



Youth Commission

Wednesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services – 51 High Street, Bristol CT 06010

1. Call to Order

Chair Matthew Gotowala called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Matthew Gotowala, Chair
Richard Kilby, Commissioner
Jonathan Lukasiewicz, Commissioner
Antonio Chatfield, Commissioner
RJ Motel, Commissioner
Alexander Parenti, Commissioner
Donna Osuch, Commissioner
Steven Seymour, City Council Liaison
Stephen Bynum, Youth and Community
Services Supervisor

Absent:

Deborah Ahl, Vice Chair
Ryan Broderick, Commissioner
Cecilia Garay, Commissioner

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes - February 11, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chatfield to approve the February 11, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Osuch; all in favor; motion carried.

4. Supervisor's Reports

a. Supervisor's Report

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Supervisor's Report. Supervisor Bynum provided updates on the number of recent intakes, referrals, and community concerns. Supervisor Bynum welcomed Jeffrey Arduini as the temporary Community Services Coordinator. Community Services Coordinator Arduini is currently assisting 72 active clients with community needs and resources. Discussion followed.

b. Project Aware Updates

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Project Aware Updates. Discussion followed.

c. BEST Update

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the BEST Updates. Supervisor Bynum presented the "Standing in the Gap" fundraiser event hosted by the Salvation Army. Supervisor Bynum asked the commission if they were interested in becoming a sponsor, and announced that Drug Take Back Day would be on April 25, 2026. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Lukasiewicz to be a Bronze Sponsor for the "Standing in the Gap" fundraiser event hosted by the Salvation Army.

Seconded by Commissioner Motel; all in favor; motion carried.

d. Youth Diversion Team

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the updates from the Youth Diversion Team. Discussion followed.

e. Year to Date Financials

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Year-to-Date Financials. Discussion followed.

5. Youth Report

Commissioner Chatfield presented the Youth Report. Commissioner Chatfield presented the impact of the Northeast Middle School Student Council and some of their accomplishments. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Motel stated that the Youth Coalition are starting a Podcast and stated if any Youth Commissioners were interested in being a part it, to reach out to him or BEST.

6. New Business

a. Community Clean-Up Day

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented information on Community Clean Up Day on April 25, 2026. Details will be shared with the public in the upcoming week. Discussion followed.

b. Connecticut Youth Services Association Website - <https://ctyouthservices.org>

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Connecticut Youth Services Association Website as they have just undergone some website changes. Discussion followed.

c. YSB Day at the Capital, Friday, May 1st, 2026

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the information on YSB Day at the Capital on Friday, May 1, 2026. Supervisor Bynum offered the opportunity to any of the Under 21 Commissioners if they wished to attend. Discussion followed.

d. Child Abuse Awareness Week

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum stated that it is Child Abuse Awareness Month. The Youth and Community Services team will be setting up a table at Page Park on April, 14, 2026, and at Rockwell Park on April, 16, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

e. Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards - Voting and Program Discussion

Chair Matthew Gotowala presented the Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards — Voting and Program Discussion. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chatfield to award all the submitted nominees with the Youth and Prevention Leaders Award.

Seconded by Commissioner Motel; all in favor; motion carried.

f. Financial Assistance Program

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Financial Assistance Program. This program is to help families in need of financial assistance that can be put towards summer camp and other departmental programs. The department awarded \$25,000 - \$30,000 in assistance in 2025 and is aiming for the same amount in 2026. Discussion followed.

g. By Commissioners

Nothing to report.

7. Old Business

a. Youth and Community Services Commission - Name Change Update

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Youth and Community Services Commission Name Change Update. The name change has been approved by the Ordinance Committee and will be referred to City Council for final approval.

b. By Commissioners

Nothing to report.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Lukasiewicz to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Chatfield; all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Youth Commission