

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022**  
**Mayor's Youth Council Meeting 6:00pm Town Hall Room 400**



## **1. Meeting Opening**

- A. Staff liaison Kari Karp called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:01 p.m. Present were council members Reese Berigan, Daphne Brewer, Tziyona Goldfischer, Sarah Granquist, Kikoh Mordukai, Maya Palanki, Kris Rimal, Zaara Shahzad, and Priya Sinha. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries Children's Services Librarian, West Hartford Teen Center / Teen Leadership Committee members Anish Pokhrel, Sophie Kritzman, Truong Ho, and Sadie Levy, and Jonathan Merritt, director of the West Hartford Teen Center and coordinator for youth services at the Bridge Family Center.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Mrs. Karp's Corrections to 2/15/22 minutes
  - i. In "Announcements" under section A, the Witness Stones Project update, Dinah Street should be changed to Dinah Road.
  - ii. In "Announcements" under section B, Town Hall Room 312 should be changed to Town Hall Room 400.
- B. No other corrections were made and the minutes stand approved.

## **3. School Reports**

- A. Conard** - Reese shared that the Conard's student body Vice President Jeffrey Rosborg has been asked to increase coordination and connection with the MYC to help gain support for MYC projects.
- B. Hall** - Zaara shared that Pops n' Jazz, a major musical

performance at Hall, was recently completed. Also, conversations are underway to address parking issues and combating racism in school. These discussions are in response to racist messages that were recently written in a school bathroom, causing it to be closed.

**C. Kingswood Oxford** - No members from Kingswood Oxford were present.

**D. New England Jewish Academy** - Tziyona shared that the school is focused on preparing the building for the integration of lower grades.

#### **4. Subcommittee Reports**

##### **A. Mental Health Action and Awareness Committee**

i. Shared that although not much has changed since the last meeting, they are deciding between a panel versus a podcast project. Members agreed that a podcast would be more realistic. The next steps are to finalize setting up the mental health survey with a possible report on the data that could be sent to schools, and discuss the podcast project to work out details.

ii. Mrs. Karp shared that Julia Tannenbaum, a local author and mental health advocate, has agreed to participate in a panel or podcast, as either an emcee or speaker.

iii. Mrs. Karp spoke with Chris Dutton from The Bridge Family Center, and they have clinicians who could speak on various topics in a panel or podcast discussion. The mental health survey could also be distributed to teens who visit The Bridge Family Center.

##### **B. International Night / Diversity Night Committee**

i. Shared that the committee has made progress on the Diversity Night project. They have emailed the choir teachers at Hall and Conard, and both are going to get back to the subcommittee and meet with them. The Jazz Dancers at Hall have also been contacted. Mr. Drake, the orchestra teacher at Hall and conductor of I Giovani Solisti met with Zaara on 3/22 and agreed to put together a quartet for the concert. He also filled out a performer's contract, so there is confirmation that I Giovani Solisti will participate in the Diversity Night

performance.

ii. The date has been changed to May 14th 2pm-4pm to accommodate for conflicts musicians had in April. The concert is still set to take place on the Blue Back Square stage.

iii. Mr. Drake told Zaara that I Giovani Solisti does not need any financial compensation, but explained that the subcommittee should plan to provide a sound system themselves. Jonathan Merritt shared that the Bridge Family Center has a sound system that could be borrowed by the MYC for this project. Availability of said sound system will need to be confirmed.

### **C. Social Media Committee**

i. Shared that they are working to post bios for each MYC member with information about why each person joined, which committee they are on, their school hobbies, their grade, and a picture of each member. To do so, the subcommittee needs information from everyone and will be sending out a Google form. Responses are requested as soon as possible to allow for more frequent MYC social media posts.

ii. To advertise their impact and community collaboration projects, members of the MYC may contact the social media subcommittee. The social media committee will create Instagram posts to advertise the project.

iii. Each member will be receiving a westhartfordCT.gov email address, and Mrs. Karp is going to send members the instructions for activating one's account.

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Elmwood Community Center Advisory Committee Alternate**

i. The Elmwood Community Center Advisory Committee has requested that one MYC member be named an alternate for Kris. The alternate would attend the

meetings and listen to the proceedings in Kris' absence.

ii. The meetings will initially take place on a monthly basis, and will shift to "as needed" as time goes on. The term for representatives is two years.

iii. Any juniors, sophomores, or freshmen interested in being an alternate for Kris should contact Mrs. Karp as soon as possible. The names and grades of interested parties will be sent to the advisory committee, and they will decide on an alternate.

## **B. Logo Contest Winner**

i. MYC members had to vote on the logo design contest submissions to pick a winner. The winning design will be used on the MYC website and social media page in 2022-2023.

ii. A vote was taken by ballot with the results to be announced after reconvening.

iii. Motion to reconvene made by Zaara.

iv. Logo design #3 won the contest and will be used on MYC social media pages and websites in 2022-2023.

## **C. MYC Bylaw Recommendations**

i. MYC members were asked to bring ideas or changes for next year, some of which may appear on bylaws or applications. At the 2/15/22 meeting, suggestions included: having 1 regular meeting and 1 work session per month, adding more than 11 spots on the council, focusing less on impact projects and more on community collaborations, and setting term limits.

ii. Members shared that selecting subcommittee group leaders, scheduling more frequent meetings with Mrs. Karp, and allowing current MYC members to reapply for a second term would be useful changes.

## **6. Announcements**

### **A. Witness Stones Project Update**

i. Shared that they have been trying to get enough signatures to change New Street to Dinah Road to honor and educate about the history of West Hartford. The project needs 130 signatures to have the renaming considered by the town. A petition was passed out to council members, and they were asked to see if their parents or any other West Hartford residents 18 or over would sign. Petitions must be returned to the Noah Webster Library or Conard and Hall's school librarians by Friday, March 25. MYC members can read the recent Witness Stones article released on WeHa.com or ask Priya, Sarah, Tziynona or Mrs. Karp for more information.

### **B. Teen Leadership Committee Collaboration**

i. The Teen Leadership Committee and the Mayor's Youth Council have been communicating about collaborations. The Teen Leadership Committee is a group of 15 students that operates in subcommittees to plan activities for teens in town. They run the Teen Center located in the Elmwood Community Center basement. There are events coming up that the Teen Leadership Committee would like MYC members to help promote, including a Pizza Fundraiser at Zephyr's on 3/24.

ii. TLC shared that they are also working on an initiative to get transportation from Conard and Hall to the Teen Center.

iii. MYC shared offered for one of their members to attend a future Teen Leadership Committee meeting.

### **C. Celebrate All of Us Initiative at West Hartford Libraries**

I. Starting September 2022, the library is beginning a "Celebrate All of Us" initiative. It will involve different programs related to art, music, drama, talks, and guest speakers. If MYC does not focus on its own impact projects in 2022-2023, one of its subcommittees, such as the Diversity subcommittee, could work with Celebrate All of Us. Participation would give MYC members the opportunity to work on a professional library committee.

## **7. Work Session**

- A. Mental Health Action and Awareness Committee
- B. Social Media Committee
- C. International Night / Diversity Night Committee

## **8. Adjournment**

- A.
  - i. Motion to adjourn was made by Maya Palanki, Tziyona seconded.
  - ii. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
  - iii. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

**Next Meetings: Tuesday, April 19 6-7pm Town Hall Room  
400**