

Hastings Youth Council Minutes
James V. Harmon Community Center Lower Level
Wednesday, January 08, 2020, 7:00pm

Staff Present: Vernal Ford, JoAnn Reed-Stokes

Staff Absent: Jill Iturbe

Board Members Present: Alana Campus, Liz Gabay, Elizabeth Galletta, Amy Nichols, Karen Sokol

Board Members Absent: Carrick Forbes, Damaris Lois Lang, Lori Walsh

I. Old Business

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

- **Hastings Food Pantry-** Foodtown donation bags are helping to sustain the food pantry supply. Will update Amazon Prime wish list also. Pantry continues to serve about 20 families/individuals weekly.
- **Hastings WAY Drug Free Coalition** Will be sending out data from survey monkey community survey shortly.
- **Youth Advocate-**able to provide over 20 families with toys and gifts for the holidays.
- **School Prevention Programs-** Meeting to discuss prevention programs with Jesse Merchant had to be postponed and will be rescheduled.

b.Youth Employment Service (Y.E.S.)

With 2 full weeks off, 15 jobs were filled by the YES Office since the last meeting. They included: After-school child care, after-school driving, tutoring, video production (for college application), party aides, babysitting at a large family holiday party (multiple sitters), restaurant help, moving. The 2020 summer Job Info Kick-Off session will be Tuesday, January 14th. Materials are being produced, this time using google Documents instead of hand-written information. There are many new job opportunities and Jill has been contacted by several camps. Two of them will hold Hiring/Interview sessions in the Lobby: Oasis Camp on Feb. 4 and the JCC on Feb. 11th. This info and age requirements will be given out starting at the kick-off event. Jill has negotiated Members rates for all Lifeguard Training courses listed in her materials.

c.Annual Fundraising Mailing and Newsletter (K.S., J.R) Total of \$9,657.13 has been raised as of today. \$1291.13 of that amount was from Paypal which was solicited via the quarterly newsletter.

d.Harlem Rockets/Fundraiser/Social Event with Hastings Police (A.N.)The Rockets informed Amy that they are now available on one of the original dates she requested (3/13), but Lou Adipietro hasn't gotten back to Amy re: whether it still works for them yet. She will try and contact Nancy Gagliardi to get a definitive response.

e.Social Media (C.F.)-There was some discussion about improving the social media presence and perhaps enlisting the help of a high school intern.

f.Collaboration with School District on Communication and Conflict Resolution Program at Middle School and High School (K.S., J.R.)-JoAnn said that she will follow up with Melissa Syzmanski to discuss if the school administration has researched any specific programs that we could help implement.

g.Safe Rides (K.S, J.R.)-JoAnn reported that the service continues to be utilized. There was some discussion about the current status of the community van used for Safe Rides which JoAnn reported appeared to be in reasonably good condition despite its age since it also has relatively low mileage. New Safe Rides cards were provided to Elizabeth who will give to Hastings KIDS to disseminate at lunch table at school and via the peer leaders to the 9th graders. Discussed making the cards available in high school front office, community center, etc.

h.Hastings KIDS updates (E.G.)

- **Relay for Life- (E.G., L.W.)** RFL date is June 6. Rain date June 7. We will have a ACS standardized website this year designed by the ACS. The RFL committee Lori Walsh, Laura Light (Booster Club), and Elizabeth will be meeting with Kaitlin Chieco Community ACS Development Manager Friday Jan 10 to discuss fundraising and overall plan. Students on the organizing committee are Catie Cho, Jonny Amaral, Jonah Sills, Josh Thigpen. More to come next month on this.
- **Bracelet Fundraiser for RFL at HOH events** - pura vida bracelets ordered include green and yellow as well as purple string representing the ACS; students will sell these at Community Basketball and other events in January and this spring. The Youth Council purchased the bracelets, all proceeds after reimbursing the Youth Council will be donated to the ACS.
- **Reading Partners at Hillside Elementary** Raneen Badaan is leading this effort at Hillside on the following dates in Feb and March Feb 25, 27, March 3, 5, 10, 12.
- **Grace Community Table and Breakfast Run-** The next GCT is 2/1/2020. Luisa Scioscia is recruiting student volunteers. There is new leadership for the BRs. Alicia Sweitzer and Dan Fingleton and Caroline Anderson are the adult Grace River-towns BR 2020 coordinators. The next BR is 1/26/2020 and here is the link to donate: <https://tinyurl.com/y4wqxrwg> . Currently they have no open slots for student volunteers yet; anyone interested could probably still go. Luisa Scioscia will post link on KIDS google classroom page. Youth Council members and others encouraged to donate.
- **John Costello Basketball Tournament Food Pantry Donations** There was food collected at the Annual Costello Basketball Tournament in December at HHS; food was delivered to the Food Pantry by student Alex Weitzman.
- **HHS Winter Concert for Senior Citizens Dec 18** - Chloe Caraballo coordinated volunteers for serving seniors. 8 students participated.
- **Governor's Youth Council**
Mayor Niki Armacost forwarded us information about applying to this in December, very close to their deadline. The information was shared with the student liaisons, yet no one applied.

i.First Generation College Prep (D.L, C.K.)

- **Free Tutoring Program**-Chris Kreiter continues to be present to offer tutoring help and homework help in the after school program.
- **Creation of Curriculum/Workshops**-Damaris reported that she has not been able

to connect with Chris but hopefully will later this month. Chris has worked on some modules addressing first year college student transitions and funding applications. It was discussed that we limit the scope of the curriculum effort since there is no dedicated personnel to lead this and there should be an emphasis on future sustainability of the program. It was recommended to write up standard operating procedures on specific aspects of the college application process and potential obstacles that might be encountered for first generation college students and their families.

j.**Help-a-Child (A.C., L.G)**-Application sample, which was drawn up by Alanna and edited by Karen, was provided to the group to approve. The donor application will be sent out to potential sponsors. JoAnn provided a some emails of people (collected via the annual fundraising campaign) who might be interested in becoming a Help-a-Child sponsor.

k.**Mercy College/Hastings Youth Council Internship (L.W.)** Lori reported that she had someone apply to the internship on Wednesday, Jan. 8th and she emailed her to set up an interview. Lori also communicated with the director at Mercy who said that she would bump up the internship somehow on the new online program to see if that helps recruit more applicants.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes submitted by Karen Sokol