

**Hastings Youth Council Minutes**  
**James V. Harmon Community Center Lower Level**  
**Wednesday, September 04, 2019, 7:00pm**

**Board Members Present:** Alana Campus, Carrick Forbes, Liz Gabay, Elizabeth Galletta, Demaris Lois Lang, Amy Nichols, Karen Sokol

**Board Members Absent:** Lori Walsh

**Staff Present:** Vernal Ford and Jill Iturbe

**Staff Absent:** JoAnn Reed-Stokes

**Community Guest Present:** Polly Bijur (Co-Chair of Senior Citizen Advisory Committee)

**I. Old Business-**

**a.REMINDER: Sexual Harassment and Violence Prevention State Mandated Online Training-**The group was reminded to complete their online training. For those who completed the training at their place of work should submit their certification documentation to the new village manager- Mary Beth Murphy [villagemanager@hastingsgov.org](mailto:villagemanager@hastingsgov.org)

**b.Youth Employment Service (YES) (J.I.)-** Jill reported that she was given the same space in the HS Library to serve as her office this year. It was suggested that Jill organize with Randi Shaw, the 9th grade coordinator, a session in which she can come to hand out job applications and inform the 9th graders about the Youth Employment Service, its location, its services, and potential jobs available. Since it is the beginning of the school year, Jill is busy organizing jobs and student applications for the coming year.

**c.Update on Meeting with New Superintendent (K.S., E.G.)-**Karen and Elizabeth reported about a successful meeting with the superintendent and the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, Melissa Szymanski, in August. Both were able to peruse the Youth Council's website to familiarize themselves with the programs of the Council. Karen and Elizabeth discussed the resurrection of the Community Leader's quarterly meeting that was held by the previous superintendent to be a working meeting with a specific agenda to discuss community issues that require input from all the sectors of the village. They also discussed possible collaboration with the PTSA to help with Hastings KIDS in designating an adult, parental mentor to lead service opportunities for groups of students for charities of their specific interest. This could be modeled after Ardsley Cares Day—perhaps a Hastings Helps Day.

**d.Social Media Campaign (C.F.) -**Carrick indicated that she would continue to post all events on social media and that all board members should continue to send her material to post.

**e.Safe Rides-**

- Karen will contact J. Genauer to post Safe Rides schedule weekly in Hastings School Happenings.
- Revision of Safe Rides card and distribution at lunch table at HS by Hastings KIDS- It was suggested that we solicit input from the students on what they think would be effective information on the Safe Rides card. Elizabeth said that she would bring this up at the Hastings KIDS meeting and Jill said that she would also ask students at school. All agreed that it should emphasize that this service could be utilized for any kind of safety concerns whether it was to avoid walking home late at night

alone or avoid drinking and driving. Karen said that she also has solicited input for suggestions from the WAY Coalition.

- SAFE Rides Social Media Campaign-Carrick will continue to regularly post Safe Rides on instagram and Facebook.

### **c.Hastings KIDS updates (E.G.)**

- Relay for Life- Elizabeth reported that Relay for Life was a great success raising over \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society. Elizabeth indicated that they have already scheduled next year's event for June 6th, 2020. Elizabeth requested that the Youth Council play a larger role in the planning in the future so that this remains a Youth Council event. Though we partner with the school and the Booster Club, this originated with the Youth Council. It was suggested that sub-committees be formed this year so that people were designated specific tasks. It was also suggested to include the younger student population and not just sports teams as walkers.
- KIDS Reading with Kids Farmers Market 9:30am-10:30am June 8, July 13, August 10-The efficacy of the Farmer's Market reading program was discussed by the group. It was determined that this was not the most effective way to host this program since there was no pre-registration by children (like it was in the Library program) and there is no way to know how many people will be attending. Attendance was definitely a problem. Weather was also a factor.
- New Applicants: Catie Cho and Jonah Sills will be the new 9th grade liaisons for Hastings KIDS-the next KIDS meeting will be on Monday, September 8 at 8:00pm at the Galletta-Scioscia household.
- Karen will check in with Randi Shaw about Volunteer New York assembly to introduce volunteer opportunities to 9th graders and the feasibility of hosting a Philanthropy Fair this year.

### **d.First Generation College Prep (LG, D.L.)-**

- Let's Get Ready <https://letsgetready.org/>-can be provided as a resource for First Generation students.
- Free Tutoring Offer: Chris Krieter will be contacting the science department to get science course information currently offered. Tutoring will be advertised beginning September 9th with sessions beginning the week of the 16th.
- Chris has also offered to help create a First-Generation college curriculum. Demaris offered her services to collaborate with him since she is an educator in the CUNY system. She suggested that curricula be created to address some of the lack of basic fundamentals in math and science that she sees in incoming college freshman. She will contact JoAnn to discuss her suggestions.
- It was discussed again the role that the Council wants to assume in creating support for First Generation College students since this is an enormous task. This will be an ongoing discussion.

**g.Mercy College/Hastings Youth Council Internship (L.W.)-** Lori interviewed a promising candidate for the Mercy College fall internship on Friday, 09/06/19 who has both leadership experience as well as experience working with children. Her name is Jazmine Crispino and Lori subsequently reported after the interview that she was very professional and well-spoken and would be a good intern. Jazmine is checking her availability to see if the hours would be compatible with the schedule. Lori checked in with JoAnn and John (AP at Hillside) to inform them about the potential intern.

**h. Social Events with Hastings Police (A.N.)**-Amy Nichols reached out to new Hastings Police Chief- Dosin who said that he will continue to be the PAL Liaison and was interested in continuing collaboration and would like to meet to discuss future events. Amy will be in touch with him. There was some discussion amongst the group about events that could be held together with the police. It was suggested that the Council pursue a Harlem Wizards game with Hastings students and Hastings police playing against the Wizards. Others reported that this was once done in the past in Hastings sponsored by the PTSA and was a huge success. Though it is an expensive proposition, it raised funds with admission fees and concessions and was therefore a fundraiser for the organization. Furthermore, the Wizards do all the publicity for the event. It was suggested that this might also be a good fundraiser for the Youth Council. If we are to move forward with this idea it will be discussed with the school administration in order to be sure another group is not doing this event.

**i. Breakfast Run and Grace Community Table (E.G.)** Elizabeth reported that Grace Community Table takes place October through May every year typically on the first Saturday of the month. Carol Dovell is leading the effort with the cooking and Luisa Scioscia is in charge of student volunteers. The Breakfast Run is supposed to take place the third Sunday in September; however, the BR coordinator, Celia Baldwin will be stepping down and no replacement has yet been found. Therefore, future dates for the BRs have not been determined.

**j. Help-a-Child (A.C.)**- Alana offered to help organize this year's Help-a-Child to decipher what students still remain in the program (not aged out). She will meet with JoAnn and Liz to coordinate this effort and then send out information to the anonymous donors to solicit donations for the children. Liz requested that an email line be placed on the annual fundraiser donation cards, for those interested in participating in the Help-a-Child program, to ease the process in contacting potential donors.

**k. Youth Advocate Report/Drug-Free Coalition/Food Pantry (J.R., V.F)**

- **Food Pantry-Hastings Food Pantry**- The food pantry is currently low on all items. An Amazon wish list has been created by Youth Services. Carrick will post a plea on social media and a request for food will also go out via village e-blast. It was discussed to have grocery bags prepared at Foodtown with non-perishable items that people could purchase for the food pantry. Alana said that she would meet with JoAnn and Foodtown representative to discuss feasibility and agree upon specific items that are in need by the food pantry to be placed in the bags.
- **The Hastings WAY Drug Free Coalition**
  - Family University will be held on October 22nd.
  - Next coalition meeting will be on September 26th at 11am.
- **Youth Advocate Program**
  - July/August Summer numbers were low, 10-25 each day—similar to previous trends
  - Part-time staff member Kelsey Wager has resigned. A new part-time person has been identified and is starting the background check process.
  - Youth Council funds helped 15 Hastings youth attend trips at Hastings day camp. We were also able to provide back to school supplies for 20 children in the community.
  - Donny Waterous will be returning to help with prevention programming at Hillside this school year!

**II. New Business- (K.S.)**

**a. Back to School Nights Sept. 5, 12, 19th, Farmer's Market, Hastings Flea-Volunteers**

- for promoting Hastings Youth Council Table**—In the past, the Back to School Nights have not been very effective in promoting the Youth Council since parents are primarily engaged in their own children's classrooms and little time is spent at the organizational tables so it was deemed not worthwhile to pursue this effort. It was discussed about having Council members trade-off hosting a table at the Farmer's Market to publicize the Youth Council.
- b.Creation of Bullying Prevention Program at Middle School and High School-** Karen was contacted by an individual in our village whose child was involved in an unfortunate encounter with other students in Hastings that resulted in physical violence. This parent had inquired about the feasibility of instituting an anti-bullying educational program in the upper schools and was willing to partially fund it. This parent was told that the Youth Advocate Program already administers an anti-bullying program in the elementary school and that the Council would research other evidence-based programs that involve communication and conflict resolution, which is a universal, underlying problem among youth, to assess the feasibility of instituting these programs in our upper schools.
- c.Creation of banner for use in promotion of Youth Council-**tabled until the next meeting
- d.Creation of quarterly newsletter for Youth Council-**tabled until the next meeting
- e.Annual fundraising campaign-new fundraising ideas -**tabled until the next meeting
- f.Project for use of Monies from Anonymous Donor-**tabled until the next meeting
- g.New Goals for 2019-2020-**tabled until the next meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm

Minutes submitted by Karen Sokol