

Tuesday, January 18, 2022
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=G5LURgnceB8>

1. Meeting Opening

- A. 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 Daphne Brewer, Grace Furia, Tziyona Goldfischer, Sarah Granquist, Maya Palanki, Kris Rimal, Zaara Shahzad, and Priya Sinha. Due to technical difficulties, Reese Berigan and Kikoh Mordukai logged in after roll was called. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries Interim Director

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. No corrections were made and the December 21 minutes stand approved.

3. School Reports

- A. Conard
 - i. Maya shared that although not much is happening due to upcoming midterms, the Herren Project and Environmental Club are planning some projects.
- B. Hall
 - i. Zaara shared that Student Faculty is currently trying to fix up the lunch rooms and edit community lessons using student feedback. "Cocoa and Cram," a midterm studying event, is also going on.
- C. Kingswood Oxford
 - i. No representatives from Kingswood Oxford were present.
- D. New England Jewish Academy

i. Tziyona shared that two programs for Martin Luther King Day took place on Monday, January 17th as well as a ceremony for Tu B'Shevat, a Jewish religious holiday. Midterms are also taking place this week.

4. Subcommittee Reports

A. Mental Health Action and Awareness Committee

- i. Shared that they have decided to work on a project involving a presentation for the community on teen mental health. The committee is currently looking for professionals to speak at the presentation, including school psychologists or social workers. This would likely be through a virtual panel and take place later in the year in March or April. The committee is also creating a survey to send out to teens in the community to gather more information about their mental health. This form will be shared with the rest of the council to allow all members to make edits to it.
- ii. The committee should also make sure that the speaker is a professional, in order to ensure that all information is legitimate and helpful.

B. Teen Social Events Committee

- i. There was no report given for this committee.

C. International Night/Diversity Night Committee

- i. Shared that with, COVID-19, they have realized that they won't be able to have as large of a Diversity Night as they wanted. Instead, the committee would like to have a small event at one of the town parks or the Blue Back Square stage. The event could include select music groups from the high schools or middle schools in town. Details about which groups would participate are still being figured out. The event would likely take place in April or May, and be geared more towards children and families.
- ii. There is no electricity at town parks, so if it is necessary for any musical groups, then a better location would be the Blue Back Square stage which has outlets.
- iii. Mrs. Waxman would be willing to help with the details of booking a park or public place to hold the event and securing permits.

D. Social Media Committee

- i. Shared that they decided to use Instagram as it is the easiest way to contact and interact with people. The Town's library and school pages

have thousands of followers, which would be an outlet to advertise the new MYC Instagram page.

ii. Shared that they have been discussing details of where and how to share the logo contest. They would like to draft an Instagram page and a first post, and have the information out in the next few weeks or a month.

ii. On Friday, the MYC got permission from the Town Manager Matt Hart to create an email address for the council. Mrs. Karp will create the tag as something close to the official name of the council. Once this has been created, the Instagram page can go up.

5. Old Business

A. Witness Stones Project Update

i. Sarah, Tziyona and Priya met with Town Historian Dr. Wilson on January 11 to discuss a video “Lamentation of a Old Female Slave” that is being created for a 5th grade field trip at the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society, as well as several other projects they can undertake. Volunteers will first work on renaming New Street, and then later in the year will investigate using QR codes and audio files to share the stories of enslaved individuals depicted on the mural outside the Noah Webster Library.

ii. To change a street name, the project needs 100 signatures from registered voters in West Hartford. A copy of the Honorary and Historic Street Renaming application form provided by the Town Planner will be shared with MYC members so each can help with gathering signatures.

iii. Although there is no exact time frame for the project, members will be meeting with Dr. Wilson again within the next few weeks and hope to gather a substantial number of signatures by the end of February.

6. New Business

A. Vigil for Democracy

i. The Vigil for Democracy was held on January 6th. Maya was invited to speak at the student rally at Town Hall. Maya shared that it was very interesting hearing from Senator Blumenthal and Senator Murphy and local representatives from West Hartford. The speakers had very good

ideas for how to preserve democracy and voting rights, and being able to speak was an honor for her.

B. Youth in Transit (YIT)

i. The Bridge Family contacted the MYC in late December about a program called Youth In Transit. The project is a program for runaway, homeless, pregnant, or parenting teens in the Greater Hartford area. The Youth in Transit program is looking to help these teens transition from life on the streets to sustainable independent living by providing them different skills, services and training. The project was wondering if the Mayor's Youth Council would collaborate with the initiative or somehow help them get the word out about. The MYC could highlight the project on our webpage and help by donating and collecting materials.

7. Announcements

8. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

- i. Motion to adjourn was made by Grace Furia, Kris Rimal seconded.
- ii. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
- iii. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 6-7pm in WebEx