

Oak Park Township
Youth Service Committee
May Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: John Williams, Danielle Valdes, Jim Fitch, Pat Bowman, Ann Pepper, Tom Bilyk, Valerie Werner, Bob Giles, George Bailey.

Meeting called to order at 6:53 by chair.

Motion to accept minutes by Bob Giles, Pat seconds- pass unanimously.

No liaison reports given as the Townships are in the process of appointing new liaisons.

Director's Report:

All contracts went through and are approved for the recommended amounts. Contract letters are being revised for this fiscal year and will go out shortly.

The audit also went through without any problems.

April saw lots of fights with the youth. They were fighting and recording on cell phones and posting to the internet, causing the fighting to perpetuate. The library had seen an increase in this type of activity and had approached John about it. He attended their board meeting and the interventionists have been visiting the library regularly.

There was also a safety meeting organized by the Oak Park Park District (these meeting usually take place in the spring & fall) to address concerns as the weather is changing. They called together the school districts, youth services, the library, and the park district.

The high school has a new head of security which means the school is going through some changes/adjustments.

John in conjunction with Rotary is planning and organizing a conference to take place at the end of the month. Mentoring for Peace will have different speakers and breakout sessions for 3 days around youth mentoring and violence prevention issues.

Tuesday (the 9th) a speaker is coming to seniors for an event for parents in the community on how to deal with their teens regarding drug issues. This speaker has done events at the library in the past and has had good feedback from parents on how helpful it is.

Concordia received their Cacrep accreditation in Community Counseling.

John met with about 20 parents on Sunday and had conversation about youth drug issues. It seemed to have gone well.

He also attended a men's group meeting with Stephen and George which he is curious to see how that will progress as it seemed like it needed a more clear direction.

John was a speaker last week at a conference that went very well.

Face It is doing well and is getting ready to wrap up for the summer.

TIME is also doing well.

Reena is doing great and is a valuable resource to the interventionists; she has more time freed up as well which is good news for the team.

Stephen and Rob are working on a mentoring program for the summer which would take place at a barber shop and give a safe space for youth to talk and meet up. The details are still being fine-tuned; however the plan is looking good so far.

Motion to Adjourn by Jim at 8:09.