

MINUTES
FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES
January 5, 2023
Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall,
31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI. 48336

- 1) Call to Order 6:00 pm.

Meeting was called to order by Sharon Snodgrass at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Tammy Luty, Sharon Snodgrass, Rod Wallace, Jordan Scrimger, Ed Cherkinsky, Marie Sarnacki, Colleen Coogan

Members Absent: Brian Spitsbergen, Bette Rose, Adam Whitfield

Others Present: Matthew Gale, Tanya Murphy, Patrick Spelman, Lauren Janowicz, Jim Nash, Marla Parker, Kristel Sexton, Mary Newlin, Onisia Martin

- 2) Approval of Agenda

Rod Wallace approved the agenda, Marla Parker seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

- 3) Approval of November 3, 2022 Minutes

Jordan Scrimger approved the minutes, and Marie Sarnacki seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- 4) Youth Division Update

Lauren said the program is going well. They have added a game room next to the club room for students. Students are also going to be able to join music club where they can practice after school in the performing arts theater room. They are still hiring for the after-school program and looking for volunteers as well.

The youth division is hiring their own bus drivers and FPS is proving the buses. The drivers are then on the city payroll versus the school system. This has helped to fill the gap as the city is able to provide more funding to employees for this service. Fall enrollment in the program was capped at 110 but they are opening more slots in the upcoming semester to increase enrollment.

- 5) Issues Committee Update

We discussed that we needed to outline a budget for the fiscal year with estimates of our yearly project costs, so we have an idea of what funding we have for new ideas. Matt sent five years of history data to the issues committee to review so they can put together a potential project budget to discuss based on projects that we know will happen yearly. We discussed that we needed to draft a process of members joining and resigning so we understand and have a full

commission. We have open spots on the Farmington Hills side currently.

Marie gave an update on the wait until 8th program. She has had a good response with FPS on this, but the next step is for someone to meet with the FPS principals to discuss the program and answer questions. This meeting would be during the day, and she needs someone that can attend since she will be teaching class during this time.

We discussed getting more students involved again and a suggestion came to reach out to the mayor's youth council, Marie will investigate this.

We are planning on doing career night again this year. We discussed possible dates in April of the 19th or 26th. We also discussed moving the event to Harrison Hall vs Auditorium and Black Box theater. Harrison Hall might be a better location since we changed the format last year and don't need an auditorium as we just have people go speak directly to vendors. This also has WIFI access and a TV where we can have information during our event.

Jim Nash mentioned that the event last year was excellent, and several participants signed up for job shadowing based on our event.

Jordan discussed a new idea of, an end of the school year/start of the school year open to community meeting to get more feedback from our community and also help to find out the needs in our community. We would use a larger space and provide food. This might be considered for June or September.

Sharon mentioned that she was able to visit the Kindness Garden recently and how nicely it was done. She suggested that we continue to support it with a possible yearly event at the garden.

6) Communications Update

Sharon wanted us to make sure to get some of our newer projects and pictures on the website so the community can see the work our commission is doing.

The videos that the commission did in the past were discussed and Sharon mentioned that Marla Parker had a nice video on the sobriety court program, which we wanted to share with members and the community. [\(316\) CYF Spotlight Sobriety Court - YouTube](#)

7) Volunteer Recognition Program

Marla discussed the program since it had not happened since 2019 due to the pandemic. Nominations are taken in various categories and then people are selected as winners. Plaques are purchased for the winner, but everyone nominated gets a certificate. The recognition happens at a FH City Council meeting, but we hope to have elected officials from both Farmington and Farmington Hills. Jordan had already created some forms in an online format vs paper forms for taking nominations and we will distribute this to organizations for nominations. Ed and Colleen offered to help with getting this program running with Marla for a May celebration.

8) New Business and Announcements

Jordan Scrimger – With Bette announcing that she would be leaving the commission, she raised the issue of electing officers. Election of officers will take place at the next commission meeting.

Kristel Sexton – Kristel gave an update on the exciting things happening at the day long MLK celebration, check the website for times and details.

Marla Parker – She gave an update on the court some procedures are still being done remotely. This is something that may continue to happen into the future.

She discussed that the sobriety court is still going strong and that when someone participates in this program, they are less likely to have a new offense.

Jim Nash – They are looking for employees and are offering apprenticeships and job shadowing opportunities.

He also discussed the state grant that they received to assist lower income community members with support on water bills. This program will be something like the electric and gas programs that already exist with other companies.

Onisia Martin – Introduced herself as the mental health coordinator for FPS. She was asked to bring some data to the next meeting on homelessness in our student population and any information on mental health that she can share to our commission as having this information might help us to determine what projects to work on.

Patrick Spellman – Farmington is still looking at hiring more cadets.

Tanya Murphy – The Farmington Hills YMCA is in phase 2 of the remodel at the facility. The Y is also doing a first Saturday of the month movement program with the FH library which is open for all ages.

Tammy Luty – She mentioned that a teacher in West Bloomfield high school that lives in Farmington Hills after learning about our program for the Kindness Rock Garden was able to incorporate it into the school U Matter week there. Students painted rocks in afterschool programs and then they were placed in the hallway for students to pick up that week. It was great that a program we did as a commission had an impact in a neighboring community as well. Also, the Farmington Community library senior outreach program gave her a box of rocks they had seniors paint at programs that will be placed in the garden in the spring.

9) Public Comments

None

10) Adjournment

7:35 pm.

Colleen Coogan motioned to adjourn, and Marie Sarnacki seconded, motion carried unanimously.

All future meetings will start at 6 p.m. in the Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall,

February 2, 2023

March 2, 2023

April 6, 2023

May 4, 2023

June 1, 2023

Minutes drafted by: Secretary Tammy Luty