

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Vice Chairperson: Krista Krause

Members Present: Susan McClary, Siddarth Suresh, Rose Mary Buscaglia

Excused: Mark Forden, Ann Nichols, Dawn Cwierley, Priya Chaudhura

Absent: Danielle Alba, Jodi Benson, Nora Robshaw

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

2. Public Comment/Presentations None

3. Approval of July 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Approval of September 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Tabled. Quorum not met.

4. Committee Reports:

➤ **Finance** No report

➤ **Amherst Youth Consortium**

Kathy Mobarak-Miller shared that the 2022 Town of Amherst Warm Clothing Project for Children, Year 34 was launched earlier in the month. It is expected that referrals from the town's three school districts will be received by the last week of October. Soon after she will be matching resources to children/youth. Youth Board members are invited to participate.

Members of the AYC were offered opportunities for leadership training through the WNY Youth Boards and Youth Bureaus Youth Leadership Forum, the "Take It to the Box" endeavor with Hilbert College and the WNY Prevention Resource Center Youth Leadership Summit.

On October 10th, the AYC vegetable garden was taken down and garlic was planted for harvest in July 2023.

Work is being done to create a different AYC Pledge form that acknowledges an AYC member who has completed high school and wishes to continue in the program.

➤ **Family Room**

No report.

➤ **Amherst Youth & Community Coalition**

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

Susan McClary reported that the AYCC is continuing to work on building capacity and connecting with other Coalitions. "Take It to the Box" lawn signs are available promoting Safe Use, Safe Storage and Safe Disposal of prescription and over the counter medications.

5. Liaison Reports

➤ **Councilmember Shawn Lavin** – excused

➤ **Amherst Youth Foundation**

Mary-Diana reported that the AYF 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**

- **Harvest Fest** took place on Saturday, October 1st and had approximately 500 attendees. The temperature was in the high 60s with a cool breeze. Included in activities were a petting zoo, alpaca walk, crafts and face painting guided by Amherst YES volunteers, archery, a wood carving exhibit, free hotdogs grilled by Amherst Police, apple cider slushies, book giveaways for children and adults, 8 games guided by Amherst Youth Consortium members, a bake sale operated by Amherst Senior Center volunteers and entertainment by Glenn Colton.
- **A Halloween Bootastic Bash** is planned for Saturday, October 29th from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Amherst Police Training Center on Bailey Avenue. It will feature a Safety Fair, games, crafts, donuts and cider and a “Haunted House” area. This is free and will likely appeal to children age 7 and under.
- **All afterschool programs** operated by the department are full with waiting lists
- **A cleanup of Amherst State Park** is taking place on Saturday, October 15th.
- As part of **the September 24th Serve Day** sponsored by The Chapel, the Williamsville Youth & Family Center’s main room was painted, the front of the building was landscaped, the back garage was cleaned out and the back property and all along the back fence was cleared of branches and debris. Additionally, The Chapel volunteers cleaned out and landscaped 4 of the 5 courtyards of Heim Middle School and donated Adirondack chairs, and the outside of the homes of 20 senior citizens received cleanup attention.
- The **Northwest Amherst Community Center** will soon have a staff person to guide its opening. There were 2 outstanding candidates that interviewed and an offer was extended for one year of employment to a candidate.
 - **Town-wide Diaper Drive** has begun. It will operate through the end of October. Diapers for infants and children are being collected along with resources for adults experiencing incontinence.
 - **August Revenue Report**
 - The report was distributed and reviewed.

8. Old Business None.

9. New Business None

10. Announcements/Adjournment

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 9, in person, at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center. 5005 Sheridan Drive, 14221.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.