

Ridgefield Youth Commission  
Minutes  
May 6, 2009

**Present:**

Samantha Nuechterlein, Kelly Orzechowski, Frank Orzechowski, John Katz, Lisa Perry, Linda Caponetti, Denise Qualey, John Lionetti, Sean Sulli, Alex Nelson, Jonathon Pryzby, Erica Pack, Tom Bruno, Philip Drogalis

**Minutes:**

**School Updates**

A group discussion was had on how to start a club at RHS - several students will be looking into starting a Barn Club for next year with a focus on community service - they will be looking for a faculty advisor

Lisa Perry updated the group about the successful Youth to Youth Conference - the leadership conference involved 130 middle school and high school students working together

Lisa asked for suggestions from the students on helpful tips she could share with anxious 8<sup>th</sup> graders moving up to the high school next year -

**Some suggestions**

- find a friend to share a locker that may be in a more convenient spot in the building
- reduce the amount of binders to carry by using a 5 subject spiral notebook
- join something, a club, sport or theater/arts program
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter teachers tend to give you a break

## **Barn Update**

The barn will be hosting a Halo Tournament (video game) Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> - there will be prizes

Linda has decided to lock up paint and if someone is interested in painting on the walls they will need to present a plan in advance- A process will be created for those that would like to hang things in the Barn - Staff will also look into hanging a bulletin board for members to use

The Youth Commission has purchased free standing fencing to provide privacy and a screen between the Community Center and the Barn - John Katz stated we may need a permit - the fencing is white lattice with planter's at the bottom for ivy to crawl up and will be able to be moved against the building during the winter months- delivery will be in 3-4 weeks

Barn members discussed the recent concerns with vandalism and in appropriate behavior some kids have been involved in lately while visiting the Barn - the feeling from the group these students are not regulars and are not being respectful of the environment and rules about no smoking - Kids have attempted to approach them but Linda will spend more time in the arrears these kids tend to hang out-

We will also talk with the Youth Officer about if there could be more patrolling of the area during open and closed hours at the Barn

Linda will post the Barn rules for all to see

Linda and Denise will be exploring ways to upgrade the bathroom that is disrepair -

**Youth Services**

Lisa Kuller and Doug Bareille (new counselor) will be attending next months meeting

**Safe Rides**

Safe Rides will be open until 3am the night of the Junior Prom  
Samantha encouraged those students that would be juniors to consider joining Safe Rides next year and if they want an application to see her

No meetings in July or August  
Next Meeting September 2, 2009