

AMHERST YOUTH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2025

1. Attendance/Introduction of Members and Guests

Chairperson: Krista Krause

Members Present:

Indraja Sujith, Anagha Menon, Salil Karkhanis, Dawn Cwierley, Kristine Arcadi, Rose Mary Buscaglia

Excused: Kristy Lindner

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

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

Vedant Mohan, AYC member and 11th grader at Williamsville North HS

Samar Waddanakeri, AYC member and 9th grader at Williamsville East HS

2. Public Comment/Presentations No presentations or public comment.

3. Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2025

Tabled.

4. Committee Reports

- **Finance** No report
- **Amherst Youth Consortium** **Salil, Anagha, Indraja**
 - The Amherst Youth Consortium Gathering took place on Sunday, May 18. A total of 81 attended, including AYC members, AYC family members and speakers. A listing of AYC members honored, along with those who earned a President's Volunteer Service Award, was distributed. Certificates presented were from the Amherst Town Board, NY State Senator Ryan and NYS Assemblymember McMahon. The AYC gift was a short sleeve t-shirt that had listed on the back the most impactful AYC endeavors over the past 5 years. A free raffle prize event took place with prizes donated by Tops Friendly Markets, La Nova Pizzeria, Dash's and Andersons. Other raffle prizes included a Sabres t-shirt, a Bills t-shirt and a Bandit's t-shirt.
 - Amherst Youth Consortium members staffed the food tent at the Sleep In Heavenly Peace outdoor building of beds for children on Saturday, May 31 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
 - The Amherst Youth Consortium Vegetable Garden is entering Year 11. A staff from the Amherst Center for Senior Services, Mr. Janis, constructed 7 new raised beds and re-fortified the perimeter fencing. The garden will be planted on Saturday, June 14.
- **Family Room** **Dawn Cwierley**

Beginning on June 30, the programming locations will be split between the Harlem Road Community Center and the Northwest Amherst Community Center.
- **Amherst Youth & Community Coalition**
 - Kathy reported that Project Sticker Shock, the placement of a sticker on the packaging of wine and beer that states, "Underage Drinking – Not a Minor Problem", was completed at 6 Tops supermarkets in late May, with the permission of the company. Amherst Youth Consortium members did 4 of the stores and placed 6,600 stickers.
 - The joint meeting between Coalition members and Amherst Youth Consortium members was re-scheduled to Monday, July 7.

5. Liaison Reports

- **Councilmember Angela Marinucci** Excused

She is attending the Glen Park Committee meeting tonight.

- **Amherst Youth Foundation** Mary-Diana Pouli
 - The last Middle School Night was on Saturday, May 17 from 7:00-9:30 PM. The theme of the evening was space. Approximately 100 youth attended.

6. Chairperson's Report No report.

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

Playgrounds

- The Audubon Library Playground is finished. There are 3 cozy domes, acorn seats, slides, climbing elements and a sensory panel. No traditional swings.
- The Royal Park Splash Pad will open on Monday, June 23. A staff will be at the park from 8 AM to 8 PM. Royal Park also has tennis courts, pickle ball courts, a walking trail, a basketball court and a pavilion.
- Briarhurst Playground is to be re-done as a community build with volunteers.

Program Updates

- Saturday, May 17 was Serve Day – Year 5 by folks connected to The Chapel. There were 500 volunteers. They did the following:
 - Painted at the Williamsville Youth & Family Center
 - Replaced the Soccer Kick Wall and other work at the N. French Road Soccer Fields
 - Spread woodchips at Creekwood Park and painted the fence and benches.
 - 50 volunteers dug out by hand the rubber mulch at the Eggertsville Park located on Sweet Home Road and replaced the rubber mulch with wood chips.
 - Eight senior citizen residents received help at their homes. Some of the work completed included landscaping, a rebuilt deck and the addition of an outdoor ramp.
 - 50 senior citizens at the Amherst Center for Senior Services had a free lunch, haircuts, manicures and “tech” help.
- Registration for the department's afterschool programs took place:
 - Clearfield Afterschool Program – full with a waiting list
 - Harlem Road Afterschool Program – full with a waiting list
 - Northwest Amherst Afterschool Program – has openings
 - Williamsville Afterschool Program – full
- Pre-School Program Registration – all spots filled.
- All swim lessons sold out.
- Almost all tennis lessons sold out.
- 1800 folks came to the Farmer's Market at Basset Park on Sunday, June 8.

Personnel Update

- Three boys and three girls have been born to staff members.
- Applicants need to be age 17 to work at our summer day camps, afterschool programs and most programs operated by the Town of Amherst Youth & Recreation Department.
- A junior lifeguard may be age 16 and a certified lifeguard.
- There are no CITs, counselors in training, this year.

Other

- Salil will serve as an ex-officio on the Williamsville Central School District Board of Education representing Williamsville East High School. He will not have a vote.

- Anagha will be attending Columbia University as an economics major in the fall of 2025.

8. Old Business No old business.

9. New Business No new business.

10. Adjournment

MM/SC Anagha Menon/Rose Mary Buscaglia to adjourn the meeting.

There will not be a July 2025 meeting.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Mobarak-Miller.