

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2022

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Chairperson: Mark Forden

Members Present: Rose Mary Buscaglia, Krista Krause, Siddarth Suresh, Josh Daniels, Jodi Benson
Nora Robshaw, Dawn Cwierley, Susan McClary

Excused: Angela Seo, Ann Nichols, Danielle Alba

Absent: Priya Chaudhuri

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

Guest: Yakun Hu

2. Public Comment/Presentations

Rose Mary Buscaglia reported that a relative loved the Clearfield pool.

Susan McClary reported that the Basset Park Farmers' Market was well run.

Congratulations to Susan for being elected President of the Williamsville CSD Board of Education.

Dawn Cwierley reported that the Willow Ridge Imagination Station was well liked.

Yakun Hu, an alumni of Windermere Blvd. School, Amherst MS and Amherst HS Class of 2011, spoke of wanting chess to be a part of schools' curriculum. He stated that chess is connected to Common Core. Yakun reported that a strong chess player could play up to 100 people at a time.

3. Approval of February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Approval of March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Approval of April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Approval of May 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Approval of June 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MM/SC Susan McClary/Josh Daniels to approve the meeting minutes of February 9, 2022, March 9, 2022, April 20, 2022, May 11, 2022 and June 8, 2022.

4. Committee Reports:

➤ **Finance** No report

➤ **Amherst Youth Consortium**

The AYC Vegetable Garden was planted in late May. It is being cared for by a team of Amherst Youth Consortium members. All items harvested will be donated to the New Beginnings Food Pantry and the St. Christopher's Food Pantry.

Sid reported that the AYC will be working with Sleep in Heavenly Peace on July 23rd building beds for kids. He also reported the AYC has been and will be presenting at the town's summer day camps.

➤ **Family Room** No report

➤ **Amherst Youth & Community Coalition**

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

The results of the Spring 2022 Community Survey of Adults were distributed. Susan explained that 433 adults responded to the survey that was disseminated via the The Amherst Bee, Facebook and community organizations' mailing lists.

The survey was designed to collect data on community beliefs, perceptions and behaviors regarding youth use of alcohol and marijuana. Daniel Webb, Ph.D. of Catalyst Research, LLC is the evaluator contracted by the AYCC who created the survey with AYCC members. Key results were discussed.

5. Liaison Reports

- **Councilmember Shawn Lavin** – excused
- **Amherst Youth Foundation**

Mary-Diana reported that the AYF will be hosting a basket raffle fundraiser in the fall.

6. Chairperson's Report

Mark thanked Josh Daniels his service to the Amherst Youth Board. Josh will be leaving to attend the University of Rochester.

Arielle Yonaty has resigned with regrets for she attends SUNY at Geneseo. Angela Seo will be resigning as she will be attending the University of Pennsylvania.

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

➤ **Program Updates**

- Summer programming is in full swing.
- 1 child broke an arm at one of the camps.
- A few staff and children had COVID.
- In regards to the pools, there were some issues at the Clearfield pool the first weekend it was opened. It was crowded and some non-residents were not complying with rules. Thus, for the rest of the swimming season on Saturdays at Clearfield pool, a non-resident needs to be accompanied by a Town of Amherst resident in order to be admitted. The daily fee to use either the North Forest pool or the Clearfield pool is \$5 per person if not showing a 2022 Town of Amherst Youth & Recreation Department ID card.
- The Imagination Stations are up and operating.
- Bedford Park now has poured concrete pads and steel picnic tables are on the way.
- The 4th of July Summer Concert drew about 325 persons to Basset Park. Members of the Erie County Wind Ensemble performed.
- Movies in the Park:
 - The Spiderman movie had approximately 125 attendees.
 - July 29th at Island Park will be the showing of Jungle Cruise.
 - August 5th will be the showing of Clifford the Big Red Dog in Willow Ridge and August 26th will be the Encanto movie at Bassett.
- The second Farmers' Market will take place on Sunday, July 10th.
- A "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" event is taking place at Veterans Canal Park on Saturday, July 30th from noon to 5 PM.

➤ **Partnership with The Chapel**

- A "Pop Up Clothing & School Supply Pantry" for Sweet Home families is planned for late August at the future Northwest Amherst Community Center.
- The Chapel and the Amherst Senior Center are collecting donations of school supplies for the Sweet Home Family Support Center to be given out in late July and late August to Sweet Home families.
- The Chapel is planning Service Day for Saturday, September 24th. Multiple service projects are being planned.

8. Old Business

MM/SC Rose Mary Buscaglia/Dawn Cwierley to elect Krista Krause as Vice-Chairperson of the Amherst Youth Board.

A data base of businesses is being developed for the Eggertsville area. An "Explore Eggertsville" endeavor is being discussed.

9. New Business

Dawn reported that a fundraiser is being planned for a community garden at Willow Ridge Elementary School.

10. Announcements/Adjournment

No August meeting.

MM/SC Siddarth Suresh/Krista Krause to adjourn the meeting.

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 14th, in person, at the Harlem Road Community Center.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.