges?

Date?

Conceptual are there, we need to figure out how to make it work.

Group 3 Discusses how the WYC is much more organized and how it is very effective. Advocating for a movie theatre and later nights open at stores, proposing these to the downtown steering committees. Places other than stores. There is more to hang out than at movies or in stores.

8:15pm – 8:30pm Advocacy Group Break Out