

Ridgefield Youth Commission
Minutes
May 4, 2011

Present: Denise Qualey, Ruth Leibowitz, John Katz, Frank Wrzechowski, Connie Johnson, Jeff Bonistalli, Leslie Brown, John Lionetti, Mark Giglio, Hugh Lasberg, Will Masters, Lauren Gotimer, Linda Caponetti, Scott Nuechterlein, Marcia Sloat, Sue Bene, safe rides staff Rachel and Bobby, Maria Markus Sean Sulli, Ellie Coleman

Approve Minutes

Video

*Jeff showed the new Barn video that debuted at the Yes2Youth fund raiser in November

Safe Rides

*Safe Rides presentation: Outgoing director of Safe Rides, Sue Bene and two RHS students, Rachel and Bobby updated the group on the activities and procedures of the Safe Rides program.

We agreed to connect with the new team of parents starting in September to have a representative from the commission and safe rides boards attend each other's meetings during the school year.

Safe Rides has been a program in Ridgefield for 20 plus years. The mission of Safe Rides is the prevention of drinking and driving. The program is implemented by a team of junior and senior boys and girls that are trained to safely respond to calls from students needing a safe ride home. To be a member of the team there is an application process and they are selected by the executive board.

They cover about 5-6 weekends per year during the hours of 9:30pm to 2:00am - They work out of St. Stevens church and they are always two parents available on site for guidance and support.

*The program is funded mainly by a yearly pancake breakfast fund raiser put on by St. Stevens Church.

* Some of the basic rules of the program are: drivers cannot leave Ridgefield, no alcohol in the car, and they must see the student enter the house but cannot get out of the car. They do document the calls but all information is confidential.

Ridgefield Remembers

The commission voted to contribute \$500. 00 to the Second Annual Ridgefield Remembers Event on June 5, 2011 at the Boys & Girls Club 1 to 4pm - please spread the word

Youth Commission Email Address

We have had some activity on our email address - Scott has volunteered to check it regularly so we can be sure to respond to any inquiries emailed to the commission.

New Business

*Ruth is looking into some options on how to save the Inside Out Players program

*Connie Johnson is stepping down from the commission at the end of her term this June due to new demands with going back to school and the busy family time getting her son off to college. We thank her for her years of service and she is not ruling out coming back when things slow down. Best of luck Connie!

*Denise will be representing the commission at a meeting at the Leir Retreat Center for the Ridgefield Community Coalition against Substance Abuse

Old Business

We are still developing a time line for the Barn renovation. The contractor we are working with has been dealing with a serious medical issue and we should know more soon about next steps.

Ruth will be leading the June meeting - Denise is unable to attend

Next Meeting June 1, 2011 - Remember no meetings in July and August