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November 13, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON YOUTH SERVICES

The Committee on Youth Services held a meeting on November 13, 2008, with Chairman John Connolly presiding and Committee Member Alderman Bruce Desmond also present and voting. Also present were Jackie Rossetti from the Mayor's Office, Nancy Bacci from the Youth Department and Corey Mashburn from SCAP.

Ms. Rossetti discussed the foreign exchange student program and the upcoming trip to Italy in April 2009 and informed the committee that the Youth Department has been working with peer groups from other cities.

Ms. Bacci discussed recent Youth Department programs including an upcoming baby-sitting class that will be held in the newly renovated recreation building basement. She also spoke of the Teen Empowerment open microphone night being held this evening. Also discussed were recent free health examinations and vaccinations that were given to immigrants. Ms. Bacci also noted that the Youth Department has established a girls group to deal with concerns of female teens such as violence and depression.

Alderman Connolly inquired as to the status of the proposed skate board park. Ms. Bacci gave an overview of the planning process, possible locations for the park and possible sizes for the park. She also discussed other skate board parks in the area where youth can skate for the time being.

Alderman Desmond asked what liability the city will have if injuries occur at a city skate board park. Ms. Bacci stated she believes the liability would be the same as any other park.

Corey Mashburn of SCAP discussed the upcoming programs to curb youth alcohol consumption. Mr. Mashburn stated that there has been a rise in reports of bullying among youth which can lead to depression and drug use. He also informed the committee of the SCAP newsletter. Alderman Desmond suggested that it might be beneficial if a program were developed to directly deal with the problems associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

Alderman Connolly inquired about the youth job program in the city. Ms. Bacci stated that the economy has had a negative impact on the number of youth jobs available.

Alderman Desmond asked if IKEA would be hiring Somerville's youth. Ms. Rossetti stated that there is a plan in place to give Somerville residents priority with hiring at IKEA.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman John Connolly, Chairman
Committee on Youth Services

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Youth Services,
November 13, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk