

MINUTES
FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES
November 2, 2023
Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall,
31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336

- 1) Call to Order 6:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Snodgrass at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Tammy Luty, Rod Wallace, Tanya Nordhaus, Sharon Snodgrass, Jordan Scrimger, Marie Sarnacki, Brian Spitsbergen, Ashley Gabb, Adam Whitfield

Members Absent:, Colleen Coogan, Alisa Valden

Others Present: Douglas Edwards, Andy Radze, Kristel Sexton, Matt Gale

- 2) Approval of Agenda

Rod Wallace approved the agenda, Brian Spitsbergen seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

- 3) Approval of October 5, 2023 Minutes

Rod Wallace approved, and Brian Spitsbergen seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- 4) Youth Division Update

The after-school program currently has 264 students enrolled. Transportation currently has one driver out, so they are working with the senior division Smart Bus program to help get students to the center. The open house was successful in getting some extra registrations for the program. Six families did a tour of the center during the open house/game night. They have found that E-sports is not as popular with the students, but the students are really enjoying the different programming.

- 5) Issues Committee Update

Jordan presented the resolution to consider Worlds Children Day. She reviewed the resolution and requested that we take a vote to support the resolution and then she would work with the City of Farmington and the City of Farmington Hills to get it added to the council agenda or if that doesn't work would present it in public comments at a meeting. Jordan read the resolution to approve. Rod voted to move forward with the resolution to the two cities. He stated that the resolution was very well done. Marie seconded the motion and agreed that it was very well written. The resolution was approved with a few oxford comma fixes suggested.

Tammy gave an update on game night. Most of the participants were after-school program

students but we did have some others. Communication and getting the word out about the event was a struggle but the people that attended enjoyed the event. This will not be an annual event as this was an event; we added this year to use our extra funds at the end of the year and provide something to the after school program students for ongoing use. The youth center really appreciated the games. We used white sheets to gather feedback and Jordan shared the information from these forms. Kids wrote positive comments about game night and shared a couple of ideas they would like to see happen in the community. We may use this process of white sheets for career night event this year as well as it would save us time and money of buying folders, logo stickers and making copies of paper surveys and stuffing them before the event. Seeing all comments on one page and taking a picture gives us a better reference to go back to.

We also discussed the need for the CYF to update the logo. Our logo is very outdated, and we discussed how nice it would be to have commission apparel to wear when we are hosting and representing our commission at events. Matt said members could send him ideas.

Tammy mentioned the self-care assessment she handed out as just something that as we talk about mental health on this commission often it was something she came across and wanted to share with members. As we enter the holidays and the end of the year it is good to sometimes take and make sure you are taking care of yourself. A digital copy will be shared in the email for anyone that wants to share with others.

Sharon discussed that January topic will be elections of the chair, vice-chair, and secretary of the commission.

7) New Business and Announcements

Andy Radze – Gave information about the Farmington Hills police department and Chief King participating in a domestic violence presentation in Southfield coming up on November 8th. They are also doing the holiday shop with a hero program.

Kristal Sexton – They have a program on election day for kids with the Black Brown Theater at 2 p.m. so students have a place to go with school out. Also, the Books-n-Bites Teen Book Club will be coming up in November and December. They have started planning for MLK day with the theme of Creating Peace. Students will be submitting projects on how they interpret the theme and how they want to create peace in our community. In February she will be transitioning from the liaison position to one of the teen librarians as most of our focus seems to be this age group.

Matt Gale – They city has a Native American Heritage Event on November 16th.

Doug Edwards – They recently held a Halloween at the Y event with over 200 people there. The next event they have planned is November 17th for Veterans Day. Everyone is welcome to this event as a salute to our veterans. They are also participating in Fresh Baskets program on November 18th to help needy families.

Tammy Luty – Tammy mentioned that she attended a meeting with a new company EcoSTEM that is looking to do more work and classes with youth. They have a robot coding program

where students code remotely and then connects to robots or drones at a Pontiac lab and can see how their coding impacts the robot/drone. They had already been in touch with Kristal at the Farmington library but based on discussion the timing didn't work out for currently doing a free program. Might be something that could be done in an after-school program where parents pay extra to do this program. If Tammy gets more information, she will pass it on.

Jordan Scrimger – Mentioned that this weekend was the last Farmington Farmers Market and reminder about election next Tuesday. Also, that we will not have a regular meeting in December but can host a issues meeting if needed.

8) Public Comments

None

9) Adjournment

7:00 pm.

Marie Sarnacki, motioned to adjourn, and Brian Spitsbergen seconded, motion carried unanimously at 6:39 p.m.

All other meetings will start at 6 p.m. in the Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall.

January 4, 2024
April 4, 2024

February 1, 2024
May 2, 2024

March 7, 2024
June 6, 2024

Minutes drafted by: Secretary Tammy Luty