



June Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, June 6, 2016 at the
The Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Julia Brilla, Nancy Chiero, Heather Clinger, Kaye Davis, Jack Eisenmann, Mark Fazzolari, Tom Gallo, Jim Garstang, Justine Griffin, Steve Giudice, Kristen Guida, Sarah Lamb, Morgan Maccione, Chris Palmieri, Joshua Rinas, Josie Rogala, Trever Rogers, Sue Saucier, Denise Sicotte, and Rachel Wache.

Staff Attendance: Meredith Fenwick, Joe Foster, Kelly Leppard.

Honorary Attendance: John Myers.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Jim Garstang, at 4:30 p.m.

STEPS Moment of the Month: Sarah Lamb presented the Moment of the Month. Sarah said that as she was walking the Relay for Life this past weekend, it hit her that this was her last Relay for Life and her last STEPS Advisory Board Meeting. She said that the last four years truly went by in a flash and she will be sad to not be a part of the day to day aspect of STEPS, but she will always take STEPS wherever she goes. Sarah said that STEPS helped take an incredibly shy girl, who was nervous talking in front of anyone, to a place where she gained enough confidence to speak in front of the Town Council. She said that STEPS has taught her that when a group of people get together and try to make positive change, they can. She thanked the board members and said it has been an honor and pleasure to be part of this with all of you.

President Remarks: Jim Garstang welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Plaques for Service: Jim said an important part of this meeting is honoring those board members who are moving on to greater things. He said that unfortunately, Mr. Fortunato will not be here, he isn't feeling well but we want to think about how much he has contributed and helped over the course of his time with STEPS.

Jim said that Sue Saucier has finished her terms on the STEPS Advisory Board, as she will be retiring from Southington Youth Services this September. Sue is a founding member of the STEPS movement, Project Director of our DFC grant, a strong advocate in the community and has spent countless hours helping youth in town. He said that everyone wants to extend our thanks to her for all that she has done. Sue will always have a seat on the board as an honorary member.

Jim said that our three young members, who are also moving onto greener pastures – Trever, Sarah and Justine, have been part of the youth council, Relay for Life, as well as having spearheaded the passing of

two town ordinances regarding alcohol/tobacco products in town. Jim said there aren't a lot of kids who can say in Southington that they have helped as much as they have to make positive change in this town.

Jim said that Kaye Davis is finishing three years with us – she has been the representative for United Way of Southington. He said that whether it was handing out cards to high school seniors at 6am or helping out at the Drive-In, Kaye was always there and we really appreciated her efforts.

Jim said that Nancy Chiero has been a part of STEPS for 6 years as an education sector representative. He said it seems that Nancy has been involved in just about everything that goes on in this town but he thinks her work with the Technical Advisory Committee is very important. Jim thanked Nancy for all that she has done to promote STEPS and the youth in Southington.

Nancy said that she got an email from Mike Fasulo who said he was looking for some kids to run the Drive-In concession stand this year to make milkshakes and to ask if she knew of anyone. She did and contacted them to ask if they'd be interested. She said that they did it for the first time this weekend and it was phenomenal. Three kids are now running the stand and are doing an amazing job. Nancy said that she thinks that this is a great way to show that our community values the youth in our town.

Jim said that he'd also like to recognize the coalition intern, Joe Foster. Jim said that we really appreciate the effort and work that he's done on the prom campaign, especially since it was not for college credit but done out of the goodness of his heart and for experience. Jim said that Kelly and Meredith said he was one of the best interns we have had.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Advisory Board Secretary, Chris Palmieri, presented the April 2016 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Tom Gallo. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, reported that there is currently a balance of \$17,789.92 in the STEPS Donation account. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Sue Saucier and seconded by Heather Clinger. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2016/2017 STEPS Advisory Board Slate: Jim Garstang presented the 2016/2017 STEPS Advisory Board nomination slate. Kelly thanked board members for submitting nominations and the Executive Committee made the slate for the board to approve. A motion to approve the slate was made by Chris Palmieri and seconded by Josie Rogala. The motion passed unanimously. New members will start in September.

Staff Report:

Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, reported on the following:

1. Meredith asked board members to submit or log any volunteer hours on our website as soon as possible. Sue Saucier said that board members should make sure to track hours throughout the summer also for this fiscal year, including the Drive-In.

Kelly Leppard, Youth Prevention Coordinator, reported on the following:

1. Kelly thanked everyone for a great year. She said that she and Meredith everyone and they make their jobs really fun. She said that they wish the student representatives the best of luck in college

next year and they should be sure to stop by and visit on their breaks. She said that she has become great friends with all of the retiring board members and hopes they will all keep in touch. She said congratulations to Sue Saucier on her retirement and thanked Sue for all of the work she has done to make STEPS' grant possible. Kelly said that Jim Garstang was a great President this year and she appreciated his leadership.

2. Kelly said that this year the Drive-in will be on Saturday, August 27th and the movie is Zootopia. She said that STEPS will need 20 volunteers to help out that night as well as more for cleanup the next morning. She said that Meredith has sent out the Signup Genius and she will send it again during the summer.
3. Kelly said that 564 students participated in the 5th grade asset days at Camp Sloper. She said that the days were successful and we received great feedback from the student evaluations. She and the 5th Grade Committee members look forward to doing the training again next year.
4. Kelly said that 590 students participated in the 8th grade transition day for the second year at Camp Sloper. She said that this day is still a work in progress and said that Chris Palmieri and Steve Nyerick have volunteered to be chairs of this training next year.
5. Kelly said that there is a great plan in the works for convocation this year which is on Monday, August 29th. She said Meredith is finalizing the new calendar, which will be handed out. She said that they will need help with handing materials out that morning and asked board members to be on the lookout for an email this summer with that request.
6. Kelly said that Camp Sloper will be adding an 'Asset of the Day' at camp this year. She said that they are very excited to see how this works out at camp and is sure it will be a great success.
7. Kelly said that last month, 10 board members met with the marketing company for a focus group regarding the survey results. Kelly thanked those board members for participating and will get back to the group with updates over the summer.

Sector Reports:

Youth Committee:

Trever Rogers, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Trever reported that Relay for Life was this past weekend and this is his and Sarah's last year running the team – they raised just about \$3,000 this year. He said that Morgan Maccione will be taking over next year. He said that he has already promised to help Morgan and he is now working with Relay for Life and their ACS that helps get legislation regarding cancer research passed in the state. He said that it is not too late to make donations.
2. Trever said that he is excited for college and these new things he will be a part of but it is bittersweet to leave. He said that he remembers his first board meeting and that was Mr. Hart's last board meeting. He said that at the meeting, Mr. Hart said that although he was sad to be leaving, he was glad that new blood was coming in. Trever said he feels the same way now.

Morgan Maccione, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Morgan reported that this past month, the Youth Council created an anti-e-cigarette campaign in which they created posters and posted them throughout the middle schools and high school. The posters warned of the dangerous chemicals found in e-cigs. The idea was similar to that of the "84" campaign done last year that told high school and middle school kids that 84% of students in Southington do not drink.

Be in the Know Committee:

Heather Clinger, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Heather thanked everyone that came and supported the Be in the Know series this past year. There were four informational workshops in total. Heather also thanked everyone who presented and she is looking forward to continuing the series in the fall.

Asset Building Classrooms Committee:

Denise Sicotte, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Denise said that the Asset Building Classrooms training was held on May 19th and the students who attended were in 4th grade, middle school and the high school, including representatives from ALTA. She said that this year, it was held at DePaolo Middle School which was a change from previous years. She said we had great feedback and parent participation from the day. Denise said that one of her favorite parts was where there was an opportunity to share ideas for projects the teams will do next year. The committee changed the Assets of the Month for the next year and they look forward to another great year.

Law Enforcement Committee:

Officer Tom Gallo, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Officer Gallo reported that the SHS Senior Prom was two weeks ago and there were several students found in possession of alcohol or intoxicated. He said that one arrest was made for intoxication and another for marijuana possession. He said that STEPS funds officer overtime that weekend and part of that overtime is for party patrols at hotels. He said that officers visited hotels and at one hotel, the clerk realized that he had rented a room to kids that were underage. He refund the money and refused to rent the room to the kids.
2. Tom said that he will be posting articles about the CT Social Host Law this week because this Friday is graduation.
3. Jim asked if anyone had seen the article about a new problem coming up in Colorado. He said that according to the article, people are coming into the state, buying house, gutting them and creating grow houses in neighborhoods. He said that according to the article, there are hundreds of houses where they grow the plants then ship the product to Mexico. Jim said that he thinks the initiatives we are doing here in CT, such as talking to legislators, is helping our state be proactive.

New Business: none.

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. at the YMCA Administration Building.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fenwick