

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2022

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Chairperson: Mark Forden

Members Present: Susan McClary, Siddarth Suresh, Rose Mary Buscaglia, Hannah Joseph
Gia Panesar, Tiger Li, Dawn Cwierley, Jodi Benson, Priya Chaudhuri

Excused: Krista Krause, Nora Robshaw

Absent: Danielle Alba, Ann Nichols

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

2. Public Comment/Presentations None

3. Approval of July 2022, September 2022 and October 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MM/SC Susan McClary/Dawn Cwierley to approve the meeting minutes of July 11, 2022, September 14, 2022 and October 12, 2022.

4. Committee Reports:

➤ Finance

The committee needs members to work with Mary-Diana to review fees charged for programs.

➤ Amherst Youth Consortium

Hannah Joseph explained the Take It to the Box campaign that promotes Safe Use, Safe Storage and Safe Disposal of medicines. A first meeting of those working on the campaign took place at Hilbert College on October 15th. Gia Panesar explained Project Sticker Shock, the endeavor that involves placing stickers on multipacks of beer and wine to remind adults not to purchase or provide alcohol to persons under age 21. This is done at businesses that have given permission. At this time the 6 Tops Stores located in the Town of Amherst have been supportive. Gia also gave an update on the food pantry the AYC helps every Tuesday evening and the third Saturday of the month. Kathy described the proposed Data Walk community event to introduce residents to the results of the 2022 Search Institute Survey of Student Attitudes and Behaviors of our town's 8th, 10th and 12th graders.

➤ Family Room

Mark Forden reported that the Family Room is promoting a program at Walton Woods on November 19th and Breakfast with Santa in December.

➤ Amherst Youth & Community Coalition

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

Susan McClary reported that the AYCC is working on increasing its membership. The Coalition's November Amherst Bee column was focused on thankfulness.

5. Liaison Reports

➤ Councilmember Shawn Lavin – excused

➤ Amherst Youth Foundation

Mary-Diana reported that the AYF basket raffle event on October 22nd resulted in a \$3,000 profit. Middle School nights will begin again in January of 2023.

6. Chairperson's Report No report

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

➤ **Amherst Central Park**

The purchase of the Westwood Country Club property is expected to take place at the close of the first quarter of 2023. A million dollar grant from NYS will be used for construction of an outdoor skating area, an inclusive playground and a summer splash park.

➤ **Jurek Post**

A sales agreement has been created after a year of negotiating. The American Legion will stay in the existing building with a pre-determined schedule. The site will provide an additional community center facility with a large meeting room, a commercial kitchen and bar. The building needs a new roof, updated plumbing and repair of the exterior walls. Future use of the building may include a “Farm to Table” endeavor and the host site of the 4H Club in addition to rentals by local youth sports teams.

➤ **Williamsville Junior Football and Amherst Soccer**

Both programs now have facilities as part of the North Amherst Recreation Center. Signage will be put up to provide direction to those using and visiting the facilities.

➤ **Royal Parkway Playground**

Daemen University and the Town of Amherst are moving forward with this public/private partnership.

➤ **Summer 2022 Sports Clinics Report**

- The report was distributed and reviewed.

➤ **Program Updates**

- **The Halloween Bootastic Bash** drew approximately 400 folks to the Amherst Police Training site.
- On Saturday, November 19th, the department is offering a Trot the Turkey Trail walk/run at Walton Woods Park.
- A **Holiday Market** is scheduled for Sunday, December 11th in the new parking lot of the Northtown Center at Amherst. Over 40 vendors are scheduled to participate. The time is 9 AM to 1 PM, followed by a general skate and a Buffalo Beauts hockey game.
- The **4 H Club** has two parents in leadership. The Club meets at the Harlem Road Community Center. Animal care is a part of the current program.
- **Drop & Shop** times are set for Friday, December 2nd and Friday, December 16th at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center. Each session is able to accommodate 30 children. Both sessions are full.
- The **Winter Recess** program at the end of December is a gym program on December 27th, 28th and 29th. The site is the Clearfield Community Center.
- A **new staff person** will begin on November 23rd to coordinate efforts at the Northwest Amherst Community Center. The town has a 15 year lease with the opportunity to purchase after 15 years.

➤ **September Revenue Report**

- The report was distributed and reviewed.

8. Old Business None.

9. New Business None

10. Announcements/Adjournment

MM/SC Siddarth Suresh/Priya Chaudhuri to approve adjournment.

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 14, in person, at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center, 5005 Sheridan Drive, 14221.