

Tuesday, January 17, 2023
Mayor's Youth Council Meeting
6:00 PM Town Hall Room 217



1. Meeting Opening

A. Staff liaison Kari Karp called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:03PM. Present were Council members Reese Berigan, Daphne Brewer, Tess Chapman, Jack Gold, Tziyona Goldfischer, Sarah Granquist, Moh Palanki, Evan Piccioli, Kris Rimal, Ailani Roach, Zaara Shahzad, Priya Shinde, Priya Sinha, and Caitlin Striff-Cave.

Absent: Kushal Gauli, Oliver Hartmann, Kikoh Mordukai, Jeffry Rosborg

2. Approval of Minutes

A. There were no corrections and the minutes stand approved.

3. School Reports

A. Conard: Ailani shared that midterms start Thursday, and tickets for the musical Frozen are being sold.

B. Hall: MYC members shared that midterms start Thursday. Additionally, the musical Little Shop of Horrors recently took place, and 10 Minute Plays are coming up on February 10th. Northern regionals for music also took place the past weekend.

C. Kingswood Oxford: MYC members shared that a week and a half ago KO hosted their symposium speaker. The symposium speaker is based on a senior class where students study the works of an author, and then the author visits and gives a presentation. KO's Mock Trial team also won a competition last week, and there is a MUN trip coming up soon.

D. New England Jewish Academy: Tziyona shared that NEJA is currently taking midterms, which started last Friday (1/12) and end on Thursday. On Friday there will be a lock-in event, where students are locked in the school for the night with fun activities. Students also have the day off on Friday.

4. Chair & Subcommittee Reports

A. Chair

i. Zaara shared that she is currently working with WHiT and organizing the presentation for Nordfelt International Night.

B. Secretary

i. Sarah did not share anything with the council.

C. Social Media

i. Daphne shared that she has been thinking about ways to promote the Witness Stones walking tour on Instagram.

D. Outreach / Recruitment

i. Ailani shared that she reached out to Hall and Conard about the Butterfly Project, and arranged to have the schools paint butterflies. Conard painted half of their butterflies last week and is trying to paint the other half this week.

E. Butterfly Project

i. Tziyona and Jack shared that different schools held events where students painted butterflies.

ii. They are looking to have one representative from each school to talk on January 29 at the event at Emanuel Synagogue.

iii. Mrs. Karp shared that claypen is not able to fire any butterflies, but the JCC might be able to. Jack volunteered to bring the butterflies to KO to fire them if necessary, and KO's butterflies have already been fired. Hall has painted 23 butterflies and can fire them at school.

F. Environmental Video Contest

i. Reese shared that the Sierra Club had to drop out of the contest project. However, they have switched sponsors to a different environmental group called HeatSmart West Hartford. The prizes are the same as previously decided, the only difference is the sponsor.

ii. Information about the contest has been posted on the MYC webpage, and the subcommittee will write a letter to science teachers at high schools in town to promote the contest. A press release is also an option for advertising.

- iii. MYC members could create a video commercial as well.
- G. The Kindness Project
 - i. Caitlin did not share anything with the council.
- H. Walking Tour of West Hartford
 - i. Priya shared that the subcommittee attended the recent MLK Day event at Town Hall.
 - ii. Thirty people at the event signed up for the tour, and subcommittee members got to meet state representatives.
 - iii. The subcommittee has a meeting next Thursday and will send Daphne photos of the MLK Day event to post on instagram.
- I. West Hartford Immigrant Teens
 - i. Kris shared that members of WHiT attended the Universal Declaration of Human Rights event on January 12th, which went well. Photos of the event will be sent to Daphne to post on the MYC instagram.
 - ii. WHiT is having an art and chat event on February 4th. This is an event for newly immigrated teens to practice English and meet people in the community. Adeebah Alnemar, an artist from Syria, will be teaching charcoal drawing at the event.
 - iii. Tziyona shared that she has spoken with an organization that focuses on helping Jewish immigrants. There are a lot of Jewish immigrant teens in West Hartford who live in town but do not attend West Hartford schools. WHiT could contact this organization to see if any teens are interested in becoming members.

5. Old Business

- A. Elmwood Community Center Advisory Group Update
 - i. Kris shared that the committee has finished its planning duties, so there is no longer a search for an alternate. The decisions need to be approved by the Town Council, but after that there are plans to start building the new community center by the summer.
- B. Member Instagram Bios (5)
 - i. Daphne shared that she has received 5 form submissions with MYC members' bios.
 - ii. Daphne will send the link out again, and she shared an example of a member bio with the council.

6. New Business

- A. Hartford Foundation Logo Contest
 - i. Evan shared that the Hartford Foundation is looking for a new logo specific to West Hartford, and is willing to compensate up to \$100 for anyone who designs a new logo.
 - ii. The logo must be digital, and MYC members should let Evan know if they are interested in receiving all of the criteria.
- B. 2022-2023 Budget
 - I. HeatSmart West Hartford is contributing \$150 to pay for the first and second place Environmental Video Contest prizes.
 - ii. Mrs. Karp asked the group to vote on approving \$200 for the Story Walk Project to pay for advertisement materials.
 - iii. Zaara motioned to vote that MYC approves \$200 for pamphlets, flyers and advertising for the story walk collaboration with the Witness Stones Project, Caitlin seconded.
 - Vote: For: 14, Against: 0
 - iv. This motion passes and \$200 will be approved to pay for advertisement supplies for the Story walk project.
 - v. with this spending MYC now has \$332.10 to spend until June 30, 2023 (\$1,000 -\$267.90 Butterfly Project, -\$200 Environmental Video Contest, -\$200 Walking Tour).
- C. Vision Zero Initiative
- D. MYC Blog
 - i. Priya inquired about the possibility of starting a MYC blog after the last meeting.
 - ii. MYC members liked this idea for next year. The Council could create vlogs or day in the life videos, but for now the main goal is just to post consistently on instagram.
- E. 8th Grade Recruitment for 2022-2023
 - i. MYC members shared ideas for recruiting 8th graders for next year's MYC.
 - ii. MYC could arrange to have information put in community lessons or said directly to students at an assembly.
 - iii. WHiT is planning on visiting middle schools at the end of the year and could mention MYC applications during these visits.
 - iv. MYC could email English department heads at the middle schools as it has in previous years.

7. Announcements

- A. There will be a Suicide Prevention / Narcan Training event on January 24 at 5:30 pm in the Noah Webster Library Meeting Room. Multiple MYC members have signed up for this event.
- B. The Holocaust Remembrance Day event where the clay butterflies will be displayed is on January 29 from 12:30-2:30 pm at Emanuel Synagogue (160 Mohegan Drive).
- C. WHiT is holding their Art and Chat Program on February 4, 2023 at 10AM at Faxon Library. MYC members were asked to encourage others to sign up for the event.
- D. There will be Girls Who Code meetings on Tuesdays in March and April from 5:00-6:30 pm at the library.
- E. There is a Dungeons and Dragons Convention on July 8 from 12-4 pm at the library.
- F. MYC applications open in April and close on Memorial Day.

8. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Zaara, Kris seconded.
- b. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 6-7PM Town Hall Room 217