

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Chairperson: Mark Forden

Members Present: Priya Chaudhura, Dawn Cwierley, Ann Nichols, Susan McClary

Excused: Rose Mary Buscaglia, Krista Krause

Absent: Danielle Alba, Jodi Benson, Nora Robshaw, Siddarth Suresh

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

Guests: Gia Panesar – AYC member and senior at Williamsville East High School
Hannah Joseph – AYC member and junior at Williamsville East High School
Aryaman Chutke – AYC member and junior at Williamsville East High School

2. Public Comment/Presentations None

3. Approval of July 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Tabled. Quorum not met.

4. Committee Reports:

➤ **Finance** No report

➤ Amherst Youth Consortium

Mrs. Mobarak-Miller distributed handouts of the updated AYC flyer, listing of active members from January 1, 2022 through August 20, 2022 and the Summary Report Year 2021. Additionally, a report was given on the AYC Vegetable Garden, presentations at the department's summer day camps, New Beginnings Food Pantry, Sleep In Heavenly Peace, evaluation of AYC by members, a Data Walk experience, the joint meeting of the AYC and adults of the Amherst Youth & Community Coalition, donations for the "Pop Up Clothing Pantry" and the cleanup outside the St. Christopher's Food & Clothing Pantry and the Family Justice Center – Amherst satellite site.

➤ Family Room

Mark reported that the Family Room was going to Becker Farms on September 17th and was hosting a car seat/booster seat safety opportunity.

➤ Amherst Youth & Community Coalition

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

Susan reported that the AYCC was working closely with 2 other coalitions, ITAC and the Springville Regional for the "Take It to the Box" initiative through a grant from the Western Regional Addiction Resource Collaborative. The initiative is encouraging the disposal of unused and expired prescription and over the counter medicines to drop off boxes located throughout the community.

5. Liaison Reports

➤ **Councilmember Shawn Lavin** – excused

➤ Amherst Youth Foundation

Mary-Diana reported that the AYC basket raffle fundraiser at the Williamsville Youth Center is taking place on Saturday, October 22nd beginning at 1:00 PM.

6. Chairperson's Report No report

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

➤ **Program Updates**

- The Fall 2022 Program Guide was distributed.
- The 2022 Town of Amherst Summer Camps spread sheet indicated that 433 children and youth attended one of the 6 summer day camps. Number of families served: 313.
- Attendance at the Clearfield Pool was 33,848. Attendance at the North Forest Pool was 4,201. When compared to year 2019 data (prior to Covid restrictions), 2022 totals were up by 3,000. The North Forest pool stayed open through August 19, one extra week. The Clearfield pool stayed open through August 26, one extra week. The majority of non-residents who paid to use the pools were from the Town of Clarence and the Town of Tonawanda.
- A listing of the 2022 Summer Special Events was reviewed.

➤ **Pop Up Clothing & School Supply Pantry**

- Took place at the Amherst Northwest Community Center, 220 Northpointe Parkway 14228.
- Set up was on August 22, 23 and 24. Staff and volunteers from The Chapel converted the site into an attractive setting with lighting, signage and music. Families were served on August 25, 26, 27 & 29. Anne Nowak of the Sweet Home Family Support Center did much of the coordination and worked closely with Nicole Germain, Volunteer Coordinator of The Chapel.
- The “gently used” clothing came from the SHFSC closet, The Chapel members, community members, the AYC and Amherst Youth & Recreation Dept. staff. The school supplies came from the SHFSC closet and donations from Amherst Senior Center members and staff, The Chapel members and community members.
- 224 children and youth, from 95 families, received items. Most of the recipients were from the Sweet Home CSD though some WCSD and ACSD families were also helped.

➤ **4110 Bailey Avenue**

- The Town of Amherst and the Boys & Girls Club have ended our partnership at this site.
- Another space in the Eggertsville area is being sought to continue the partnership for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Assistance locating another afterschool site has been given to the families of the children and youth from Amherst who were served at that site.
- The building is currently being cleaned out.
- O'Connell & Company will be the new users of the building. As part of the agreement with the Town of Amherst, they will offer a free arts program for children and senior citizens along with 4 major events in a given year.

➤ **The Chapel Serve Day on September 24, 2022**

- Members of The Chapel will be helping approximately 20 senior citizen homeowners, referred by the Amherst Senior Center & Youth Work\$. Work to be done includes cleaning out basements, garages and yard work.
- A team of The Chapel members will be doing painting at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center on Sheridan Drive. They also will be doing garden work in front of the building.
- Another team will be doing cleanup of a courtyard at Heim Middle School.
- At 4 PM, The Chapel will host a sponsored picnic at the Amherst Senior Center for The Chapel volunteers and all who were served, as well as those who attended the Pop Up Clothing Pantry.

➤ **West Side Rowing Club**

- The West Side Rowing Club is seeking an agreement with the Town of Amherst to utilize Veterans Canal Park.
- College rowing will take place early mornings.
- The Ralph C. Wilson Foundation is providing a grant for a veterans rowing club, an adults rowing club and a senior citizen rowing club.
- Beginning the Summer of 2023, a middle school rowing club will be offered.

➤ **July Revenue Report**

- The report was distributed. We are close to pre-Covid levels in terms of revenue.

➤ **Personnel Updates**

- Angelo Lorenzo has transferred to the Amherst Senior Center. 75% of his work will be with senior citizens. 25% of his work will continue to be with youth.
- Some program staff have different responsibilities and new staff has been hired.
- Still need to hire a full time laborer and a full time clerical staff.

8. Old Business None

9. New Business None

10. Announcements/Adjournment

It is expected that renovations at the Amherst Northwest Community Center, 220 Northpointe Parkway, Amherst 14228, will begin this fall.

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 12, in person, at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center. 5005 Sheridan Drive, 14221.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.