

# AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022 via Zoom

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

**Mark Forden**, Chairperson

**Members Present:** Angela Seo, Dawn Cwierley, Krista Krause, Josh Daniels, Susan McClary, Dean Carroll  
Nora Robshaw, Ann Nichols, Jodi Benson

**Excused:** Priya Chaudhuri, Heather Toscano, Councilmember Shawn Lavin, Rose Mary Buscaglia,

**Absent:** Daniella Alba, Ariella Yonaty, Siddarth Suresh

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

**Guests:** Amherst Youth Consortium Members

Monal Gupta – W. East HS, Tiger Li – W. South HS and Emily Lupini – Amherst HS

### **2. Public Comment/Presentation**

Welcome to new liaison Councilmember Shawn Lavin, who had a conflicting meeting this evening but will join us in the future.

### **3. Approval of December 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

*MM/SC Krista Krause/Dean Carroll to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2021 meeting.*

### **4. Committee Reports:**

➤ **Finance** No report

#### ➤ **Amherst Youth Consortium**

Angela Seo reported that there were 100 active Amherst Youth Consortium members in 2021. They completed 1,996 volunteer hours. 29 AYC members earned outstanding designation. A celebration will take place in the Spring of 2022. Also, on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 20 AYC members helped to build 21 twin beds through the non-profit Sleep In Heavenly Peace. The work included sanding, using power tools and staining the wood.

Josh Daniels reported that the AYC continues to volunteer weekly at the New Beginnings Food Pantry. The AYC will have a Zoom meeting on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 PM.

#### ➤ **Family Room**

Mark reported that the Family Room is hosting 2 free parent workshops. The one on January 21<sup>st</sup> is helping kids learn to be safe. The February 4<sup>th</sup> workshop is on sleep tips for kids.

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

Susan reported that the ATF continues to work on rebranding the name and logo. She also said that Councilmember Berger reported that the Town of Amherst did not opt out of marijuana retail sales or lounges. Where these stores and business may locate in the Town of Amherst is now a focus. A committee of the ATF is working on a community survey for adults.

### **5. Liaison Reports**

#### ➤ **Amherst Youth Foundation**

Mary-Diana Pouli reported that members will meet at the end of January. A report will be available at the February meeting.

#### ➤ **Councilmember Shawn Lavin**

- Recently participated in the Recreation Commission meeting and is getting to know our department better.

Thanks to Councilmember Berger who will be missed. She will continue to be Deputy Supervisor and represent the Amherst Town Board on the Amherst Task Force for Healthy Community\*Healthy Youth.

## **6. Chairperson's Report**

Mark put forth the following meeting schedule for year 2022:

February 9, March 9, April 20, May 11, July 13 (tentative), September 14, October 12, November 19<sup>th</sup> and December 14. No meeting in August.

*MM/SC Susan McClary/Krista Krause to approve year 2022 meeting schedule. Approved.*

A Vice-Chairperson for 2022 is needed. Contact Mark Forden or Mary-Diana if interested.

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

### ➤ **COVID Update**

- Year 2022 started on pause. All Youth & Recreation Dept. and Amherst Senior Center programs, with the exception of the four afterschool programs, were cancelled during the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup> because of Covid-19. The pre-school program was also suspended the week of January 9<sup>th</sup> because the teachers were ill.
- K-N95 face masks were distributed to senior citizens.
- At home COVID-19 test kits were given out to the public at a drive up distribution on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The Williamsville CSD will be a test to stay school district. The Amherst Youth & Recreation Dept. is partnering with the district to assist with this endeavor.
- KSL Laboratories continues to use the Audubon Golf Course parking lot for a COVID test site.

### ➤ **Program Updates**

- The Winter Wonderland community event is cancelled due to limited staffing resources.
- The Department is going forward with the Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> Spring Stroll community event.
- Currently hiring for summer staff. Working closely with the HR Department to raise the minimum staff wage to \$15 per hour.
- The new 4-H Club is growing. The members are working on a Toy & Game Drive for the families being settled by Journey's End Refugee Services. The children are not allowed to go to school until the family has a permanent address. The flyer for this endeavor was sent to members.
- Mary-Diana had a good meeting with Krista Krause regarding partnering with UB.
- The proposed showcase of Eggertsville businesses and establishments by Jodi is moving ahead.
- There is a lot of interest in renting rooms at the Harlem Road Community Center including daytime rentals.
- The new registration program should be live in approximately 6 weeks.
- A mockup of the proposed Dana Heights Playground is ready.

### ➤ **Financial Report**

The December 2021 financial report was sent to members by e-mail prior to tonight's meeting. 73% of the projected revenue for Year 2021 came in. Rental fees for the Clearfield Community Center were down. The Amherst Youth Basketball Association suspended its program for year 2021 due to Covid and they were a major renter. A steady stream of residents are coming in for 2022 ID cards.

## **8. Old Business** None

## **9. New Business**

- Dawn Cwierley spoke of the planting of native plants in the Willow Ridge community.
- Jodi Benson asked for information on how a young person may join the Amherst Youth Consortium. She also asked if there was a known program for high school students in regards to physical safety.

## **10. Announcements** None

## **11. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.