

Youth Initiative Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2006, Greenwich Town Hall

Representatives attending were:

Boys & Girls Club - Donald Palmer, Bob DeAngelo, Donald McKenzie
Community Centers Inc. - Jody Raso
Greenwich Chamber of Commerce - Mary Ann Morrison, David Rabin
Greenwich Parks & Recreation - Frank Gabriele
Greenwich Police Department – Capt. Ridberg, Lt. Honulik, NRO Zuccerella
United Way of Greenwich - Jenny Byxbee

Not Available:

Teen Center - Kyle Silver
Board of Education - Kim Eves

Captain Ridberg announced the intention of the Greenwich Police Department to find alternatives for teenagers, primarily 13 to 16 years old, hanging out on Greenwich Avenue. The problem is defined as the perception that youths are running rampant on the Avenue. There is a small criminal element that does hang out on the Avenue and have been involved in larcenies, robberies and drug activity but this is not widespread. The problems are more quality of life issues such as disorderly conduct, excessive noise and the like.

NRO Zuccerella gave a brief overview of the GPD Youth Initiative which included an analysis of calls for service, the busiest time and dates and what the Department has done so far in trying to solve the problem, i.e., surveillance, extra patrols and youth survey being distributed in the schools.

Captain Ridberg asked if the people at the table agreed that this was a problem. All agreed that having alternatives for teens, other than just unsupervised hanging out, was important. Mary Ann Morrison indicated that this problem had not been raised by many of the Chamber of Commerce members.

The following strategies for offering alternative recreational options for teens were discussed:

General Discussion

Expanding Teen Center hours during the summer. Chief Walters (who was an observer at the meeting) said that he would bring it up to the Teen Center Board.

United Way of Greenwich

Utilizing a youth services website
Using a youth advisory board

Parks and Recreation

Make Roger Sherman Baldwin Park available for activities such as movies, basketball games, or concerts assuming potential hurdles could be overcome, e.g., resident complaints, lighting.

Boys and Girls Club

Midnight basketball (Saturday nights beginning in April) and expansion of other programs during Spring Break

Chamber of Commerce

David Rabin recommended contacting the Greenwich Coalition to Combat Underage Drinking to solicit input from teens

Community Centers, Inc.

Liaison with town housing and under-privileged teens

Greenwich Police Department

Will increase target area patrols through June
Will support other agencies' programs with police presence

Next Steps

Boys and Girls Club personnel will coordinate with NRO Zuccerella for Spring Break program. Greenwich Police Department will have expanded presence on Greenwich Avenue during Spring Break week and will assess and analyze calls for service.

Captain Ridberg will contact representatives after reviewing calls-for-service during Spring Break.