



Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

Tuesday, March 1, 2010 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Northfield Community Resource Center

Members Present: Curt Benson, Kathy Cooper, Joan Janusz, Judi Malecha, Kris Matson, Mary Nelson, Susan Sanderson, Kris Vohs

Members Absent: Patty Gallivan

Guests: Bette Benson, Jon Denison, Galen Malecha, Zach Pruitt (staff support), Jordan Taylor

Members were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves.

Motion by Kathy Cooper to approve the minutes from the December 2009 meeting and the January 2010 retreat. Seconded by Mary. Motion approved.

Curt shared articles with the group from St. Olaf College's Manitou Messenger (student newspaper). The articles detailed issues of binge drinking among St. Olaf students and the impact that this is having on the students, the college, and the wider Northfield community. Of particular concern was the number of emergency room visits by students for alcohol-related issues and how on at least one instance, this reportedly prevented someone injured in a traffic crash from being able to be seen at the hospital.

Zach shared information about work that the St. Olaf has done around this topic. There has been interest among the Dean of Students Office in potentially hosting a town hall meeting on the topic with St. Olaf representatives, students, neighbors, and law enforcement. The Task Force expressed interest in partnering with St. Olaf on this effort. Susan, Curt, and Kathy volunteered to serve as liaisons.

Galen Malecha answered questions from the group about college parties that are hosted at the local Eagles Club, where he is the manager. College students can rent the Eagles and other local facilities for dance parties. He explained efforts that the club uses to prevent the sale/consumption of alcohol by minors. Task Force members asked questions and raised concern about the amounts students drank before and/or after coming to the club, as well as how students got to and from such events.

2010 Action Plans

The Task Force reviewed the 2010 action plans that the various work groups have developed. See handout. Suggestions on modifications were made. Zach agreed to update the work plans and send them out to the Task Force for additional comments.

2010 Budget Revision

The group reviewed the Task Force's 2010 budget, which was approved in August 2010. Based on the updated work plan and the acknowledgment that City finances are especially tight this year, the Task Force reduced its budget by 10% to \$15,750. See attached handout.

Motion by Kathy Cooper to approved the revised 2010 budget. Seconded by Mary. Motion approved.

Zach will update the budget and send it to the full Task Force.

Presentation to the City Council

The Task Force plans to do a presentation to the City Council on its 2010 efforts, as well as the revised budget. Zach will contact Joel Walinski about setting this presentation up. Joan and Susan are willing to do the presentation.

Other Items

- Joan noted that the Task Force expressed interest in having Dr. Charles Reznikoff come to an upcoming meeting to talk about his work at the Northfield Hospital's Opiate Agonist Therapy Clinic. Zach will talk with Dr. Reznikoff and work to set this up for an upcoming meeting.
- Curt and Kathy said that they plan to meet with Chuck Walerius (Deputy Chief of Police, Northfield Police Department) to discuss the recent articles in the St. Olaf College *Manitou Messenger* regarding large number of emergency room admissions for alcohol toxicity, especially regarding age 18 plus parties held at the Grand, Northfield Ballroom, and Eagle's Club. Kris Vohs and Mary also expressed interest in being part of this conversation.
- All City of Northfield Boards and Commissions are required to send two representatives to a training on March 23 on open meeting law, data practices, and meeting protocol. Joan and Kris Matson offered to attend on behalf of the Task Force.

Meeting adjourned. *Respectfully submitted by Zach Pruitt*