

January 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Facilitators Denise Clemence, Richard Whitney and Monique Manna

Introduction to Group / Purpose

Group leader Dick Whitney asked that all in attendance formally introduce themselves and be sure to sign in on our attendance sheet.

Guest Speaker

- **Sgt. Jose Dingui – Southbridge Police Department**
 - Sgt. Dingui is the Program Director for the Cops N Kids Program he introduced those who attended the group to the Cops N Kids Program and what the program is about.
 - Program started 15 years ago under the direction of Officer Jesus Rosa
 - Program started off with a few kids attending, over the years the program has increased in size with 100 Children attending the weekly/summer program
 - Program focuses on children between 10 years old – 15 years old
 - Teachers were brought in to help children with tutoring
 - Field Trips offered to children
 - Summer program 3x per week from 7AM – 1PM
 - Children are kept very busy during these hours and are less likely to be on the streets at night
 - Summertime is peak for Juvenile Delinquency
 - Interacts with Project Bread – between 60 – 100 Children are provided two meals while at this program, breakfast & lunch
 - Project bread at one time provided grants for athletic equipment & educational learning tools for children
 - College students that were part of the program when they were youths are employed during the summer
 - State grant money supported this program through 2009
 - No state grant money available
 - Without state funding program will not run for 2010

Fundraiser for Cops and Kids program details

Fundraiser is planned for April 9th 6:30PM at the Cannery (12 Crane Street)

- Texas Hold 'Em with that 1920's Flare
- Seeking donation items to raffle off:
 - Suzy Geers – Signed Guitar by "Alice & Chains" is being donated for a raffle to help in this effort
 - Will look into seeing if any local Jazz bands would want to join in on this effort by donating their time
 - Jail & Bail (or Keep in Jail) – Sgt. Dingui & Town Manager Chris Clark

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- Signup sheet was passed around for volunteers to help in this effort. A Fundraising Meeting will be held – date to be announced to those who are interested in helping.

**Flier has been posted on FaceBook Page & Website with some details on this fundraiser*

Old Business

- Window displays were discussed. There is a new display set up at 320 Main Street from SCHOTT Fiber Optics. Other parties that have committed:
 - AO Sunwear
 - Harrington Hospital
 - JP Manufacturing
 - Gentex (Dudley plant had roots to AO)
 - Carl Zeiss Vision
 - Sean Cormier
 - Southbridge Schools
 - QCC

Other comments:

- Blizzard of '78 Display in planning stages
- Rudy DiGregorio is on board for doing more displays for downtown to commemorate the seasons
- Recycle Window – Will talk with towns Recycling Coordinator Melissa Joyce

Next Meeting Date To Be Announced

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“Beyond The Landfill: The Future of Southbridge”

The Future of Southbridge

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