

**MEETING MINUTES**  
FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS  
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

November 7, 2024

Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall,  
31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI. 48336

1) Call to Order

A. Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm

B. Quorum announced

a. Members present: Sharon Snodgrass, Jordan Scrimger, Ashley Gabb, Tammy Luty, Alisa Valden, Tanya Nordhaus, Bhumika Mistry, Bria Barker-Lewis

a. Members absent: Adam Whitfield, Brian Spitsbergen, Rod Wallace, Marie Sarnacki

b. Liaisons present: Bill Dwyer (FH City Council), Angie Smith (FPS), Andy Radz (FHPD), Doug Edwards (YMCA), Liesl Blankenship (FH Youth Division), Kristel Sexton (FCL)

c. Others present: None

2) Approval of Agenda

A. Moved by Sharon

B. Seconded by Tammy

C. Motion passes unanimously

3) Approval of October 3 Minutes

A. The following edits were proposed:

a. Correcting the list of present members by removing Marie's name

b. Correcting FPL to FCL

c. Correcting that Alisa, not Tanya, made conversation point in open discussion towards end of meeting

B. Moved by Tanya

C. Seconded by Ashley

D. Motion passes unanimously

4) Youth Division Update

A. Lisel B. attended from the HAWK and updated on programs and events; archery has started, fall fest event, lots of new staff and volunteers, LTU students are starting and work study student are starting.

B. Tammy will bring more rock painting supplies – rocks – to the youth division. The students there enjoy doing the painting.

C. Lisel shared some contacts the commission may be interested in working with for some classes. She will share the contact information with Jordan. The library and YMCA are doing some of these classes.

a. Commission may be able to follow up as a secondary workshop or different workshops. Looking at winter on the quarterly planning wheel to schedule. b. Jillian Gismondi for parenting workshops

c. Jessica Glen – sleep coaching.

5) Issues Committee Update

- A. Optional subcommittee didn't meet this past week.
- B. Jordan updated the quarterly wheel and shared it with the group based on last month's meeting. Discussed and updated wheel as a group and added events and who was heading the activity.
- C. Discussed survey and handed out flyers to share in the community. YMCA will post flyer information on their Facebook page. Angie will share on the district website and Facebook and with FAAPN. Jordan will send links for sharing.
- D. Committee discussed changing the Day of the Child proclamation this year with the World Kindness day on 11/3/24. It will align with the kindness rock garden project. Tammy will work on the proclamation and Angie will take it forward to the school board to request their support. Hope to use the proclamation to expand and support the rock garden.
- E. Survey update – 134 responses for far with a goal of 500. People under 29 are not represented in the survey respondents. The commission will encourage students and youth to complete the survey. HAWK will encourage the students in the after-school program to complete the survey. Angie will send the flyers to schools and Bhumika will have her daughter share it in her school setting.
- F. Commission will explore putting together a class or workshop for the winter quarter (2nd quarter)
- G. Officer elections in February – members asked to consider taking on a role. H. Career Fair – Tanya will lead this event. Alisa had offered to assist but will settle on being supportive by attending the event. Reminder to reach out to last year's lead, Marie.
- I. Rock Painting – Discussed doing a painting event at the Earth Day celebration instead of the library extravaganza this year.
- J. Mental Wellness Fair/rock painting – event to take place in May in a collaboration at the Farmers Market.
- K. Volunteer recognition – Ashely will head this event. Discussed interest in continuing this event of changing it to partner with other agencies. Possibly Farmington Youth Assistance. Ashely will reach out and explore this. Tammy shared she was at Oakland Early Collage and they had their volunteer recognition award prominently displayed when she visited for an event.
- L. Annual reflection meeting – Bria will head this event this year.
- M. New event proposed – Alisa proposed the commission attend and participate in the Farmington Hills open house. It is the first Saturday of October. Discussed having a schedule set for the year so that the events flyers can be shared at the open house. Discussed possible use of stickers and pens as part of reach out and timing for accessing the commission budget. Agreed that commission should participate. Alisa will head this event.
- N. Tammy updated on the changes in the Kindness Rock Garden. Things have been moved and updated to take out invasive species. The city maintains the garden and removes items that are there and are inappropriate. People are bringing rocks to add to the garden on their own. Tammy will supply more rocks to the HAWK for ongoing painting.

## 6) New Business and Announcements

- A. FH Police - Chief King is retiring as of 12/16/24.
- B. City Council - City council update on Costick Center updates and the Council's focus on supporting the seniors in our community. Liesel will share the link that talks about the Costick Center issues.
- D. HAWK - City Holiday events are planned for the city and Archery with the Police is scheduled for January at the HAWK.
- E. School Board - Claudia Heinrich and Thomas Hull were elected to school board. Superintendent left and has been hired by Oakland Schools. Kelly Coffin is standing as the interim Sup.
  - a. There has been an electronic breach of social media allegedly from out of the country, and students of color in the HS have been sent inappropriate, racist text messages. The police are investigating and supports for the students are in place through the school. Suggestion for interested parties to sign up for alerts for the FPS website. Angie will send the link to the commission.
  - b. Ashley and others asked about supports available and offered community partnership to support those impacted.
- F. YMCA - Doug update on the YMCA. Halloween event was held and 175+ people attended. The YMCA is taking toys and jackets and making donations to three agencies. They are a Toys for Tots application site.
- G. Library – Kristel update on the passing of the millage by 72% (1300 people voted against the proposal). There will be an art competition with the categories; adults, high school, middle school and elementary grades 5 and 6. They are planning parenting workshops as well on safe sleeping, sensory processing, toddler talk and nutrition for toddlers. They are having a community resource fair and would like the commission to have a table there. MLK events and celebration with a theme of Unity (“we must live together” – MLK)

#### 7) Public Comments

- A. Tammy took a class at the HAWK makers space and made a positive recommendation.
- B. Library drop boxes were positively reviewed.
- C. Jordan reminded everyone there is no commission meeting in December.

#### 8) Adjournment

- A. Moved by Tanya
- B. Seconded by Ashley
- C. Motion passes unanimously
- D. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm