

# AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021 via Zoom

## **1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests**

**Tricia Dunne**, Vice Chairperson

**Members Present:** Susan McClary, Rose Mary Buscaglia, Dean Carroll, Ariella Yonaty, Josh Daniels  
Jodi Benson, Krista Hanypsiak Krause, Daniella Alba, Siddarth Suresh, Angela Seo  
Nora Robshaw

**Liaison:** Councilmember Jacqui Berger

**Excused:** Mark Forden, Dawn Cwierley, Heather Toscano

**Absent:** Ann Nichols, Priya Chaudhuri, Iris Izydorczak

**Staff Present:** Mary-Diana Pouli, Kathy Mobarak-Miller

**Guests:** Amherst Youth Consortium Member: Tiger Li

## **2. Public Comment/Presentation** None

## **3. Approval of November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

*MM/SC Danielle Alba/Ariella Yonaty to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2021 meeting.*

## **4. Committee Reports:**

### ➤ **Finance**

Dean Carroll reported the following:

- A review of costs for summer camps took place keeping in mind that the Amherst Youth & Recreation Department wants to keep the service affordable for families.
- In the summer of 2021 the cost for a week of elementary summer day camp for 1 child was \$165. Proposed is a \$10 increase per child resulting in a \$175 cost. The cost for a non-resident child was \$230. An increase of \$10 would bring the cost to \$240.
- In the summer of 2021 the cost for a week of middle school summer day camp for 1 youth was \$175. Proposed is a \$10 increase per youth resulting in a \$185 cost.
- Continued would be a discount for a resident family who registers a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> child.
- There will continue to be a scholarship program for resident families with financial needs.

*MM/SC Daniella Alba/Rose Mary Buscaglia to approve the recommendations by the Finance Committee.*

This recommendation will be forwarded to the Amherst Town Board for approval by our liaison, Councilmember Berger.

- Also recommended by the Finance Committee is the consideration of a \$10 increase per child per week in year 2023.

### ➤ **Amherst Youth Consortium**

Josh Daniels reported that he had been to the New Beginnings Food Pantry a lot and all is going well. Building beds for kids living in poverty in the City of Buffalo is coming up.

### ➤ **Family Room**

Mary-Diana reported that the Family Room is having a socially-distanced holiday gathering on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### ➤ **Amherst Task Force for Healthy Community\*Healthy Youth**

Susan McClary reported that the ATF had a \$400 profit from the Election Day chicken barbecue dinner fundraiser.

The Village of Williamsville Mayor and Trustees voted to opt out, at this time, of allowing marijuana retail establishments in the Village.

The next Amherst Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

- **Program Planning & Evaluation** No report

## **5. Liaison Reports**

➤ **Amherst Youth Foundation**

Mary-Diana Pouli reported that members met on December 4<sup>th</sup> to review the AYF Mission Statement and Goals. An outside facilitator was utilized. There will be a follow up meeting in January 2022. \$300 was donated to the Amherst Youth Foundation from Carousel Clothing & Collectibles on Main Street in Williamsville. Thanks to all who shopped at the event!

➤ **Councilmember Jacqui Berger**

- Planning on continuing to work remotely. There are some COVID “hot spots” in some town departments.
- The Audubon Golf Course is staying. There are plans to making significant updates to the Par 3 course.
- There are also plans for upgrades regarding soccer, little league baseball and softball facilities and several parks and playgrounds.

## **6. Chairperson’s Report** No report

## **7. Executive Director’s Report** – Mary-Diana Pouli

- At the end of November, the **Town of Amherst Department of Community Services** was established encompassing the Youth & Recreation Department and the Senior Center. This is not a traditional merger. No proposed layoffs and if done well, it will result in more programming being added.
- The purpose is to have a seamless way of providing services for all ages and abilities; a single point of entry.
  - Goals include aligning services and expanding them.
  - There has been a long standing relationship between Amherst Senior Services and the Amherst Youth & Recreation Department. The relationship now will be formalized.
  - When the Northwest Amherst Community Center opens, both youth & senior services will be offered at the site.
  - Jacqui Berger commented that she is excited about this opportunity to enrich programming and to do more intergenerational endeavors.
- **Program Updates**
- Many negative comments on Facebook regarding the cost of ID cards going from \$5 to \$8. This \$3 increase is the first increase in 23 years.
  - A Holiday Happening Drive Thru event is happening on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. There are only a few openings left.
  - The Winter Program Guide will be available in mid-December. Programs start in January 2022.
  - The outdoor basketball court at the Clearfield Community Center has been refurbished, with sealing and striping to be completed in the spring.
  - A new parking lot is complete on the Amherst Manor Drive side of the Northtown Center at Amherst. It is a shared lot with the University at Buffalo. It will be sealed and striped in the spring.
  - KSL Laboratories is using the Audubon Golf Course parking lot for a Covid testing site. It opened this week and will be there through the beginning of March 2022.
  - The Audubon Golf Course Club House has been painted and is receiving new kitchen flooring.
  - The 2021 Town of Amherst Warm Clothing Project for Children is nearing completion. Kathy has been working on it daily. Most of the 268 babies, children and youth referred have received the requested winter clothing items.
- **Financial Report**
- The October 2021 financial report was sent to members by e-mail prior to tonight’s meeting.

**8. Old Business** None

**9. New Business** Jodi Benson suggested a mid-late spring/summer show case of Eggertsville businesses and establishments.

**10. Announcements**

Tricia Dunne was thanked for her many years of service as both parent and member of the Amherst Youth Board.

**11. Meeting ended**

*MM/SC Daniella Alba/Susan McClary to adjourn the meeting.*

**Next meeting is Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.