

MINUTES
FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES
June 2, 2022
Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall,
31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI. 48336

- 1) Call to Order 6:00 pm.

Meeting was called to order by Bette Rose at 6:03 p.m.

Members Present: Tammy Luty, Bette Rose, Ed Cherkinsky, Sharon Snodgrass, Jordan Scrimger, Adam Whitfield, Brian Spitsbergen, Roderick Wallace

Liaisons Present: Lauren Janowicz, Jim Nash, Jeff King, Mary Newlin, Steven Schneemann, Pat Spelman, Sarah Zitter Masindi

- 2) Approval of Agenda

Jordan Scrimger approved the agenda, seconded by Sharon Snodgrass and all approved.

- 3) Approval of May 5, 2022 Minutes

Sharon Snodgrass approved the minutes, seconded by Adam Whitfield and all approved.

- 4) Youth Division Update

Lauren updated us that they are moving forward with the after-school program in the fall. There has been no movement of getting new bus drivers since meeting with the superintendent on March 1st. Making sure bussing is available for the after-school program to run successfully is important. Lauren asked for suggestions from the group in attendance to brainstorm ideas as bussing is important for the success of the program. Options were discussed including seeing if other transportation options exist. Registration starts in July for the program. This program can support a maximum of 500 middle school students. Lauren will follow up with the superintendent and FPS transportation again.

- 5) Issues Committee Update

Tammy gave an update on the Tech/Career night event. It was very successful. Vendors were happy and talking about coming back next year. We also had a sign-in count of 88 but many came in groups and only one person signed in for the group, so we know the count was higher than that. Jim Nash mentioned that he thought it was the best attended event and he had been to all of them that we have held. He also said that he had good interaction with attendees.

Tammy brought up that we still have money left in the commission budget for this fiscal year. She came with two suggestions to present to the group to possibly use the money. The first was a program called Empowermind that would be an enrichment program for middle school/high

school students. This program was run before in some of the FPS schools as an after-school enrichment. She provided all the members the flyer on the program. The cost of the program was above what we had left in the budget so if we did the program it would have to be a split cost between participants and the commission.

The second option was to do A Kindness Rock Garden. Tammy had already talked to Ashlie at the Farmington Hills Nature Center to find a location where this garden could be located. The area would need to be cleaned up which could be done on a volunteer day at the park. This would tie into mental health which as a commission we have mentioned a few times as being something to consider working on in the future. The area that was selected already had several memorial benches so the money would be used to buy a sign, rocks, and painting supplies and possibly plants in the future to make the area nice. She thought it would be possible to do the painting as a partnership with summer camps or the library summer reading program.

Brian asked if anyone else had ideas to spend the money on.

Lauren suggested that they could use money to train The Hawk employees for mental health/trauma training. She had considered a program already that would train 30 employees for \$2000 dollars. She had some funding and the company said they might consider adjusting the cost. This would need to be booked in the summer for staff to be ready for fall after-school programs.

After discussion and a couple of motions the following amended motion was voted on to provide \$1,500 for staff training with Growth Works the remaining budget a little over \$500 going towards The Kindness Rock Garden.

6) Spotlight Show Update

Sharon discussed that the spotlight was on hold. She also talked about Bette and her reviewing the bylaws and looking at our openings for Farmington Hills. She suggested that alternatives try and attend all the meetings and could vote if someone is absent. She hoped that this would also allow us to move them into an open position if someone resigns, so we eliminate the delay in current openings. The process of filling the positions was discussed. Lauren mentioned that she has some resumes of people interested in the committee. Currently all positions for the City of Farmington are filled but with Diane resigning we have open seats for Farmington Hills. Roderick Wallace a current alternative for Farmington Hills will be presented at the June meeting to be a community member on the commission, this still leaves two Farmington Hills openings and no alternatives.

This item on the agenda will be switched to a title of Communications Update for general commission communication in the future.

7) Volunteer Recognition Program

Marla was not at the meeting and has always overseen this event. The event is planned for October, and we will discuss at our September meeting. Over the summer consider names of community members that volunteer, so we can recognize them in the fall.

8) New Business and Announcements

Sharon Snodgrass – Asked if we should have a liaison from CARES. Bette volunteers at CARES and said she can hold this dual purpose if we need any information from them or to provide them.

Sarah Zitter Masindi – The summer reading program starts on June 4th. They will be doing concerts in Riley Parks during the summer along with having community reading events for children in the community. Check out the summer reading brochure for all the programs they have.

Jim Nash – Talked about the River Day event on June 11th at Beaudette Park in Pontiac. They will be fishing, and many stations to talk about protecting the environment. The event is from noon until 4 p.m.

Jeff King – They are responding to about 1 threat of violence a week from students in grade 3rd through high school. They do a home inspection, contact parents, check the home for weapons and talk to parents about securing any guns. A couple of the notifications have come through the OK 2 Say program but most come from students or staff in the schools.

They will be out in the community on June 4th doing an E-waste recycling drive and will have officers at this event. They will also be at the Juneteenth event at Nardin Park. They are also starting back the Youth Career Day at the FH Police Department and have had a huge response and expect the event to be filled.

Mary Newlin – The city is going through a new budget process for the commissions for funding next year. She also talked about the new city website and that they are trying to streamline the process for applying for commissions online through the website.

She asked about why we break over the summer and if we can continue to meet. We have always had a break in the summer but sometimes the issues committee meets. We will setup a July and August Zoom meeting and the link will be sent to all members and liasions if they wish to attend any of the planning discussion meetings. These issues meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Adam Whitfield – Discussed that the Novi Rotary is doing work on after school curriculum programs in their city to help kids that can't afford to attend these enrichment programs. He thought this was something our commission could consider in the future.

Pat Spelman – Mentioned that the Memorial Day Parade was a success. They were preparing to support Art on The Grand this coming weekend.

Lauren Janowicz – Mentioned that she can serve as the voice of the Nature Center on the commission as she serves closely with Ashlie in her role. She talked about the FH Campout which looks like it will fill up this year. Also, June 16th is the Summer Kickoff event at The Hawk.

9) Public Comments

None

10) Adjournment

7:18 pm.

Bette Rose motioned to adjourn, and Ed Cherkinsky seconded, all in favor.

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

September 1, 2022

October 6, 2022

November 3, 2022