

Tuesday, October 25, 2022
Mayor's Youth Council Meeting 6:00 PM in Town Hall Room 407



1. Meeting Opening

- a. Staff liaison Kari Karp called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:00PM. Present were Council members Reese Berigan, Tess Chapman, Kushal Gauli, Jack Gold, Tziyona Goldfischer, Sarah Granquist, Oliver Hartmann, Kikoh Mordukai, Moh Palanki, Evan Piccioli, Jeffry Rosborg, Kris Rimal, Zaara Shahzad, Priya Shinde, and Caitlin Striff-Cave. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries Head of Children's Department.

Absent: Daphne Brewer, Ailani Roach, and Priya Sinha.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Amendments
- i. Under New Business, the spelling of "Pria" was changed to "Priya."
 - ii. Under New Business, The Butterfly Project, Tziyona Goldfischer changed from "Interested Participant" to "Interested Chair."
 - iii. Under New Business, West Hartford Immigrant Teens, Kushal Gauli, Priya Shinde, and Priya Sinha changed from "Interested Chair" to "Interested Participant."
 - iv. Under New Business, The Kindness Project, Tziyona Goldfischer changed from "Interested Chair" to "Interested Participant."
 - v. Under Adjournment, "Sarah Snyder from the Holocaust Education Resource and Outreach Center" to 'Dr. Tracey Wilson from the Noah Webster House.'
 - vi. No other corrections were made and the minutes stand approved.

3. Election of Officers

- a. Voting procedure and candidate roles were explained to members.
- b. Candidates presented speeches for Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Social Media Chair, Outreach / Recruitment Chair, Butterfly Project Subcommittee Chair, Environmental Contest Subcommittee Chair, Kindness Project Subcommittee Chair, Walking Tour Subcommittee Chair and West Hartford Immigrant Teens Subcommittee Chair.
- c. Members who were present voted by paper ballot.

4. Recess

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Karp, Priya seconded.

5. Photo Opportunity

- a. Photographs of officers and members were taken by Priya in room 407.

6. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Butterfly Project
 - i. Mrs. Karp spoke about the October 17 subcommittee meeting with Kathy Fishman from Voices of Hope.
 - ii. The MYC's Butterfly Project will be held before a Holocaust Remembrance Day event happening January 29, 2023.
 - iii. Mrs. Karp proposes that Conard, Hall, Kingswood Oxford and New England Jewish Academy each receive 25 ceramic butterflies and host separate events at their schools in which they watch the Butterfly Project film, decorate butterflies representing the 1.5 million children killed during the Holocaust, and fire the butterflies in their schools' kilns.
 - iv. The subcommittee members should partner with their school ceramics programs, art departments, and/or student councils on this project.
 - v. Voices of Hope would like to display some of the butterflies at the Holocaust Remembrance Day event and possibly hear a speech or speeches from MYC members.

- b. Environmental Video Contest
 - i. Evan spoke about the October 13 subcommittee meeting with Chris Feely.
 - ii. The timeline of the video contest is that it will be advertised in January, submissions will be due in March, and winners will be announced in April around Earth Day.
 - iii. Submissions will be for grades 6-12 and should be from West Hartford residents.
 - iv. The prizes will be \$250 in gift cards provided by the Sierra Club. Additionally, the Mayor's Youth Council would like to offer a GoPro as a contest prize.

- c. The Kindness Project
 - i. Caitlin and Mrs. Waxman gave an update about the Kindness Project subcommittee meeting that happened on September 27.
 - ii. Caitlin spoke about her experience working with the Fern Street Universalist Church Backpack Program and the local need for personal care items, especially diapers.
 - iii. Mrs. Waxman passed out publicity materials like bookmarks and flyers that MYC members can start distributing and posting in schools.
 - iv. Drop-offs to the library will be from November 14-December 16 and items will be given to the West Hartford Food Pantry and the backpack program.

- d. Walking Tour of West Hartford
 - i. There were no reports from the Story Walk subcommittee, since no subcommittee meetings have been held.

- e. West Hartford Immigrant Teens
 - i. Zaara and Kris spoke about the upcoming West Hartford Immigrant Teens Halloween Meetup happening Saturday, October 29 12-2pm at the Noah Webster Library.
 - ii. Activities will include slime, karaoke, pumpkin painting, and/or a movie.
 - iii. MYC members, WHIT members, and other clubs from schools are invited to attend.

- f. Finalize Subcommittees
 - i. Mrs Karp would like subcommittee leaders to get a final headcount for their groups by Friday, October 28 at 4pm so that they can be posted in the October 25 meeting minutes.

- g. Future Subcommittee Meetings
 - i. Subcommittee chair leaders should schedule at least 1 virtual or in-person meeting with their members and community partners before the November 22 Mayor's Youth Council meeting.
 - ii. If assistance is needed, contact Mrs. Karp.

7. Old Business

- a. Elmwood Community Center Advisory Group Alternate
 - i. There is still no alternate MYC representative for the ECC group.
 - ii. Evan expressed an interest in potentially attending meetings in Kris' absence.
 - iii. The group is meeting frequently and their next meeting is October 26.
- b. Teen Leadership Committee Liaison
 - i. Mrs. Karp inquired if any MYC members have been in contact with TLC.
 - ii. Kris mentioned that Jeff has spoken with the group, Kris is also friends with several members and can get information from them.

8. New Business

- a. QPR Gatekeeper (suicide prevention) & Narcan Administration Training
 - i. Only 1 MYC member expressed an interest in receiving Narcan training.
 - ii. Town Employees were offered training in August.
 - iii. Mrs. Karp suggested contacting the Mayor and Social Services department in the spring to potentially offer a town wide training for all interested high school students during May for Mental Health Awareness Month.

9. Announcements

- a. Mrs. Karp announced that Evan Piccioloi is the new Chair of the West Hartford Libraries Teen Advisory Board and Kris Rimal is the Co-Chair.
- b. Ms. Karp wished good luck to the seniors applying early decision to college.
- c. There were no other announcements.

10. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Karp, Caitlin seconded.
- b. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

**Next Meeting / Election: Tuesday, November 22nd, 2022 6-7:30pm in Town Hall
Room 407**

Work Session

- i. Dr. Tracey Wilson explained that the purpose of the Story Walk project is to highlight the names and stories of people in West Hartford that might be lost to history.
- ii. Many WHPS students learn about slavery in middle school during the Witness Stones Project, but may forget details as they get older. This tour can be a reminder for residents young and old.
- iii. There are several sites in West Hartford including the Wall of Peace, War memorial, plaque for Lemuel Haynes (first black man ordained a minister in the United States) at the First Congregational Church, Unity Green, the Noah Webster Statue, MLK39 mural in Blue Back Square depicting Bristow's hands, the Dinah Road street sign, etc. that would be featured in a walking tour.
- iv. There is talk of renaming Haynes Road to Lemuel Haynes Road to honor him.
- v. Action steps for the story walk project include: (1) writing a script that gets participants actively involved or engaged in each spot, (2) recruiting and training teen tour guides (and giving them ample time to practice), and (3) then giving live Tours.
- vi. Along with the physical walking tour, it may be good to have the tour available online on a website or in an app. Perhaps QR codes can be used to direct people to a website.
- vii. West Hartford Libraries' Studio 20 South has a camera that can take 360-degree views of the sites to share them virtually.
- vii. Once the story walk is ready, there are several ways to publicize it: a booth at Celebrate West Hartford, a scavenger hunt with prizes, a stamp book for children who visit all the sites. It might be made into a bike tour.
- viii. The Town of West Hartford is working on creating signage to honor landmarks related to its history with slavery.