

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2017

5:30 pm at Greenbelt Community Center

Present: Ema Smith (Chair), Jeremy Tuthill (Vice Chair), Julia Sharapi (Secretary), Honora Hammett, Findley Holland, Selim Boukabara, and Arsalan Siddiqui

Absent:

Guest: Lisa Lake

Staff: Alison Longworth, Liaison

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

Old Business

1. **November Minutes:** Approved
2. **Youth Forum Update:** The forum will be held next Monday, at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, between 3:30 and 4:30 in room 130. YAC Members need to have their slides finished by this upcoming Friday. Ema Smith will send out a school wide email to entice people to attend the forum. During this forum, YAC members will present their own slides and answer questions people may have regarding the committee.
3. **Liaison Reports:**
Ema Smith – Advisory Board on Education (ACE): There was no ACE meeting this month.
Findley Holland – Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB): There was no CRAB meeting this month.
4. **Letter to local governments envelope stuffing:** Members have brought their envelopes to Alison Longworth.
5. **Voting Age Awareness Campaign:** Honora Hammett attempted to send out an email asking for student's information, but it was filtered out of the PGCPS mail system for an unknown reason. Once there is more information about the night council is voting on the issue, hopefully in January, the YAC will try to send out the email again. The reading of the language for the charter amendment is being conducted on Monday, December 11th.

New Business

1. **NLC Summit Attendance Report:** Ema Smith reported on three key things that she learned at the NLC Conference. First, some cities are starting child savings account programs. They are relatively new but may help entice kids to go to college later in life. Some cities have given starting money to low income children and have created some financial incentives for them to continue the account and actually save, instead of spending it right away. Second, at the homelessness workshop, which she ran, there was a lot of talk of how to help people experiencing homelessness. The YAC could possibly hold a food/clothing drive and look into the things the city is doing to help homelessness. Third, at the school safety and climate she learned how police involvement at schools is

become a problem because it makes the school feel more like a prison. At the workshop, she worked on brainstorming ways to combat this, like introducing security members to the students and giving them more opportunities to interact with students. This is an issue she will bring up to ACE to get their opinion on what can be done about this at local schools.

Julia Sharapi also attended the NLC Summit. While there, she learned that other youth committees are reaching out to middle school kids and talking to them about adequately preparing for college and the “real world.” They teach the kids general life skills like opening a bank account and creating a budget. The YAC could also potentially do this kind of work at local middle schools. In addition, she attended the workshop on Simplifying Water Management and will look more into Greenbelt’s involvement in water and the dam repair council just voted on.

- 2. Committee Initiated Discussion:** In March there will be an NLC Conference in DC. Registration will begin mid to late January; Alison Longworth needs to know who is interested in going. Ema Smith is interested in potentially having the YAC meet with a Congressional Representative.

Lisa Luke introduced herself, she is applying for an adult member position on the YAC. She currently had a son in middle school. She works at the Federal Trade Commission and is a blogger.

Ema Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:21 pm.