

**Hastings Youth Council Minutes**  
**James V. Harmon Community Center Lower Level**  
**Wednesday, October 02, 2019, 7:00pm**

**Board members present: Alanna Campus, Liz Gabay, Elizabeth Galletta, Demaris Lois Lang Amy Nichols, Karen Sokol, Lori Walsh**

**Board members absent: Carrick Forbes**

**Staff Present: JoAnn Reed-Stokes**

**Staff Absent: Vernal Forbes, Jill Iturbe**

**I. Old Business–**

**a.Creation of Communication and Conflict Resolution Program at Middle School and High School (K.S., J.R.)**-JoAnn reported that she knows of a few programs that address conflict resolution. However in her opinion, the kids in this community tend to respond well to more open-ended types of curriculum where evidence-based programs tend to be a bit more scripted. It may take a little time to identify a curriculum that will give the kids/administrators the most buy-in. She thinks that it may be best to consult with the school support staff to see what may be on their “wish list’s” and to seek their input on what is most needed. Karen indicated that she will send follow-up with the anonymous individual about working with the district to introduce an appropriate program related to conflict resolution into the curriculum. If the school district decides on a program independently, JoAnn offered the Youth Services to help implement the program in the schools if needed.

**b.Youth Employment Service (J.I.)**-YES had a very busy opening month. Y.E.S. is in the same space and students know where it is and are stopping by. This month 22 jobs have already been filled including: after-school programs, child care after school, evening babysitting, providing a social media presence for a local business, tutoring, yard work, moving, a Church Attic Sale help and Party Aides. There were 6 requests for an updated Sitter List which I am compiling and will send out. There are several unfilled requests for drivers which is typical for this time of year. As more students are licensed and fall sports end, it becomes easier to fill these jobs. I met with Randi Shaw in the Guidance Office and she will distribute YES info to the 9th grade when she has a class meeting. I distributed YES materials at the Club Fair last Friday. YES info appeared in the Hastings Happenings to alert parents to have kids sign up, and also to let residents know about the service.

**c.Social Media Campaign (C.F.)** -Carrick was absent but the group discussed the general media campaign of the Council and its compatibility with Village goals. Since the Youth Council has their own 501C3 non profit entity, this has enabled us to fundraise and provide information to the public independently.

**d.Safe Rides**

- Revision of Safe Rides card- There was some feedback on the Safe Rides cards. Elizabeth reported that they did get some feedback from 3 students who like the cards as they are- they wouldn’t change it at all; they also said students have the number in their phones, and don’t even really need/use the “card” once number is in their phone...So we’d still want to have a way to tell Freshman but maybe doesn’t need to be a card. JoAnn reported that a group of male freshmen at the Community Center said that the card was too “wordy”. They recommended to just say what it is and move on. Most of them had not heard about Safe Rides unless they had an older sibling. The group decided that it was still beneficial to have a card. The Council will solicit more feedback about what should be on the card. The Safe Rides cards were handed out at the high school club fair.

- SAFE Rides Social Media Campaign-Karen sent email to Jeanine Genauer who coordinates Hastings Happenings who posted it again in the weekly newsletter.

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

- Hastings High School Club Fair Evaluation- Club Fair appeared to be successful- recruited 6 volunteers for the Reading partners at the Farmers Market this past week on September 28th. This week's Reading Partners was quite successful with good participation of children attending the market. It was suggested that in the future we try to plan around this seasonal interest.
- Relay for Life-June 6th, 2020. Elizabeth requested more involvement from the Council for the coming year. Lori offered to attend the meetings with Elizabeth and the school district and the booster club. Again, it was emphasized that specific delegation of duties should be outlined for Council members for the coming year.
- A Better High- was advertised at the Club Fair. There does not appear to be great interest by the student body in attending. JoAnn said that the Community Van would be available to transport kids if they were interested in attending.

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

- Free Tutoring Program Started: Chris Kreiter- The program was begun but did not have any attendance yet. It was recommended for Chris to coordinate a visit to the science classrooms in the high school to introduce himself and to discuss the tutoring services offered in person. It was thought that more people would participate with the advent of initial exams. A new idea was discussed to have a "College Shower" for first generation college students. They could create a registry at Bed Bath and Beyond for necessities for college. This was discussed as perhaps being an alternative or the fulfillment of the Bill Finkeldey scholarship provided to a senior student by the Council. This way the Council could ensure that the monies were being used for specific college purpose. Demaris again expressed her interest in participating in designing a curriculum with Chris for the first generation college students so will contact JoAnn to arrange a meeting.

**g.Mercy College/Hastings Youth Council Internship (L.W.)**-The Mercy student that was interviewed and accepted for the internship was not able to accommodate the hours of the internship with her paid job so withdrew her application. Therefore, no intern was available for this fall semester. The group discussed posting the internship at Mercy now for the spring internship so that all clearances could be finalized in advance and we could be ensured a spring intern.

**h.Social Events with Hastings Police (A.N.)**-Amy reached out to Chief Dosin and Mr. Adipietro but has not yet received follow-up. However, she had met a few officers that seemed to be interested in the basketball game. It was again discussed about the Harlem Wizards event and to check with the PTSA if they were scheduling such an event and if the Council could plan or perhaps partner as a fundraiser .

**i.Breakfast Run and Grace Community Table (E.G.)**-So far, no one has stepped up to replace Celia Baldwin to coordinate the Breakfast Runs so no further dates have been scheduled. Grace Community Table is scheduled for the first Saturday of the month through May, 2020. Luisa Scioscia is coordinating the volunteers.

**j.Help-a-Child (A.C., L.G)**-Alanna met with JoAnn and redid the Help a Child spreadsheet. Liz and JoAnn both have copies of the updated spreadsheets. Liz will follow-up with the donors to see who is still interested in participating and matching them with a child. It was

discussed to create a new application explaining the program and the commitments of the donor in order to solicit new participants.

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

- **Hastings Food Pantry-** E-blast for Amazon wish list went out in early September. Very good community response, donations continue to come in. Alanna approached JoAnn about the idea of creating prepackaged bags for the food pantry at Foodtown. JoAnn felt that this might not be the best way since the management at Foodtown may not be able to adequately follow through. So far the Amazon prime requests and social media requests have adequately supplied the food pantry.
- **Hastings WAY Drug Free Coalition-**
  - Family University will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Will be presenting Youth Survey data to Board of Education on 10/7
  - Coalition will begin promoting Westchester County's social host law within the community.
- **Youth Advocate-**
  - September after-school numbers have been 40-50 most days
  - New part-time staff member Alanna Tweedie has been hired.
  - Working to bring additional prevention education programs to the middle school
  - Seeking to build more relationships with kids that may not come to the community center, will begin attending a few different club meetings after-school in the middle/high school.

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

**a. Annual Fundraising Mailing-new fundraising ideas-**The annual fundraising solicitation mailing was discussed to see if we wanted to continue in the same vein as we have done in the past or take a different approach at solicitation. The group agreed that the previous campaigns have worked and there is no need to change what has worked.

**b. Farmer's Market Publicity for Youth Council-**Elizabeth said that the Reading Partners at the Farmer's Market was a good opportunity to publicize the Youth Council so all the adult volunteers should have a stack of brochures available to distribute at the event to parents of children reading and to other passerby's.

**c. Trunk or Treating?-October 31st 4:30-6:00pm (set up at 3:45pm at Chemka )** The group did not feel that this was a worthwhile venue in which the Council should participate. There would not be good exposure at such an event. There was some discussion about the redundancy of such an event since there were many other community events for which the children can solicit treats.

**d. Creation of banner for use in promotion of Youth Council-**The group agreed that a banner would be beneficial for promotion of the Council at community events so we should go forward with it.

**e. Creation of quarterly newsletter for Youth Council-**discussed coordinating a quarterly newsletter to be sent out to promote the programs of the Council. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to send out this newsletter in advance of the fundraising mailing and to provide the Paypal link and again to send it out at the end of the school year.

**f. Project for use of Monies from Anonymous Donor-**it was discussed to propose using donated monies for first generation college students and the college shower.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm**

**Minutes submitted by Karen Sokol**