

Ridgefield Youth Commission
Minutes
March 4, 2009

Present:

Scott Nuechterlein, Kelly Orzechowski, Frank Orzechowski,
John Katz, Mark Giglio, Lisa Perry, Stephanie Cinque McInerney,
Linda Caponetti, Connie Johnson, Denise Qualey, John Lionetti

Minutes:

Welcome to Detective Mark Giglio, our new Youth Officer.
Congratulations to Shawn Platt for his promotion at the
Ridgefield Police Department.

There was a group discussion about the numerous alcohol and drug related incidents involving kids in the police blotter recently. This sparked a lively discussion about unsupervised house parties and underage drinking and the dangerous situations that have arisen when the police arrive at one of these parties. The police want the message to kids to be they are greatly concerned about young people are putting themselves in danger to escape being caught. By jumping out windows, climbing on the roof, speeding away in cars all to evade police people have been hurt. Detective Giglio stated the only one that is arrested in most these situations is the young person that lives at the home - the other kid's parents will be called and they will be sent home. This is all in an effort to keep people safe. Several commission members felt that it is inevitable that kids will try to avoid any trouble and run and that this has been a pattern for years.

We also discussed the value and role of the safe rides program. Scott has a daughter that works for safe rides and will see if he can get a representative to speak at a future commission meeting.

Barn Report

- *Open microphone night was a fun and successful night -
- *Rock House happening on March 13th
- *Wonderful front page article in the Ridgefield Press on changes at the Barn
- *New couches were donated and they are great
- *Still looking for a new pool table
- *Remember the Barn may be rented out for Birthday Parties!
Check with Linda for details

TeenTalk News

Lisa is working with the Substance Abuse Council on a Leadership Conference happening in April - high school students will be working with middle school students - Great Youth to Youth speaker will be the keynote. Students are learning about it through the morning announcements

Next Meeting April 1,2009