

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting September 2nd, 2009

Members Present:

H. Graves, J. Williams
M. Francis

Also Present:

R. Mason, J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by H. Graves

June Minutes: Accepted by the Board as written.

Summer 2009 Recreation Programs: Participation numbers were presented to the Board. Program enrollments were up to 611, which is 85 more than in 2008. J. Wysor reported on a good summer with no significant problems. He received positive comments from parents and noted that the summer staff did a great job. The reason for the large increase in participation was unknown, but may be due in part to the tougher economic times.

Program totals 2009:

Total: 611 - Swimming Lessons 256, Swim Team 43, Playground 66, Soccer 60, Tennis 49, Trips 137
(Totals Year 2008 – 526, 2007 - 418, 2006 - 424, 2005 - 447, 2004 - 396).

The Board discussed the success of weekly visits to Kid's Kingdom by the playground sites. Positive comments were received from parents regarding the activity and it was a nice addition to the traditional playground setting. J. Wysor stated that the playgrounds also attended Kurt Beyer pool several times. The playground sites additionally received weekly visits from the Cooperative Extension for environmental youth programming.

Summer Trips: Summer trips were sponsored by the R. C. Smith Foundation with a grant of \$1,200.00. Destinations included the Colgate University Visualization Lab and Planetarium, Stone Quarry Hill Art Park in Cazenovia, Steamtown National Park in Scranton and the Museum of Science & Technology & Bristol IMAX Omni Theater in Syracuse. Trips were enjoyed by the youth and their chaperones. The "MOST" trip was at the end of the season and funding was running short. A \$3 charge per person was charged to help with transportation costs. There were no objections to the charge. Some discussion followed regarding charges for activities, where at times it may be acceptable, with arrangements for scholarships when appropriate. R. Mason noted that charges could not be made involving any programs supported in part by N.Y.S.O.C.F.S. funding.

Winter Programming: J. Wysor indicated he would start working on winter program schedules next week and hoped to have plans in place in October. Exact programming types were not discussed. With the success of the summer activity at Kid's Kingdom, R. Mason indicated he would check into winter possibilities.

Summer Program Monitoring: R. Mason thanked the Board for their involvement in visiting summer activities and completing evaluations. Eight were received along with parent evaluations and program reports completed by the instructors. Evaluations are required by the State Office of Children & Family Services and assist in identifying where improvements can be made.

Safe Summer Fun Day: Held June 19th at Kurt Beyer pool along with other Youth organizations. R. Mason assisted the youth in making 80 "pet chickens" as a craft activity. The chickens were "very" popular with the children. Summer programs and trips were also promoted during the event. R. Mason said he was unassisted for the event, which turned out to be an error on his behalf. Help will be needed for the annual event in 2010.

Summer Program Supplies: Funding for summer equipment and supplies became available through a one time grant of \$900 from the R.C. Smith Foundation. An additional \$319 was unexpectedly received

from a class action settlement not initiated by the Youth Bureau. Needed equipment and supplies were purchased and playground items destroyed in the flooding of 2006 were replaced.

The meeting as adjourned at 7:27pm.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Wed. Oct. 7th, 2009 7:00pm.