

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS COMMISSION ON CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES
APRIL 5, 2018-6PM
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL, COMMUNITY ROOM

CALLED TO ORDER BY: Chair, Kathy Ashcraft at 6:00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Ashcraft, Ed Cherkinsky, Diane Hague, Anthony Lewis, Anwar Mahmood, Joan McGlincy, Bette Rose, Mitch Seelye and Sharon Snodgrass.

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: Farmington and Farmington Hills Council, City, or Staff Liaison members and Alternate and Associates members: Amber DeLind, Becky Dworkin, Jim Nash, Chuck Nebus, Marla Parker, Laurie Scott and Samantha Steckloff.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Seelye, support by Hague to approve the Agenda of April 5, Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –February 5, 2017:

MOTION by Hague, support by McGlincy to approve the minutes of February 5, 2017 as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

YOUTH DIVISION UPDATE: An update will be provided at the next meeting in May.

ISSUES COMMITTEE UPDATE: Diane Hague: It was suggested that Tech Night be moved to November 7 or 8 based on the recommendations by Farmington Public Schools and Oakland Technical Schools. Joan indicated that we need to publicize “Screen Free Week” which is scheduled from April 30-May6. The Commission's next project should be supporting information about Caring for the Elderly. Laura stated that we should provide information regarding senior services available and compile it in a central website.. We should coordinate our efforts with the Commission on Aging and Ed will contact Nancy Cook, Chair of that Commission to come to our next meeting.

CALL TO ACTION UPDATE: Mitch Seelye: Alateen Meeting at hotel in Dearborn drew almost 3100. They are currently revamping the annual CTA breakfast. A bowling event is scheduled for the last Saturday in April with the theme of “bring a friend”.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: Marla Parker: There are only 6 nominees so far (just adults and 1 student). The deadline for nominations is extended to April 9. Jill Pines will send out a publicity blast. The Volunteer Recognition Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30 pm. at Scramblers Marie to select recipients. Ed will call for a reservation.

SPOTLIGHT SHOW UPDATE: Sharon Snodgrass: Links to the interviews are available and were sent to Commission members. Amber DeLind presented a show on “Fake News” and another one highlighted registration for 17 1/2 year olds. Matt Bergstrom from Thornton and Grooms will provide information on applying and available salaries with and without experience. Go to the Farmington Hills website, YouTube list to find events. This is not available on the Farmington website.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chuck Nebus, Farmington Hills Police Chief: They are seeing the “fear of active shooter,” especially with school threats. The Police Department had a training program on preparing for an active shooter with 80 attendees and it was a 2 hour program. ALICE is the name of Active Shooter Response Training developed by the Department of Homeland Security. There is a scheduled Neighborhood Watch Program for April 25 at 7:00 pm. in City Council Chambers. Chief Nebus states: **“WE SHOULD BE PREPARED!”**

Jim Nash: Water Resource Commissioner: Security in their building is a concern. Their annual fun day is scheduled for June 9 at Beaudette Park in Pontiac. It is a free event including art, fishing, fun and dinner. It is also educational with an emphasis on education. 800 attended last year.

Laura Scott: Farmington Hills Community Library: The Battle of the Books is scheduled on 4/23 at the Library. They are getting ready for the summer reading program. There were 3000 children and students participating last summer.

Marla Parker: Sobriety Court and Farmington/Farmington Hills Gala: There is a Sobriety Court graduation set for 5/7 in Council Chambers. The Farmington/Farmington Youth and Family Foundation Gala is scheduled for 5/5 at the Meadowbrook Country Club. Volunteers are needed.

Tony Lewis: Michigan Department of Civil Rights: There is a program in East Detroit bringing youth and law enforcement to build relationships and to present career opportunities.

Samantha Steckloff: Farmington Hills City Council: Members of the Commission received correspondence from the Friends of the Library. The envelope contained one letter from the Friends and one from the law firm of Foster, Swift. There was concern about an apparent problem/problems at the Library. Samantha was requested to give information because all the Commission members are taxpayers and the Library affects everyone in the Community, the Library is on our Commission and the Commission is involved with the Library. Everyone voiced that the Library is a gem that does more than any other area Library which includes W. Bloomfield and Bloomfield Twp. and does it with a smaller budget. By law, the Library Board is a separate entity from the City and does not have to report to City Council. However, the Mayor can appoint Board Members. Both entities are audited by the accounting firm of Plante and Moran. An eight year member, Bruce Lazar was not reappointed even though he requested reappointment. The Mayor appointed Bill Largent to replace Lazar and the method of that appointment is being questioned. The President and Treasurer of the Board then resigned. The Mayor then replaced the two resigning Board Members and the method of those appointments are being questioned. The Director of the Library determined that the subsequent meetings were not congenial and since the only two attorneys on the Board were no longer there, she used the Library budget to hire the Law Firm of Foster Swift to monitor and mediate the meetings. Issues of transparency are claimed by both sides of the issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Hague, support by McGlincy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted by Diane Hague/Ed Cherkinsky