

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION
September 17, 2013

At a regular meeting of the Orange County Youth Commission held on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Office on Youth, 146 Madison Road, Orange, VA 22960. Present: Shirley Irving, Ann Riordan, Barry Pendleton, Catrina Ellinger, Donna Merryman, and Alisha Vines.

Mrs. Irving called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the above noted members present. Minutes from the March and May were presented. A motion was made to approve was made by Mrs. Irving, second by Mrs. Riordan. All were in favor.

Discussion of current projects and programs:

Michael's Gift

Mrs. Vines informed the Commission that Michael's Gift funds are getting low and near the limit of having to freeze payments until funding level increases. The Michael's Gift committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss fundraising options. The Commission will be informed of any changes or issues.

School Age Child Care

Enrollment at both the Gordon Barbour and Orange Elementary sites was up during the summer. Both sites had lots of activities planned for the children during the summer months. Now that school has started, enrollment seems to be up from last year at both sites as well.

Mrs. Vines informed the commission members that the interest for re-establishing our school age child care site in Locust Grove was enough to go ahead with the program. The site opened the first day of school, September 3rd. The budget will be monitored closely and recruitment efforts will be completed during the year.

2013 School Supply Drive and Donations

This year the Office on Youth was able to help 258 children with school supply donations. This was an increase from 2012 which helped 231. In addition, the Lake of the Woods Church was a major contributor to the supply drive, bringing their donations to the office which was much needed. The Office on Youth will be partnering with the church, and Pastor Savage, next year to hopefully increase our outreach. A discussion was held on the distribution process.

Youth Council

Mrs. Vines provided the Commission members with an update on the Youth Council. Immediately prior to the Commission meeting, the returning Youth Council members held their first meeting of the year. Officers were elected and projects for the year were discussed. One major event is a possible trip with the group to New York City in the spring. More information will follow.

Old Business

The Independence Day Celebration was made possible by collaboration between the Office on Youth, Parks and Recreation, and Tourism. The event seemed to be a success and received positive comments. The crowd grew as the afternoon went on and everyone seemed to have a great time. The three offices have already critiqued the event and are making plans for the event in 2014. A brief discussion followed.

Mrs. Vines informed the Commission that the new Orange County website officially launched at the end of May. A discussion of the website followed.

New Business

Mrs. Vines informed the Commission members that the County has launched their new financial software program, Munis. Training was provided and the system will be more user-friendly once everyone becomes familiar with it. A brief discussion followed.

A new funding opportunity is available called the Innovators for Success Initiative. Mrs. Vines discussed how this program was a grant from our local DSS and helped pay for the original Strengthening Families Program in the spring that ran simultaneously with the new grant program. The funds were not completely utilized and so several programs will be utilized in the fall and spring to assist the parents and youth in our community. More information will follow once the programs are set. Ideas include Thinking for a Change with a parent component, parenting classes, etc.

Mrs. Vines asked the Commission members what they would like to see the Office on Youth participate in for FY2014. A discussion followed. Human trafficking remains on the radar as more attention is being placed on it nationally. The OYO staff will begin to look into our options on this topic.

The annual By-law review was held a several changes were suggested. The changes will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Membership

A discussion was held on the open member positions of the Commission. Currently two At-large positions are open with a possible third opening soon due to Ms. Grasty moving out of the county.

The annual election of officers was also held for the FY2014. Mr. Pendleton made a motion that the officers remain as they are, second by Mrs. Riordan. All were in favor. Mrs. Irving will remain the Chairperson and Mrs. Ellinger will remain the Vice-Chairperson.

Closed Session - Not needed at this time

The next meeting of the Youth Commission will be Tuesday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Office on Youth. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted 10/09/13

Alisha Vines