



Youth Council Meeting Minutes - May 10, 2023

Item 1 | Call to Order

- Chair Vanessa Westlake called the meeting into order at 11:36 a.m.

Item 2 | Attendance

- Ali Atoui, Alla Othman, Juliana Spaulding, Madeline Naper, Maya Palic, Olivia Wall, Paige Arkinstall, Sofia Panighetti, Thomas Berinato

Item 3 | Public Comment

Item 4 | Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2022 and April 27, 2023

- Clerk Ali Atoui read the meeting minute summaries for the November 9, 2022 and April 27, 2023 meeting minutes. They were both approved unanimously.

Item 5 | GLAAD Presentation

- Lana Leonard from GLAAD gave a presentation about what this organization does. Lana explained how GLAAD worked towards LGBTQ inclusion and equality in Hollywood and media.
- Lana further explained the terminology and history of LGBTQ and how the rise in anti-LGBTQ bills and laws has impacted members of this community.
- Catherine Dhingra gave local data information about how LGBTQ students disproportionately do not feel as safe nor connected in school, and they are bullied at higher rates. Suicide is also higher.
- The Youth Council can work at the town level to support and work with elected, community, and other members that are pro-LGBTQ to promote and work on LGBTQ inclusivity. Next steps include contacting the School Committee and communicating with local programs.

Item 6 | Warrior Clean Up Update

- Ali Atoui updated the council on the clean up, explaining that himself, Maggie Shaffer, and Ahmed Othman have finished making the promo video for the event at WCAT, and it will be sent along shortly. The event has also been posted on Patch.



- Vanessa Westlake asked where exactly the group would clean up beyond the Woodville School—Ali Atoui said he'd follow up with Maggie Shaffer.

Item 7 | Liaison Updates

- Juliana Spaulding updated the council on Safe Streets and what they've been working on. There will be a bike valet run by the Youth Council and Youth Action Team. Volunteers are needed from the council. Questions were asked about the functioning of the valet.
- Paige Arkinstall shared that the Wakefield Human Rights Commission will be holding a Pride Flag Raising, and the council will be sharing on social media.
- Vanessa Westlake jointly shared that Dhruvi Upmanyu's liaison—Veterans Services—is holding a flag placement event on graves for Memorial Day. It will be promoted on social media.
- Catherine Dhingra shared that WMHS junior Abby Hodgdon has started a dementia friends program and that the Youth Council will be promoting the program.

Item 8 | Communications Sub Committee Meeting

- Ali Atoui explained that the subcommittee will be meeting next week, and that Youth Council applications have consumed most of the subcommittee's time. The Posting Calendar recommended by Jenn McDonald has worked smoothly to ensure better efficiency with this.
- The WHRC's AAPI Heritage Month celebration will be posted on social media.

Item 9 | Announcements

- There was an update that Youth Council applications are complete and the review process is being initiated.
- Ali Atoui brought up potentially forming a working group to specifically handle crafting a budget for the Youth Council for FY25.

Item 10 | Determine Next Meeting Date

- A Doodle Poll will be sent out to determine the next meeting date.

Item 11 | Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated

Item 12 | Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned unanimously.