

MEETING MINUTES

FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

October 3, 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 6:03
- B. Quorum announced
 - a. Members present: T. Nordhaus, R. Wallace, A. Gabb, J. Scrimger, T. Luty, B Spitsbergen, A. Valden, M. Sarnacki
 - b. Liaisons present: P. Spelman, M. Gale, K. Sexton, A. Radze
 - c. Others present:

2) Approval of Agenda

- A. The following edit was proposed: Presentation by Public Works Director Jacob Rushlow
- B. Moved by T. Luty
- C. Seconded by R. Wallace
- D. Motion passes unanimously

3) Approval of June 6, 2024 Minutes

- A. The following edits were proposed:
 - a. T. Nordhaus requested for a name change
- B. Moved by T. Nordhaus
- C. Seconded by A. Gabb
- D. Motion passes unanimously

4) Presentation by Public Works

- A. Jacob Rushlow came in to discuss the impact of the upcoming millage renewal vote on road construction and maintenance in the area. The renewal assists with fixing potholes and reconstruction of aging roads. The 2.0 mill renewal will increase taxes by \$240 per year for the next ten (10) years.

5) Youth Division Update

- A. Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Gale shared that there are currently more than 300 students signed up for programming at The Hawk. A recent donation from the Youth Center from the Exemplar Club will provide additional supplies and activities. Unfortunately, the Esports program at The Hawk will close soon due to a lack of interest.

5) Issues Committee Update

- A. Commission member Luty shared that The Rock Painting Extravaganza held at the Library in the weeks previous would have benefitted from more presence and support from volunteers from the Commission. She shared that a next step could be the improvement of communication between the Commission and the library during these events. Liaison Sexton shared that the Library's priority was the Library itself during the event. There was, however, a tremendous turnout. Spitsbergen moved that the

Commission allocate \$40 towards the purchase of gift cards for the volunteers who did support the venture; Wallace seconded.

- B. Wallace shared copies of a survey for Farmington/Farmington Hills residents in support of making the initiative development of the Commission more strategic. The survey will include questions about concerns of the city for its youth and ideas for upcoming events. Marketing for the survey will be through signage at the Library and other local meeting spots for families like The Hawk and sent out via socials from the city and through Peachjar. Wallace asked the commission to consider the survey and make additional suggestions as desired before it is published. There was a motion to allocate \$500 for the survey (\$400 for the participation gift cards and \$100 for the printing) by Wallace and was seconded by Spitsbergen. It was met with unanimous approval.
- C. The Commission worked on its yearly initiative diagram. Scrimger suggested that additional organizations be brought in to engineer the rock garden project. Gabb will lead the charge for the volunteer recognition project, while Nordhaus will take the lead on the Career Night event. Spitsbergen will again lead the Mental Health initiative for Spring with additional insight from the survey results.

6) New Business and Announcements

- A. Scrimger reminded the group about the upcoming election and its importance.
- B. FPD Liason Radze shared the Farmington Hills citywide open house event on October 5 from 12pm-3pm that allowed for the tour of public service vehicles and the meeting of the two new canine officers. Luty engaged the group in discussion about the recent active shooter incident in her area and the worry it caused for citizens.
- C. FHPD Liason Spelman spoke to a Police and Pancakes event that will be held on October 5 at the Farmer's Market in partnership with the Freedom Gateway Center.
- D. FPL Liason Sexton reiterated the importance of the library millage renewal and the impact on the budget of the Library. There are also parent workshops on 10/10 involving coping and other mental wellness matters from 7pm-8pm. Signup is available at the library's website.
- E. Parks and Recreation liaison spoke to events on 10/19 with archery (Surviving The Apocalypse game), The Hawk 5K on 10/6 at 9am, and the Boo Bash event on 10/20 at 11am at Heritage Park.
- F. Nordhaus requested information regarding the fundraising capability of the Commission for issues outside the immediate realm of the Commission's responsibility (i.e. a tragedy happening in a another locale). Scrimger shared that she would look into it.

7) Public Comments

- A. There was no public comment.

8) Adjournment

- A. Moved by T. Luty
- B. Seconded by A. Valden
- C. Motion passes unanimously
- D. Meeting adjourned at 7:21