

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Mayor's Youth Council Virtual Meeting 6:00 PM in



WebEx

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5LURqnceB8>

1. Meeting Opening

Staff liaison Kari Karp called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:02 p.m. Present, via Town of West Hartford WebEx, were Council members Reese Berigan, Daphne Brewer, Grace Furia, Jack Gold, Tziyona Goldfischer, Sarah Granquist, Kikoh Mordukai, Maya Palanki, Kris Rimal, Zaara Shahzad, and Priya Sinha. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries Interim Director and Zoe Weissman, West Hartford Climate Project.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Amendments

- i. No corrections were made and the minutes from the October 18 and 19 meetings were approved.

3. Subcommittee Reports

A. Mental Health Action and Awareness Committee

- i. Shared an idea for a free, online seminar for parents hosted by mental health professionals that would feature information relating to teens, including signs to look out for and how to help.
- ii. Shared an idea for an ongoing weekly or monthly in-person group at the public library or in the schools for teenagers to discuss mental health issues. This could be a possible collaboration with the Bridge Family Center.

iii. This subcommittee is investigating groups to work with and their contact information.

B. Teen Social Events Committee

i. The Social Events subcommittee requested to merge with the International Night / Diversity Night committee to help plan and publicize their event, rather than acting as a standalone committee.

C. International Night / Diversity Night Committee

i. Shared an idea for an outdoor Diversity Night that would happen in the spring. This event would take place in the Center and be free and open for all ages to join. It would include different cultural foods, celebrations, and activities.

ii. Shared an idea for a panel discussion on how West Hartford can improve in terms of racism and how this issue can be addressed in the schools. This conversation would be targeted to adults and high school students and would take place at town hall or the Noah Webster Library meeting room.

4. New Business

A. Meeting Dates and Rooms 2022-2023

i. The dates for the 2022-2023 Mayor's Youth Council meetings must be sent to the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk by January 2022.

ii. Mrs. Karp sent the proposed dates to the Mayor's Youth Council and no changes or alternate dates were suggested.

iii. Motion to take a vote to decide whether to hold 2021-2022 Mayor's Youth Council meetings in person was made by Mrs. Karp, Zaara Shahzad seconded.

Vote: Yes: 11, No: 0

iii. Starting in January 2022, Mayor's Youth Council meetings will be held at Town Hall room 312 or in the Library Board Room.

B. Google Classroom and Discord

- i. Secretary Sarah Granquist gave a presentation on Google Classroom, including how to use the platform, current sections of the classroom (ex. subcommittee folders, meeting dates, agendas and minutes), and the possible addition of Google Calendar.

- ii. Kris Rimal presented on the Mayor's Youth Council's Discord server. He explained features like text channels, the off-topic channel, and voice channels that subcommittees can utilize to work synchronously or asynchronously on projects.

- iii. Member Comments: Members expressed that both Google Classroom and Discord were helpful to the Council. Some requested Google Calendar as a tool to schedule subcommittee meeting dates.

C. Universal Declaration of Human Rights Recording

- i. Kris Rimal and Mrs. Karp represented the Mayor's Youth Council at the Human Rights Commission meeting on November 3. MYC was asked to record members reading articles 1- 14 of the UN's Declaration of Human Rights for a video that will be shown in a virtual celebration on December 10.

- ii. Nine members went to the Noah Webster Library Tech Lab and Faxon Library to record on 11/15 and 11/17. Two other members are submitting their segments directly to Community Services Librarian, Pramod Pradhan, who is editing the video.

D. MYC Social Media

- i. MYC is creating a social media subcommittee.
- ii. Members agreed that Instagram would be effective at reaching the community.
- iii. To promote the MYC, a logo contest was proposed. It would be announced in the schools and the winning logo would be used on MYC's social media platforms. The winner of the contest would receive a prize such as a gift card.
- iv. A MYC webpage was proposed. This would serve as a landing page for those who want to see what the MYC is doing and would like to get involved in community service opportunities for teens.
- v. MYC may also create surveys for students to ask which issues they see as most prevalent and would like the council to address. These surveys could be sent to students by their schools or student body representatives.

5. Announcements

A. Witness Stones Project

i. A final call was made for any council members interested in participating in the Witness Stones Project / petition to rename New Street. Mrs. Karp will forward names to our Town Historian, Dr. Tracey Wilson.

B. Community Center Advisory Group

i. Kris Rimal submitted paperwork to become Mayor's Youth Council's representative on the new Community Center Advisory Group, which is forming soon.

C. West Hartford Climate Project

i. Zoe Weissman, a student representative of the West Hartford Climate Project discussed the group's plans to pass a Climate Emergency Resolution in West Hartford.

ii. WHCP invited Mayor's Youth Council members to its future meetings to provide their feedback and promote the inclusion of students' voices.

iii. When MYC sets up a web page on the library or town site, WHCP information may be posted for local teens who are interested in getting involved in environmental action.

6. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

i. Motion to adjourn was made by Grace Furia, Tziyona Goldfischer seconded.

ii. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.

iii. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in WebEx

