

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2024

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Members Present: Kristy Lindner, Dawn Cwierley, Susan McClary, Hannah Joseph, Anagha Menon, Rose Mary Buscaglia

Excused: Tiger Li, Krista Krause

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

Guests: Moksh Gupta, AYC member and freshman at W. East HS
Monal Gupta, AYC member and junior at W. East HS
Mohammad Aarish Khan, AYC member and sophomore at W. North HS
Mohammad Aasim Khan, AYC member and 8th grader at Casey MS
Salil Karkhanis, AYC member and freshman at W. East HS
Carol Li, AYC member and freshman at W. South HS
Vedant Mohan, AYC member and sophomore at W. North HS
Kristine Arcadi, Prospective Member

2. Public Comment/Presentations No presentation.

3. Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2023, November 8, 2023 and January 11, 2024

MM/SC Kristy Lindner/Rose Mary Buscaglia.

4. Committee Reports:

➤ **Finance** No report.

➤ **Amherst Youth Consortium**

- Hannah facilitated a review and discussion of the Safe Use/Safe Storage/Safe Disposal of Medicines power point with 10 AYC attendees who are interested in being the 2024 presenters of the information to adults.
- Anagha reported that AYC members will be at the Williamsville Youth & Family Recess Camp on February 20 and the Northwest Amherst Community Center on February 23 to teach and play chess, mancala and checkers with the children.
- Salil reported that 6 AYC members attended the 2024 Albany Youth Leadership Forum on February 5 & 6. There were almost 200 attendees statewide. AYC members attended workshops on Strategies to Stretch One's Voice and Harnessing Empathy and Energy. There was a brief self-tour of the Capital Building. All met with NYS Assemblymember Karen McMahon and NYS Senator Sean Ryan.

➤ **Family Room**

- Program Leader Jenna Reilley begins on February 27. A meet and greet will happen in the future.
- A liaison from the Amherst Youth Board to the Family Room program is needed.

➤ **Amherst Youth & Community Coalition** Susan reported.

- The Coalition met virtually on February 13. A presentation by a staff member of the Prevention Resource Center was on the "Elevator Speech". Members for the Coalition are being sought. The Drug Free Communities Grant to the Coalition is entering year 10.
- The Coalition's Media Plan was discussed.
- Dr. Webb will be meeting with members of the Amherst Youth Consortium to discuss the findings of the survey of high school students and their interests as pertaining to community on February 24.

5. Liaison Reports

- Councilmember Angela Marinucci will be the Amherst Youth Board liaison in 2024. She is familiar with some of the programs of the department for her daughters have been participants. A future meeting between Councilmember Marinucci and Mary-Diana is being planned.
- **Amherst Youth Foundation** Mary-Diana
 - The last Middle School Night had staff from Linde Corp provide dry ice presentations.
 - Saturday, March 16 is the next Middle School Night at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center.

6. Chairperson's Report

The confirmed Amherst Youth Board meeting dates for 2024:

March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, September 11, October 9 and November 13.

No meetings in August or December.

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

- **2023 Town of Amherst Warm Clothing Project for Children, year 35**

Kathy distributed a handout. 308 babies, children and youth were referred from school social workers and a food pantry. The front page of the report lists all of the public schools in the Town of Amherst and the number of children served. Data regarding ages, items and resources are in the report.
- **Program Updates**
 - Buildings were closed beginning the evening of January 12 through January 14 due to harsh winter weather. A travel ban was instituted in the Town of Amherst.
 - Both February Recess Camps are full with waiting lists.
 - There will be programs taking place during the February break at the Clearfield Community Center.
 - A free Skate with a Cop event with the Amherst Police Department will be held February 25 at the Northtown Center.
 - The ESL Classes that were hosted at the Northtown Center at Amherst will end on February 22. Beginning on February 17, the classes will be held at the Weinberg Campus on North Forest Rd.
 - Sunday and Wednesday Walks in Walton Woods are taking place in February & March.
 - The Northwest Amherst Community Center is hosting Middle School Nights for Sweet Home CSD students once a month on a Friday evening. Activities offered include crafts and use of the gym and workout areas. SHCSD administrators are happy with the offerings.
 - The Consumer Smart Event on February 3 had 25 attendees. Presentations and gift baskets were provided by Home Depot, Tops Supermarkets and Northwest Bank. Additionally, the Town of Amherst first-time home buyer program was introduced.
 - Family Bingo Night at the Northwest Amherst Community Center in February had 50 attendees.
 - Town Supervisor Kulpa will be doing his "State of the Town Address" in various locations. The Northwest Amherst Community Center will be the host site in March.
 - On Sunday, March 3, the Kiwanis Club of Amherst will host an ice skating event and pizza meal for asylum seekers at the Northtown Center at Amherst. The Amherst Youth & Recreation Department will provide transportation through the Amherst Youth Board van.
 - On Tuesday, March 19, the Amherst Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an after hours event at the Northwest Amherst Community Center. Yoga, meditation and "mocktails" will be provided by Horizon Health Services and Glen Park Tavern.
 - Members of The Chapel have committed to a Serve Day on Saturday, May 4. Their volunteer work in the Town of Amherst will include park & playground work, teams helping senior citizens, clearing trails and an event for the asylum seekers.
- **Personnel Updates**
 - There are three laborer positions that are open and need to be filled.

➤ **Summer Day Camps Registration 2024**

- A cloud based registration system is planned for Wednesday, February 28.
- Town of Amherst Youth & Recreation Department offices will be closed to the public on Feb. 28 to facilitate camp registration.

➤ **Other**

- The Audubon Golf Course was featured on Channel 7 News highlighting golf in February.
- Eric Guzdek was on WBEN Radio on February 14. He spoke about the law regarding carbon monoxide testing at ice rinks. All ice rinks at the Northtown Center at Amherst use electric equipment. No gas or propane emissions happen there.
- Mark Forden has term-limited off the Amherst Youth Board for at least a year.
- Williamsville South HS is presenting “Sponge Bob” the musical.
- Williamsville East HS presented a diversity program. Monal Gupta and Hannah Joseph performed as dancers.
- Dawn Cwierley reported that the Northtown Center at Amherst was featured in the movie, “A Royal Christmas On Ice.”

8. Old Business None

9. New Business None

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 13 at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.