



## **Youth Council Meeting Minutes - December 7, 2022**

### **Item 1 | Call to Order**

- Chair Vanessa Westlake called the meeting into order at 11:45AM.

### **Item 2 | Attendance**

- Ahmed Othman, Ali Atoui, Alla Othman, Dhruvi Upmanyu, Elizabeth Menjivar, Juliana Spaulding, Madeline Naper, Maya Palic, Olivia Wall, Paige Arkinstall, Sadie Lominac, Sofia Panighetti, Thomas Berinato, Vanessa Westlake

### **Item 3 | Public Comment**

### **Item 4 | Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2022**

- Clerk Ali Atoui stated that the meeting minutes will be prepared for the next meeting due to a difficulty with accessing the meeting video.

### **Item 5 | Lake Clean Up Debrief**

- Ali Atoui said that some people did volunteer, but not many people. A much smaller turnout than last year was noted. Ahmed Othman concurred, saying that some trash was picked up, but a much smaller amount than last year.
- It was discussed why the turnout was lower than the year prior. Factors contributing to last year's success included having the extra credit potential at the Galvin Middle School, the Friends of Lake Quannapowitt having to cancel their clean up due to bad weather, and having major support from cosponsors.
- Strategies for next year could include advertising the extra credit again, advertising having snacks and drinks,
- Dhruvi Upmanyu said that he was in contact with his liaison David Mangan, and that there will be an event with putting up wreaths for the veterans, and that Vanessa Westlake would forward that information to the general council.
- Catherine Dhingra said that close to one-hundred dollars were raised from the event, and that she will be in communication with Dhruvi Upmanyu and David Mangan about this.

### **Item 6 | Liaison Spotlight: Safe Routes to School**



- Juliana Spaulding explained that she attended a meeting with the Safe Streets Working Group, but that there was not much about safe routes to school. There was a major focus on pedestrian safety and bike safety during the meeting. A potential event for pedestrian and bike safety was discussed, and the council agreed that promoting information about this safety would be something they'd be interested in taking on.
- With regards to pedestrian and bike safety, concerns discussed were that many children and teenagers do not look onto the street before crossing, crossing the street not on a crosswalk, not using proper safety gear when riding bikes, biking in the streets as opposed to sidewalks, etc.
- Vanessa Westlake suggested promoting citizens to shovel their sidewalks in order to safer paths for children pedestrians; for example when walking to a bus stop. Catherine Dhingra said that this could be promoted alongside Snow Angels (while keeping them separate). It would be more of a promotion for homeowners to shovel their sidewalks. Catherine Dhingra said that a group could make a poster for social media and a press release about this; Vanessa Westlake, Maya Palic, and Alla Othman volunteered to assist Juliana Spaulding in this.

#### **Item 7 | Liaison Spotlight: Council on Aging**

- Vanessa Westlake said that she spoke with Karen Burke with the Council on Aging. The first thing she spoke with her about was having a job opportunities page for youth to connect them with seniors who may need assistance with a job. This could be volunteer hours or being paid based on the individual job and senior. Dhruvi Upmanyu said that this would also be great for veterans who are seniors. Vanessa Westlake suggested using a Google Classroom or a Google Form, to promote this, and Ali Atoui suggested promoting these jobs on social media as well. Olivia Wall suggested using QR codes. Catherine Dhingra suggested having the Youth Council focus on the youth piece, and having the Council on Aging focus on the senior piece.
- Vanessa Westlake explained another thing that she spoke about was having generational events to connect the senior community to the youth community of Wakefield. She suggested having veterans come into the schools to talk with history classes around next Veterans Day. Ahmed Othman suggested having a select group of recommended students meet with the veterans, but Catherine Dhingra said it should be open to all students, especially those interested in going into the military or connecting with a veteran. Catherine Dhingra suggested Dhruvi Upmanyu and Thomas Berinato meet with Mr. Pavey and David Mangan to coordinate this.
- Vanessa also said that the Council on Aging is looking for outreach through the Youth Council Instagram.
- Vanessa Westlake said that the last update she had is that the Council on Aging and the senior center are occasionally looking for youth volunteers to help with staffing at their events. Catherine Dhingra suggested having these opportunities posted at the high school alongside the Youth Council as well.

#### **Item 8 | Liaison Updates**

- Ahmed Othman said that he met with his liaison, Kevin Fontanella of the School Committee, about revising the role of student representatives to make their positions more active and

solidified. Ahmed Othman said that he'd invite Kevin to the next meeting to share his thoughts. Ahmed Othman also said that he would be giving a presentation to the School Committee in the near future about what the Youth Council has been doing. Vanessa Westlake noted that she is one of the student representatives. Ahmed Othman said that the model that Kevin Fontanella and himself are working towards is having the student representatives have a seat at the discussion and deliberations while being non-voting members.

- Catherine Dhingra noted that Alexis from the Youth Action Team will be giving the Youth Council a presentation on later school start times at the next meeting.

#### **Item 9 | Snow Angels Project**

- Vanessa Westlake and Catherine Dhingra said that the Snow Angels flier is updated and should be promoted soon. Madeline Naper said that she would post it on social media, and that the link could go in the social media bio and the LinkTree. Catherine Dhingra noted that the Council on Aging has already been receiving requests from seniors, and that the volunteers from last year should be reached out again. Juliana Spaulding suggested using the Remind from last year to gather who would be returned as volunteers.
- Ali Atoui said that he would get a press release in the Daily Item, and that he'd reach out to his contact from the Wakefield Patch about this promotion.

#### **Item 10 | Communications Sub Committee Update**

- Ali Atoui explained that the next subcommittee meeting is going to be held on December 16 at 7:00PM, and he will be giving a presentation about his liaison meeting with Jenn McDonald about major changes to the Youth Council social media. Catherine Dhingra and Ali Atoui said that having a goal in mind for growing social media following would be important by the next meeting.
- Vanessa Westlake suggested using Remind to promote Youth Council events.
- Vanessa also suggested Madeline do a post about shoveling sidewalks when it begins snowing in conjunction with what Juliana Spaulding has planned.
- Catherine Dhingra requested members to fill out the Meet the Members form to post on social media.

#### **Item 11 | Announcements**

#### **Item 12 | Determine Next Meeting Date**

- Catherine Dhingra will be sending out a Doodle Poll for the next Youth Council meeting.

#### **Item 13 | Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated**

- Madeline Naper asked if there were any updates with the Youth Council clothing, and Catherine Dhingra said that she is working with the T-Stop to get some prototypes for them.

#### **Item 14 | Adjournment**

- Ali Atoui motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Paige Arkinstall seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.