

Groton Parks & Recreation Department
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Real Choice Systems Change Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2004 - 11:30 a.m.

Committee members present:

Stan Kosloski, Eileen Cicchese, Gary Patterson, Paul Duarte, Mary Hannigan,
Dana Parfitt, and Carrie Czerwinski.

Two new members have joined our committee. Jim Flannigan is currently our grant coordinator and Bob Reuter will be working with the mentoring program.

Meeting got underway at 11:50 a.m.

Members of the committee were up-dated on the following

- ✓ Much of the information on the "Making Real Choices" booklet has been compiled. Jim Flannigan will undertake this aspect of the grant as his main priority so that we are able to get this to the printers as soon as possible. There is a great deal of information compiled, but the information needs to be corrected and fine tuned. Stan Kosloski offered to assist in any way with this project and the two are scheduled to meet in Farmington sometime next week.
- ✓ The Town will again be participating in the Disabilities Mentoring Day with the Board of Education. Each year the third Wednesday in October is set aside for this event. Last year we were fortunate to have a total of 12 students participate which left us with town departments that were not able to get students for the day. Our goal this year is to increase the number of students that are participating in this event, which we hope will become an annual event.
- ✓ The committee was informed about the Inclusion Video that is currently being produced by Shawn Greeley. Mary reported that the video is in progress and that several employees and consumers have already been interviewed. The target date for the completion of this video is mid-October. The purpose of the video is numerous. It will be used as a marketing tool for conferences, a training video for new employees and will be available on the town's public access channel.
- ✓ The committee was reminded that The Second Step would be performing at the Groton Senior Center on Tuesday evening, October 26 at 7 p.m. The play entitled "The Second Step Players: a relevant & irrelevant look at mental illness" is open to

the public. All members of our committee are encouraged to attend this important event.

- ✓ Eileen briefly spoke on the Real Choices Mentoring Program. She introduced Bob Reuter to the committee and spoke very highly of the work that he has done with stroke patients. Eileen indicated that Bob would be working on the Mentoring program with her.
- ✓ It was reported that the first week of programs would be a good time to have the recent needs assessment surveys available at the various program locations including the gyms and pool for parents of children with disabilities to complete. Although the surveys were sent out in the winter Leisure Services guide, the number returned was less than 50. It is the hope of this committee to collect additional 100 surveys from the participants, or parents of the participants in our programs. Once this is done, the information collected will be tallied and reported back to the committee members.
- ✓ The Committee has agreed that they would like to continue to meet twice each month. A notice was emailed to each committee member with the meeting dates for the remainder of the year. Since we are in the final year of this program, it is vital that all members be kept up to date concerning the different aspects of this grant. We will continue to meet the first and third Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Town Hall Annex.
- ✓ Dana Parfitt reported that the Community Collaborative was working on offering an open forum for parents and children concerning Early Childhood Education. The forum is scheduled for October 14 from 5:30 -9:30 p.m. at Fitch Senior High School. The Collaborative is also planning a workshop on September 29 focusing on universal standards for pre-schools and kindergartens. Members of the Grant Committee have been invited to both workshops.
- ✓ Eileen Cicchese invited all committee members to attend a special workshop offered by the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association on Wednesday, September 22 at Bluff Point State Park in Groton beginning at 9 a.m. The session will entitled "Get Inspired - Including People with Disabilities in Outdoor Recreation" will highlight successful inclusive programs and adaptive outdoor recreation such as required for canoeing, cycling and hiking just to name a few. The workshop is open to all members of all Recreation Department's within the State of Connecticut

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Mary T. Hannigan