



Youth Council Meeting Minutes - October 4, 2023

Item 1 | Call To Order

- The Meeting was called to order by Ali Atoui at 4:02 p.m.

Item 2 | Attendance

- James Brogna, Nathaniel Chines, Thomas Berinato, William Buswell, Michaela Lyons, Ahmed Othman, Olivia Wall, and Vanessa Westlake were in attendance.

Item 3 | Public Comment

- There were no members of the public wishing to comment.

Item 4 | Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Meeting Minutes from September 21 were approved unanimously.

Item 5 | Town Day at the Common

- Wakefield Town Day may be canceled due to rain, but if not the Youth Council will be present, with adjustments made for the weather.
- There will be QR codes for members of the public to suggest initiatives and give feedback to the Youth Council.
- There will be a digital map for people to point out areas of Wakefield they like particularly, or areas that they feel need improvement.
- Specific plans will be determined later once the town announces if Town Day will take place.

Item 6 | Communications/Outreach Subcommittee Update

- The subcommittee is currently trying to increase the social media presence of the Youth Council.
- Plans for active bystander training with the Wakefield Human Rights Commission is also still in progress.
- The Council will be posting meet the member posts on its Instagram, and a form will be sent out in the following days for information.

Item 7 | Youth Council Finance Working Group Update

- An overview of the Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant was given by Vanessa Westlake
- The grant is for programs that help serve communities and bring people together.
- This grant would help the Youth Council move from single events towards long term policy initiatives, and further connection with the Youth community.
- Ideas of partnering with the Council on Aging as well as the Art programs at the High School were raised.



- The motion to apply for a Cultural Council Grant was approved unanimously.

Item 8 | School Committee Liaison Update

- Ahmed Othman updated the council on the recent School Committee meeting.
- There was strong debate over the implementation of the new Yonder system at the Middle School which would restrict cell phone usage.
- The idea of surveying parents and youth to hear public opinion about the new system was suggested.
- The council will continue following the initiative, and look into putting out information for youth and parents.

Item 9 | Liaison Updates

- Everyone has received an email from their liaisons and will be meeting with them soon.

Item 10 | Bike Valet

- Bike Valet sign ups are still open as the farmer's market will continue until the end of October.

Item 11 | Upcoming Projects and Policy Goals Discussion

- The Veterans Day cleanup this year will be partnered with the Warrior CleanUp Crew, with the Youth Council covering the promotion and the Cleanup Crew handling planning.
- The Snow Angels program is hoping to see greater turnout this year, and the Youth Council will work to increase promotion and sign ups.
- The Active Bystander Training initiative is still in progress, but there are no significant updates as of this meeting.

Item 12 | Announcements

- Michaela Lyons brought up ideas about improving disability accommodations around the town, such as in playgrounds.
- At the moment there are no ADA accessible playgrounds in Wakefield.
- The idea will be looked further into for possible future initiatives.

Item 13 | Determine Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting will be on October 15 at 11:45 AM.

Item 14 | Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated

Item 15 | Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned unanimously.