

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2017

5:30 pm at Schrom Hills Park Community Center

Present: Ema Smith (Chair), Julia Sharapi (Secretary), Honora Hammett, and Selim Boukabara

Absent: Jeremy Tuthill (Vice Chair), Findley Holland

Guests: Kisha Brown, Bill Bystricky, Arsalan Sidaiqui

Ema Smith called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Old Business

- 1. October Minutes:** Approved
- 2. Youth Forum Update:** The YAC would like to push back the forum to December 11th or 18th, which will give them more adequate time to prepare. Some members still need to create their assigned slide in the PowerPoint that will be presented at the forum. The plan to publicize is still to post flyers in classrooms, send out a school wide email, and have an informational announcement on the morning announcements.
- 3. Liaison Reports:**

Ema Smith – Advisory Board on Education (ACE): Ema Smith was unable to attend the last ACE meeting

Findley Holland – Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB): Findley Holland was absent from this YAC meeting.
- 4. Letters to local governments envelope stuffing:** Ema Smith will make slight changes to the letters before sending. Each YAC member was given an envelope and a city to address, which they should return to Alison Longworth at the Youth Center so they can be mailed.
- 5. Voting Age Awareness Campaign:** Selim Boukabara and Ema Smith went out canvassing one more time before the election. Not many people opened their doors, but they were able to pass out more brochures. On November 7th, a majority of Greenbelt's voters supported lowering the voting age in Greenbelt to 16. At least four council members have said they would support the issue, Ema Smith will reach out to the remaining three to ask where they stand. Bill Bystricky asked YAC what they thought their opponents would do to combat this issue. Ema Smith responded that potentially Greenbelt citizens could petition, which would simply put the issue back on a referendum question, which it just passed. The biggest threat would be opponents trying to have the issue go away quietly, making people aware and outspoken on the issue is important. Bill Bystricky suggested packing the council meeting with teenagers when council votes on the issue. YAC plans to send out a schoolwide email with a Google Form to collect potential teenage supporter's names and contact information. Bill Bystricky gathered YAC members contact information and will help them push further until the voting age is officially lowered.

New Business

- 1. Committee Initiated Discussion:** Kisha Brown talked to YAC about the possibility of the MAGLEV train coming to Greenbelt. There is a study being conducted by the Federal Railroad Administration and Maryland Transit Administration assessing the environmental, cultural, and economic impacts of the train. This type of train exists internationally, but none have yet been built in America. Kisha Brown addresses YAC because this issue and the introduction of this train would open opportunities for the younger generation and would impact them more. Ema Smith commented that the planned route for the train right now would go underground under Greenbelt, so critics are wrong when they claim it would tear down thousands of homes. Arsalan Sidaiqui asked about the potential impact on the price of homes in the area and about if it would be only for the rich. Because the study is still being conducted, no one really knows the exact impacts. However, Kisha Brown says even if the train does start out expensive, the cost will go down with time. Her email is kishabrownesq@gmail.com and her phone number is (301)532-2642 if YAC has further questions.