

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Committee Report as APPROVED by the Board of Aldermen. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure that this is the Committee Report that was presented at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, you should check the Minutes of that meeting in order to confirm its approval, rejection or amendment. Do not rely on the accuracy of this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

September 9, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON YOUTH SERVICES

The Committee on Youth Services held a meeting on September 9, 2008, with Chairman John Connolly presiding and Committee Member Aldermen Bruce Desmond also present and voting. Also present were Jackie Rossetti from the Communications Department, Nancy Bacci from the Youth Department, Ellen Schneider from OSPD, Beth Beaverson from CHA Somerville Teen Connection, Julie Kahn-Schaye of Dating Violence Intervention, Patty Contente from the Health Department, Adam Rich of Save Our Somerville, Amanda Holm of Teen Empowerment, Danny McLaughlin of Save Our Somerville and Teen Empowerment, Jim Halloran of the Recreation Department, representatives from the Youth Council and the Teen Empowerment Program and interested members of the public.

Patty Contente discussed the problem of suicide and shootings in Somerville. She also discussed help being provided to the students of the East Somerville School to help deal with recent losses.

Ms. Bacci said that the city employed 105 youth during the Summer. Some private sector jobs were continued beyond the Summer which proves that the program was a success.

Mr. Halloran stated that the Recreation Department employed 40 youth over the Summer. There were also several athletic camps and Summer athletic leagues.

Ms. Rossetti stated that the SunSetters performed 8 weeks for 4 nights per week. There is a new director who is trying to recruit older teens to participate.

Danny McLaughlin discussed a hockey tournament fundraiser which was very successful. He also discussed upcoming events featuring sporting events and art.

Amanda Holm of Teen Empowerment discussed a successful open mike event as well as the upcoming interviewing process for job openings in her organization.

Ellen Schneider of OSPCD discussed the renovation of 8 parks in the city. She also spoke about the interest in a possible skate park and the fact that neighborhood involvement will be an important part in the decision making.

Beth Beaverson discussed counseling available for teens regarding reproductive issues.

Julie Kahn stated that she has been working on a dating bill of rights to inform teens abusive relationships. She also discussed a recent grant from the Somerville Health Department which will be used to teach middle school children about abusive relationships.

Adam Rich from Save Our Somerville spoke about the ongoing meetings in support of a skateboard park.

Chairman Connolly's motion **that SPCD form a review committee to discuss potential sites for a skate board park in the city**, was approved.

Chairman Connolly applauded the youth representatives on their presentations and urged them to stay involved and to keep the committee informed of their needs.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman John Connolly, Chairman
Committee on Youth Services

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Youth Services,
September 9, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk