

Tuesday, October 19, 2021
Mayor's Youth Council Virtual Meeting 6:00 PM



**Members of the public may view the meeting on West Hartford Community
Interactive YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViJvBx2S3pQ>

1. Call to Order

Staff liaison Kari Karp called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:05 p.m. Present, via Town of West Hartford WebEx, were Council members Reese Berigan, Daphne Brewer, Grace Furia, Jack Gold, Sarah Granquist, Maya Palanki, Kris Rimal, Zaara Shahzad, Priya Sinha

Guests: Carol Waxman, Tracey Wilson, Judy Wyman Kelly

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Amendments

- i. Zaara's Correction: Correct spelling of name to "Shahzad".
- ii. Mrs. Karp's Correction: "Due to technical difficulties, this meeting was not recorded. Any vote that was taken will be recast at the next meeting."
- iii. No other corrections were made and the minutes stand approved.

3. Old Business

a. Ice Breaker

- i. Members were asked to state their name, grade, and the commercial jingle they find the most annoying.

b. Discussion of Subcommittee and Impact Project Ideas

- i. Regrowing West Hartford, Jack Gold
 - A reforestation project/subcommittee focused on trees and other plants in West Hartford.

-Actions include identifying diseased and older trees that have become hazardous to the West Hartford Community and planting newer and more vibrant trees in place, planting trees and other plants on neglected plots of land, increasing community gardening, and maintaining the parks of West Hartford.

-Votes: 4

ii. Be Hopeful Project/Homelessness Education, Grace Furia

-Incorporating homelessness education, specifically McKinney-Vento Rights education, in schools in West Hartford. The goal of the project is to eliminate alienation of the homeless and reduce the vulnerability of those in vulnerable situations.

-The Be Homeful Project

-Votes: 6

iii. Mental Health Action and Awareness Committee, Maya Palanki

-Votes: 8

-Grace, Sarah, Maya, and Priya will serve on the Mental Health Action and Awareness Committee.

iv. Plan social events throughout the year for teens in town, Jack Gold

-Would work with the Town of West Hartford.

-Votes: 8

-Reese, Daphne, and Jack will serve on the Social Events Committee.

v. International Night, Zaara Shahzad

-An event to promote diversity in West Hartford and bring teens together.

-Votes: 7

-Kris and Zaara will serve on the International Night Committee.

vi. Teen Job Fair, Reese Berigan

-Restaurant and small shop owners across West Hartford would hire teen employees. Employers looking for employees due to the COVID-19 pandemic would be able to fill openings, and teens would gain the experience of being a part of the workforce and having their first job.

-Votes: 3

vii. Motion to vote for which of these ideas we would like to see become the Mayor's Youth Council's three impact projects for 2021-2022 was made by Grace Furia, Zaara Shahzad seconded.

-Mental Health Action and Awareness, Plan social events throughout the year for teens in town, and International Night were selected as our Impact Project ideas.

4. New Business

a. Possible Collaborations

i. Chamber of Commerce Job Fair

- Town Manager Matt Hart and Town Councilman Ben Wenograd have asked whether any members of the Mayor's Youth Council are interested in helping with the Community Job and Resource Fair that is posted by the Chamber of Commerce.
- The date of the next job fair is currently unknown.

ii. Witness Stones Project

- A group led by Judy Wyman Kelly, Tracey Wilson, and Liz Devine.
- They are working on a project to uncover the names of people enslaved in West Hartford and tell their stories. The Witness Stones Project is interested in having members of the Mayor's Youth Council petition to Town Council to help to rename some streets, specifically New Street, in West Hartford.
- Mayor's Youth Council members would fill out a petition and might be asked to help with interviewing people, hosting a podcast, creating a virtual walking tour of Witness Stones plaques in West Hartford, or making an informational brochure.
- Witness Stones leaders would mentor participants through Zoom meetings
- Another project idea would be providing the stories for all of the names listed in the dreadlocks of the woman on the mural in West Hartford center.

iii. New Community Center Advisory Group

- The Town of West Hartford would like one representative from the Mayor's Youth Council to serve on a 9-member advisory board that meets monthly with the architecture firm designing the new multi-use community center design and function will benefit the community.

b. Media Requests

- ###### i. we-ha.com is interested in doing an article with the Mayor's Youth Council next month for publication in December.

-As of now, Mrs. Karp and Mrs. Waxman will be doing the interview. If there is potential for teen council members to participate in interviews, then anyone is welcome to be a part of the article.

c. Discussion of Boards & Commissions Training

i. Assistant Corporation Counsel Cynthia Lauture has offered to meet with the Mayor's Youth Council to provide personal training on any meeting-related questions Council Members have.

-An open-ended Q & A with the Corporation Counsel to ask about the use of texting, Google Drive, conducting working meetings, using Robert's Rules of Order, and the town's social media policy may be set up.

ii. Member Comments: Members agreed a meeting with the Corporation Counsel would be helpful and suggested that the meeting take place outside of monthly Mayor's Youth Council meetings.

5. Announcements

a. Action items

i. Everyone should meet with their subcommittees once before November 23.

ii. A brief report describing updates on subcommittees should be created.

iii. A Google Classroom should be created.

iv. An optional Q & A session with Cynthia Lauture may be set up and any council members who wish to participate should respond to Mrs. Karp's possible dates and let her know whether they would like to attend.

v. Council members interested in participating in any collaboration projects should email Mrs. Karp.

vi. If any subcommittee project ideas are created, Mrs. Karp should be contacted ahead of the next meeting so the project can be voted on. The project cannot be official without a vote.

6. Adjournment

a. Adjournment

i. Motion to adjourn was made by Grace Furia, Daphne Brewer seconded.

ii. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.

iii. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in WebEx