

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022 in person

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Mark Forden, Chairperson

Members Present: Dawn Cwierley, Susan McClary, Angela Seo, Ann Nichols, Krista Krause

Excused: Priya Chaudhuri, Rose Mary Buscaglia

Absent: Daniella Alba, Josh Daniels, Ariella Yonaty, Nora Robshaw, Jodi Benson, Siddarth Suresh

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

Guests: No guests

2. Public Comment/Presentation

3. Approval of February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Approval of March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Tabled. A quorum was not achieved.

4. Committee Reports:

➤ **Finance** No report

➤ **Amherst Youth Consortium**

Angela reported that Mrs. Megan Dudziak of the Child Advocacy Center presented at the AYC April 3rd in person meeting the video, "It's Not Just Jenna". The video focused on child abuse and the discussion centered on preventing child abuse.

Kathy shared that the AYC was going to begin the Project Sticker Shock endeavor in May 2022 after a two year break because of Covid restrictions.

➤ **Family Room**

Mark reported that the Family Room was promoting the Saturday, April 23rd Spring Fling event.

➤ **Amherst Youth & Community Coalition**

(Formerly known as the Amherst Task Force for Healthy Community*Healthy Youth.)

Susan reported that the Coalition is conducting an adult survey regarding adult knowledge and perception regarding the access and use of alcohol and marijuana by persons who are underage. Additionally, harm perception and thoughts of consequences were also sought. The opportunity to complete the survey will end by the weekend. A print copy of the survey was given to each attendee.

On April 19th, R. Lorraine Collins, PhD., Associate Dean for Research at the University at Buffalo, presented to members, via zoom, the topic, Cannabis Basics and Current New York Policies.

Some information reported:

- Every state is doing its own thing in regards to medical marijuana and adult use marijuana.
- Many adverse effects on the developing brain
- Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act created two regulatory bodies: The Office of Cannabis Management and the Cannabis Control Board.
- Research indicates that marijuana isn't a gateway drug.

5. Liaison Reports

➤ **Councilmember Shawn Lavin** Excused

➤ **Amherst Youth Foundation** No report

6. Chairperson's Report

Mark reported Dean Carroll and Heather Toscano have resigned.

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

➤ **COVID Update**

- Parents are now allowed into the buildings to pick up their children attending afterschool programs.
- Some staff have tested positive for Covid.
- Back to wearing masks at some indoor program settings.

➤ **Personnel Updates**

- There are full time positions open including a social worker at the Amherst Senior Center and a clerk position.
- There are many seasonal positions open including lifeguards, summer day camp staff, playground staff, etc.
- Mike Frysz's office is now at the Amherst Senior Center. He gives general support and guides a gardening class and a billiards class.
- Angelo Lorenzo is transitioning to providing programming 75% to senior citizens and 25% to youth. He is already offering a fitness class for the senior citizens as he is a certified personal trainer. He is also doing Senior Archery Classes and Senior Tennis Classes.
- In the future will be the hiring of a Program Leader who will provide programming 25% to senior citizens and 75% to youth.

➤ **Program Updates**

- 2 successful Spring Recess Camps happened in mid-April.
- The Spring Fling Community Event on Saturday, April 23rd is free and open. No registration. Free Covid testing kits will be given out.
- Amherst Youth Board meetings are required to meet in person since the state of emergency has expired. No virtual options. The New York Association of Towns has asked the NYS Legislature to consider a hybrid model. Still, the Youth Board must have a quorum in person to conduct business.
- In regards to the Northwest Amherst Community Center, a press conference was held. Channels 2 & 7 were present. Open houses are set for Saturday, May 14th from 10 AM to Noon and Monday, May 16th from 6:00-8:00 PM. Neighborhood attendees will be asked what programs and services they want offered in the building.
- On April 1st there was a site visit at the Dana Heights Playground. There is an approved design for the playground. There are some site issues including a 7 foot rise that needs to be addressed in order to make the site accessible. An engineering firm has been hired.
- The Bedford Park Playground meeting took place and youth and neighbors gave input. Coming this spring will be concrete pads and picnic tables. The bid is going out.
- Summer Plans:
 - The program guide is expected to be out on May 7th.
 - No reservations for the pools. Non-residents will be able to attend again for a \$5 per day fee per person.
 - It is planned to have the pools open on June 18th.
 - Swim lessons will be offered.
 - There will be offering of tennis, archery, sports clinics, an art program and tie dye Tuesdays. No kickball.
 - The playmobile will be at Bedford Park Playground for 2 weeks and at Royal Park Playground for 2 weeks, in addition to other locations.
- The new Williamsville Junior Football facility is just about done. The lighting is in.
- The site of the former gun club on Maple Road will be the site of 4 Amherst Girls Softball diamonds. The backstops are delayed.
- In early May, 4 staff are traveling to Montreal to review ice rinks that operate with less energy.
- Starting in May, Amherst YES youth will be partnering with Senior Center volunteers to do a park cleanup once a month.

- **Jolly Boys Meat Raffle Fundraiser** on Friday, May 6th will be at the Main-Transit Fire Hall. Proceeds will be donated to the Amherst Youth & Recreation Department to provide scholarship for afterschool and camp programs. In addition to the meat raffle, there will be raffle baskets and 50/50 split.
- **Finance Report**
Mary-Diana distributed a Revenue Comparison Report for March 2022, March 2021 and March 2020.

8. Old Business

Kathy distributed the 2021 Town of Amherst Warm Clothing Project for Children report. She thanked the many Youth Board members who provided needed winter clothing items.

9. New Business None

10. Announcements/Adjournment

Unable to move to adjourn because the lack of a quorum.

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM in person at the Harlem Road Community Center.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.