

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Vice Chairperson: Rose Mary Buscaglia

Members Present:

Kristy Lindner, Anagha Menon, Indraja Sujith

Excused: Krista Krause, Salil Karkhanis, Dawn Cwierley, Kristine Arcadi

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

Guests: Abe Joseph, AYC member and 8th grader at Transit MS

Liya Kassa, AYC member and freshman at Williamsville North HS

Lily Zhang, AYC member and junior at Nichols HS

2. Presentations No presentations

3. Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2024

Tabled. Quorum not met.

4. Committee Reports

- **Finance** No report

- **Amherst Youth Consortium**

Anagha reported there was an AYC Leadership meeting the evening of December 27.

18 AYC leaders discussed which AYC members should be given the opportunity to attend the 2025 Albany Youth Leadership Forum taking place on February 3 & 4. The decision was made to offer the opportunity to those AYC members who had earned AYC Outstanding designation for year 2024 and who had not attended before.

Those to attend:

Armaan Farid, Naman Kapoor, Senuthi Kahandawalaarachchi, Mya Smith – W. East HS

Abe Joseph – Transit Middle School, Lakshmi Sujith – Casey Middle School

Mohammad Aarish Khan & Mohammad Aasim Khan – W. North HS

Mayesha Subaita – Sweet Home HS, Sofia Wiecekowsky – Amherst HS

Lily Zhang – Nichols HS

The AYC was invited to spend time at the upcoming February Recess Camps for children.

Members will guide the children as they play chess, checkers, UNO, mancala and other games.

The AYC is entering year 16 volunteering at the New Beginnings Food Pantry which helps families living in the 14228 zip code but also some families living in the 14221 and 14068 zip code areas.

- **Family Room** No report

- **Amherst Youth & Community Coalition**

Kathy reported that the Search Institute's DAP, Developmental Assets Profile, survey tool will be offered to ACSD, WCSD and SHCSD 8th, 10th and 12th in late February 2025.

A "Vape Take Back" campaign has been offered to all public schools by Roswell Park Cancer Institute researchers. It is hoped that Amherst CSD, Sweet Home CSD and Williamsville CSD will participate.

5. Liaison Reports

- **Councilmember Angela Marinucci**

Excused

- **Amherst Youth Foundation** Mary-Diana Pouli

- Middle School Night is on Saturday, January 11 from 7:00-9:30 PM.

6. Chairperson's Report

No report.

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

Program Updates

- The December Holiday Happenings event drew roughly 300 attendees.
- The New Year's Day Hike at Veterans Park had 25 attendees.
- On December 17, the new cloud based software program was launched for residents with current ID cards to register for programs. It is the DaySmart registration program.
- The department has a new website: amherstyouthandrec.org.

Personnel Update

- In late January, a new clerical staff will begin at the Northtown Center at Amherst.
- In early February, a new accountant will begin at the Northtown Center at Amherst.

Asylum Seekers

- The Asylum seekers who were in motels in Cheektowaga have moved to the Red Roof Inn in Amherst. There are also now 25 families in Motel 6.
- Jewish Family Services staff are working on settling families into apartments. Once in the apartment, JFS will pay for rent for 6 months and provide mattresses and bed frames.
- 8 single adults went back to New York City at the end of December.

8. Old Business No old business.

9. New Business No new business.

10. Adjournment

MM/SC Anagha Menon/Kristy Lindner to adjourn the meeting.

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 12 at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.