

Moline Commission on Youth

Thursday, November 15, 2012 - 4:00 pm

Moline Public Library

3210 - 41st Street, Moline

MINUTES

Present: Jan Erikson-Vroman, Elizabeth Finch, Greg Johnson, Greg Masias, Lynne Meeske and Janet Zam.

Greg Johnson, who is temporarily replacing Jim Kopel while he is overseas, was introduced to the Youth Commission.

Guest speakers: Marty Mahieu, Coordinator and some current Natural Helpers from Moline High School Natural Helpers Program, WEB Program Coordinators Danelle Lyon and Kelly Mulcahy of Wilson Middle School and Colby DeBlaey and Amanda Kelly of John Deere Middle School.

The meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Marty Mahieu and current Natural Helper students spoke on behalf of the Natural Helpers program. The Natural **Helper's** program is in its 28th year and is designed to help kids reach out to other kids they can trust and connect with. Natural Helpers are selected by their peers through a once a year anonymous survey where the students pick 2 students that they would feel most comfortable going to talk to if they have an issue or a problem. There are around 50 students that are selected and invited to a weekend retreat held at the Boy Scout Camp in Andalusia, Illinois. They will receive training which includes skills on listening, how to help others, and when to refer the student to another resource. The Natural Helpers are asking for funding to help buy materials and supplies for this training.

Danelle Lyon and Kelly Mulcahy from WEB - Wilson Middle School and Colby DeBlaey and Amanda Kelly - John Deere Middle School introduced themselves and explained the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program. WEB is in its 3rd year as a middle school transition program that welcomes 6th graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Around 60 members of the 8th grade class are trained to act as positive role models and guide the 6th graders to discover what it takes to be successful in middle school. Funding would go toward supplies for training orientation and to fund events hosted by the WEB leaders for the incoming students. This program impacts around 900 kids.

The remaining funds will be distributed at the December 20, 2012 meeting.
The following (8) groups are to be reviewed at the next meeting for funding:
Moline High School Natural Helpers
WEB - Wilson Middle School
WEB - John Deere Middle School
West End COP
Springbrook Courts COP
Crime Stoppers - John Deere Middle School
Crime Stoppers - Wilson Middle School
National Honor Society

A motion to approve the October 18, 2012 minutes was made by Greg Masias and seconded by Jan Erikson-Vroman.

The next meeting will be held on December 20, 2012 at 4 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Elizabeth Finch and seconded by Lynne Meeske. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Zam