

Westport Youth Commission
March 19, 2015
Update: Room 307/309
7:15pm-8:30pm

7:15pm – 7:25pm What's Up/ Public Input

- SafeRides and WYC Intertwine
 - Mark Dulsky who runs SafeRides found out from Elaine what the WYC does and hopes to get his organization more involved. Julie Mombello used to run the organization, but they're getting more organized. 147 members, not very active, had to close two Saturdays this year. Making SafeRides more community based, less about Staples. PTA, Westport Pizzeria, PAL, helping us. Want to have WYC help make SafeRides more open and community-based. They have noticed differences from last year with Uber, but their goal is ultimately to get people home safely. SafeRides' wait time has increased because they've had difficulty getting volunteers. Students on the board are getting more frustrated. SafeRides is noting changes in the uses and the volunteers. SafeRides does not condone drinking, they know it happens, but they want the students to get home safely. Not only used for drinking purposes as well. Because of programs at school, students know that driving drunk is not smart. SafeRides operates at Christ and Holy Trinity Church. Try to get at least four cars, with two people in each car. Trained by police.
 - From the commission, he would like more active volunteers. Looking at statistics to pinpoint the change, but instead of getting involved for putting it on the résumé for college, but rather than being active. Starting to think about putting out reminders about a volunteer commitment. 4 Saturdays for drivers, 2 Saturdays for non-drivers. Haven't enforced it because it is a volunteer club. Might have to send out polite reminders. 9:30pm – 1:30am Saturday nights.

7:25pm – 7:30pm Approval of the minutes

- Approved the Minutes at 7:28pm

7:30pm – 7:45pm What's Up/ Public Input

- Skate Park
 - Dee Chapman from the Skate Park came to tell us that they have a big town meeting next Tuesday 3/24/15 at 7:30pm. Last meeting they had, they had the most turn out for a town meeting ever. She thinks it looks like they might be able to save the skate park. They want to illuminate the parking on the edge of the water, pushing it back 100+ feet. This is inconvenient for senior citizens and those who are not bodily abled. Asked for advice from us. Looking for coverage through *Inklings*. Reece suggested having them get a segment on Good Morning Staples. They also want to cut the trees down. Focus was mostly skatepark when Dee first approached us, but now the issues at Compo are more pertinent and becoming more a part of their mission. They have not heard anything from

Parks & Rec. They want to know how to communicate beyond the skate park.

- Cop Shop May 30, 2015 S.O.S. Stretching out the Stress – 6-7:30pm. Yoga and discussion about how to handle stress.
 - Youth commission needs to demonstrate our presence at activities that we sponsor or help with.
 - Valerie Smith Malen. Indicated that she was involved
- 3-6 inches of snow tomorrow. It's almost the first day of Spring.
- Sweeny Todd
 - Hopefully not cancelled tomorrow because of the snow.

7:45pm – 8:00pm Advocacy Group Report

- a. Peer Education and Awareness
 - a. Cop-Shop March 30, 2015
 - b. Volleyball Tournament May 9, 2015 – How do we approach and make it as good as Dodge-a-Cop
 - i. Want to get the varsity boys, but it would be a CIAC issue.
 - ii. Approach Marty about asking the team can participate if it's in the spirit of charity.
 - iii. Reece offered to discuss participation with the girls' volleyball team
 - c. Go-Table
 - i. Will be ready for the next general meeting
 - ii. Raise an awareness of the commission as an outlet, as well as a place for the youth to come to us with what they would like to see in Westport or problems they feel we could help them with
- b. Town improvements
 - a. Handed out official student discount stickers
 - b. Advertising is illegal on the air for paying things, but if the WYC, as a non-profit, can possibly advertise what we're doing. Through the WWPT program, we could make a PSA with members of the commission, discussing what we do, and then submit it to the Jury awards, which is nationwide recognition.
- c. Student discounts meeting is having difficulty becoming concrete. Could ask Jim Marpe for some help. Targeting Saugatuck and Downtown, specifically.
- d. Crosswalk locations
 - a. Working on getting photos of the three locations and then getting a petition for signatures from the people around the area where the locations are for the crosswalks. Then, bringing the petition to Staples High School kids. Must be a Westport resident to sign a petition. Can get statistics about accidents near the place we are advocating for crosswalks to be implemented.
- e. Will Vester passed out letter he wrote that we can formally submit to whomever we want that explains our rationale about WYC's advocacy for crosswalks.
- f. Talked to State Representative Steinberg about crosswalks, and he was in favor. However, we need the approval from the Department of Transportation for them to be officially implemented.

8:00pm – 8:20pm Collaboration Time Break Out (4 Groups)

- Getting a video of what SafeRides is, raising more awareness. Promotions
- Target middle school audience for Skate Park.
 - Reaching out to the PTA to get more involvement.
- For SafeRides, making it more of a community. Sign ups in advance. Meetings throughout the year.
- For Volleyball, having teasers around the school to incite awareness and excitement. Having 10 teams would be a good goal. Also, important that the officers are very pertinent in the event. Talk to SGVB and Marty, Staples Athletic Director.
- Spike-A-Cop? Possible name?

8:20pm – 8:30pm Advocacy Group Break Out