

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 2021; 5:00 PM
Via Teleconference and In-person**

YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp8lRBZS_ZdP8IwLPaujsfIH

“To collaboratively support and advocate for positive relationships in an inclusive community”

I. Roll Call	<p>Attendant Members: Mike Rafferty, Chair; Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor; David Plotkin, Community At-Large Member; Jeff Harder, Community At-Large Member, Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation, Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative</p> <p>Absent Student Representative(s): Libby Stuart</p> <p>Attendant Staff: Heather McNeil, Executive Director Angela Gaidry, Commission Clerk</p>
II. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by M. Rafferty Pledge of Allegiance
III. Comments from the Public	No comments.
IV. Approval of Minutes	Motion made by D. Plotkin to approve the minutes of Tuesday, September 7, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Iadarola and approved.
V. Chairman's Comments	<p>M. Rafferty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit to Director H. McNeil and YFS staff for the many great programs • Special thanks to Susan Consoli, Social Services Coordinator for Help Day and wonderful collaboration among other agencies
VI. Director's Report for 10/12/2021	<p>HMcNeil - meeting being recorded</p> <p><u>Fall Programming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSECC One Book One Town (10/16-10/25) • Book about inclusion and acceptance • Goodwin School and local businesses have purchased purple lights to turn OS purple. Book & purple lights for sale @ YFS • Collaboration among the schools, library, and YFS. Book walk - Acton Children's Librarian, Emily Sheehan, reading the book and various activities during the week. Works at OSMS too- possible some overlap • Program coordinator Brittany Eckert on the news (WFSB channel 3) https://www.wfsb.com/news/bright-spot-uniting-a-small-community-through-the-color-purple/article_446d3dca-2d03-11ec-b67a-1b64a7f3232a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share <p><u>New Social Services Assistant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Dean-Frazier working with Susan Consoli. Will schedule to attend future commission meeting <p><u>Fall Programs w/Interns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YFS interns saw L. Castro and D. Plotkin • Participated Oct 1st OSMS Pride Day Celebration (grades 5-6, 7-8 rotation in different station)

- Advisory program: Physical and mental well-being, self-care.
- Collaboration YFS, OSMS, Parks & Rec
- Leah O'Connor – hired as Social Emotional Learning coordinator (SEL 10 mo. position) identifying what services are in-place and gaps for families
- Planning a communication conversation w/teachers & parents re: behavior Multi-tiered systems of support EDr. Peg Donohue (CCSU) & Dr. Kathleen Laundry – November 6 @ 6:30PM and Location TBD
- Series of conversations (in-person & virtual)

After –School Programs

- Currently offering 2 days/wk as opposed to previous 4 days/wk. Hope to increase in the next month or so.
- Coordinating with the library (Grub Hub) and Parks & Rec – trying to find locations for in-person activities to keep the traffic down in the schools

Other Programs

- Recently met with Economic Development (Susie Beckman), Chamber of Commerce (Judy Sullivan), Parks & Rec, Acton Library, The Kate, OS Estuary for the potential of a Family friendly Winter Event (instead of Saybrook Stroll- a lot to coordinate & due to resources & people not as available or as robust as they have been in past years)
- Fundraiser event for positive youth development – based on an event seen at Water Fire in Providence, RI. Star lanterns write a message, hung – beautiful.
- December 3-4: J. Paradis spoke of Parks & Rec tree ornament workshop, lighting of The Kate's Hero Tree, Estuary meet Santa on the Green, storytelling, caroling, etc.
- Acton Library – book reading about different cultures and in different languages. Multi-generational, cultural and inclusive

Staffing

- Very busy. Glad to have the interns w/staff members to help w/programming and being in schools for support.

Other:

- H. McNeil - email to Football Lights Committee re: initial domain name (which YFS had considered a few years ago for a lantern project & then reconsidered it)

Try to be cognizant of the inference of smoking and how to positively reflect all the work on the moratorium and on reducing under-age tobacco use, vaping, etc. With the support of the Superintendent, Chief Spera, etc; asked to respectfully consider potential other domain names, which they have “Old Saybrook Lights” or “Saybrook Lights”(cost approx.. \$400K- money to be raised via fundraising initiatives, Town funds)

- Pasta Dinner October 29 (pre order only) – proceeds Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries and H.E.A.T. foundation for neighbors in need

Budget prep: considering request for additional hours for prevention coordinator, or another position (15-20hrs/wk) for additional infrastructures of support in the school & positive youth development.

YAC on hold due to staffing resources to do successfully.

Chief Spera: commend H.McNeil for her consistent leadership for YFS. Very difficult and strange time to deliver services to other people. Thank you for her dedication, hard work and leadership. M. Rafferty – reiterate thanks and support to H.McNeil from the YFS commission.

	J. Paradis – Parks & Rec Trunk or Treat event. Chief Spera – importance of vetting people for this event.
VII. Old Business	M. Rafferty and Chief Spera- re: ZBA meeting on Oct 4 th re: state law & marijuana. Moratorium approved through 5/31/2022.
VIII. New Business	Action steps and advocacy or report on initiatives by Commission members. Next YFS Commission meeting November 2.
IX. Other Business	Nothing to report.
X. Adjournment	Motion made by Chief M. Spera to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by J. Harder. M. Rafferty adjourns the meeting at 5:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk