

**Hastings Youth Council Meeting**  
**James Harmon Community Center, Lower Level**  
**Wednesday evening, May 3, 2017 at 7:00pm**

**Minutes**

**Youth Council and Staff Members Present:** Jeff Edelman, Liz Gabay, Elizabeth Galletta, Jill Iturbe, Mary McDonald, Anna Pearson, JoAnn Reed, Karen Sokol

**Youth Council and Staff Absent:** Jeanne Newman, Lori Walsh, Donny Waterous

**Hastings KIDS Present:** Grace Aronoff

**I. Old Business-Updates**

**a.Hastings K.I.D.S Update: (Student Reps F.D., S.H., G.A.,S.S.,T.S., R.S.)**

- Hastings Community Meet Our Volunteers Event, Sunday, April 30th. This was reported by KS to have been a successful endeavor. It served to publicize the Youth Council and Hastings KIDS and provided connections such as with Hastings Beautification Committee (& Guerilla Gardening), inquiries about Youth Employment Service, Exchange with Mayor, Hastings RISE, etc.E.G. introduced T.S, R.S. S.S to RISE organizers.
- Summer Reading Partners (E.G) will be held during the month of July on each Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm at Hastings Library Lower Level. G.A will post the information on Hastings KIDS facebook group.
- Volunteer New York Presentations-Peer leaders presentation, 9th grade presentation (FD, AW)-KS reported that she discussed this with A.W. who indicated that Ms. Shaw last reported that she was awaiting a response from Volunteer New York and will try and schedule a venue for presentation to the 9th grade class when feasible.
- Hastings R.I.S.E-M.M. who is the educational coordinator for the RISE group provided some information about the "Junior Rise"- which has been renamed (DEFY). She will contact Amy Nichols to write a blurb to be posted on Hastings KIDS facebook group to recruit any interested students.

**b.Mercy College-Hastings Youth Council Internship (L.W., E.G.)-update** J.R. reported that the intern has set the bar high for the Mercy internship program and is quite impressive in her work at the Community Center and Hillside School. L.W. was absent for the meeting but indicated by e-mail that Diana, the intern, was doing well and that the second possible intern did not show for her interview so does not appear to be a viable option. The possibility was raised about hiring for paid employment the current intern at a future date but J.R. was concerned about her young age (age 18) in dealing with the older high schoolers. M.M. raised the possibility of applying for the option with Mercy College to be a part of their work-study program which is part of financial aid and is paid through school financial package. Will ask L.W. to investigate this option.

**c.Enterprise Letters to Editor about Youth Council**-the group discussed letter writing campaign and indicated that D.W. was going to write a letter about the Food Pantry, etc. Other PR options were discussed like posting public service ads on 10706, Mom Groups, Tables at Farmers Market, Hastings Flea, making informational videos by Mr. Scotch's film- making class. Use of social media was also discussed, KS said that the facebook page is up and running but has not be utilized since it needs someone to organize and write and publish content. The possibility was discussed to offer this as a senior internship rotation to a high school graduating senior to help get it going.

**d.Youth Employment Service (J.I.)** 17 jobs filled since last meeting which included tutoring for Regents, Curious on Hudson, party aids, golf caddies, babysitting, etc. KS inquired about the process of how jobs are found and filled by students. J.I. elucidated the process and said that she provides all assistance in finding or providing work opportunities, training, etc.

**e.Breakfast Run and Grace Community Table (A.P.)** The previous Breakfast Run held in April had a lower attendance though still served 70 people. The next and last Run for this year will be on June 25th. Grace Community Table is finished for the year. It will be started again in the Fall and Carol Dovell will still do the cooking. It was discussed again about establishing dates and organizing in advance teams, student groups to volunteer for a specific date on the calendar. The one aspect of this program that really benefits the senior citizens is interacting with the youth.

**f.What's Cooking?(L.G, J.N.), Help-a-Child (L.G.) and Project SHARE (J.N.)**-L.G. has indicated that she is unsure if the current group (of 4-8 girls) is still interested and/or benefiting from the program but will continue to host it as long as the group continues to come. The group felt that it was a worthwhile program and should continue even if only one student benefits. The May dinner will be a Chinese themed meal to be held in mid-May. L.G. has also successfully organized Help-a-Child (about 28 students) with compliance in generously giving by all sponsoring families. Some new sponsor families applied via the fundraiser mailings. Other means of publicizing program were discussed like including Youth Council brochure in Hastings Newcomer Package. Sue Smith organizes this for the Village.

**g.Youth Advocate Report/Drug-Free Coalition/Food Pantry (J.R., D.W.)**

- Drug-Free Coalition Update (JR)-next meeting will be tomorrow Wed. May, 4th at 10:00am at Community Center. The coalition has opened up to the general community to attend. At last meeting Mary Jane Shimsky and Dan Lemons attended. The results of the student surveys has been returned and data is being tabulated which will first be shared with the school district and then to the general community via PTSA Liason Meetings. The parent survey will be circulated in the next week via Survey Monkey on school and village e-mail blasts.
- After-School Recreational Activities at Community Center are still attracting around 25 kids though new kids are attending since they are not allowing kids to use computers for video games at school after hours. At Community Center, they can ensure that students complete homework prior to playing games.
- College Visitation Carpooling for Needy Students (MM)-circulated an organized list of potential college visits for two categories of schools (recommended by Ms. Edwards in guidance office)--academically rigorous and less rigorous schools as well as according to their geographic locations. The list was discussed in depth earmarking two potential trips (one from each group) in the Fall and in Spring. Other viable schools like St. Thomas Aquinas was also suggested as well as organizing trips to College Fairs at Westchester County Center or Javits Center in NY.
- Bill Finkeldey Award (DW)-Nancy Gagliardi was notified by EG via e-mail of the awardee for the 1st annual Bill Finkeldey Award. DW will present the award at ceremony.

**II. New Business-**

**End of Year Party**-It was discussed to hold the last meeting at KS's house again for the end of year potluck dinner party. It was proposed to be Wednesday evening, June 7th at 7:00pm weather permitting. Possible raindate Thursday, June 8th, 2017.

**JR brought up a new issue** that she recently identified that students who are receiving free breakfast

and/or lunch at school during the academic year will not have this option during the summer months. Many of these students will be counselors or campers at Hastings Day Camp. The option was discussed about appealing to AmJo's to create a menu per week for the summer for all people in camp to order lunch and the Youth Council would provide payment for the needy youth. M.M. and E.G. said that they would discuss with AmJo owners.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm**  
**End of Year Meeting/Party-June 7, 2017 at K. Sokol's Home**  
**Minutes Submitted by Karen Sokol**