



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

CLERK OF COMMITTEES

April 30, 2014

REPORT OF THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mary Jo Rossetti	Chair	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Vice Chair	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	

Others present: Nancy Bacci, Jim Halloran, Omar, Stanley Pollack, Beverly Schwartz, Kenneth VanBuskirk

Approval of the Minutes of February 20, 2014

RESULT:

APPROVED

Approval of the Minutes of March 24, 2014

RESULT:

APPROVED

196224 - That the Director of Teen Empowerment update this Board on its annual accomplishments and goals in place.:

Mr. Pollack distributed two documents summarizing Teen Empowerment's goals and program activities and discussed how youths are selected to participate in the development of the activities. Mr. Pollack stated that there is a need for additional resources, noting that if staff were increased, he would expand programming to the junior high school level. Due to reduced resources, the number of youth hires has been reduced from 14 to 10 for this year. Some funding comes from CDBG and some from the state. The mayor has proposed \$100k for the program in next year's Recreation Department budget.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

196726 - That the Superintendent of Recreation and the Youth Programming Coordinator research a plan for open gym and unstructured play in schools in the west, central and east parts of the city.:

Mr. Halloran stated that the Recreation Department will try open gym at Somerville High School for the next few months on Monday and Wednesday nights. The schools are open to the public after 6:00 PM and on weekends. The committee discussed the need for more open space for children to play. Mr. Halloran will prepare a plan for the committee on unstructured play and potential use of the high school.

RESULT:**WORK COMPLETED**

196727 - That the Superintendent of Recreation and the Youth Programming Coordinator share their marketing and outreach plans to promote programs.:

Mr. Halloran spoke about the Recreation Department's use of email, Facebook and flyer distribution (via guidance counselors) to promote programs. The committee discussed ways to determine how individuals learn about the programs being offered and whether activities should be added to the Somerville public schools newsletter.

RESULT:**WORK COMPLETED**

196728 - That the Superintendent of Recreation and the Youth Programming Coordinator share data on the usage of all recreation programs by season for FY13 and FY14.:

The committee discussed the possibility of capturing data on how individuals hear about the various programs. Mr. Halloran explained that programs continue to run if there are 10 or more participants. A hand out was provided listing activities and the number of participants. Alderman Ballantyne noted some inaccuracies in the data provided and requested that a revised breakdown for 2013 and 2014 be provided, including gender, ages and total number of participants for the programs.

RESULT:**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**