

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2017

5:30 pm at the Youth Center Conference Room

Present: Ema Smith (Chair), Selim Boukabara, Findley Holland, and Julia Sharapi

Absent: Jeremy Tuthill (Vice Chair), Honora Hammett (Secretary), and Hunter Whaples

Staff: Alison Longworth, Liaison

Guest: Colin Byrd

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

Old Business

- 1. May Minutes:** Approved.
- 2. Opioid Public Service Announcement (PSA) – NRPA Article:** Alison Longworth brought in this article for the committee to discuss. The article offers suggestions on how to combat the heroin epidemic. Alison Longworth suggested YAC form a stronger relationship with the police to increase awareness of the epidemic. Ema Smith recommended holding an awareness event to help raise awareness. Findlay Holland proposed holding a run, possibly an add on to the Labor Day Parade. Alison Longworth brought up Schrom Hills Park being a focused place for drug usage. Julia Sharapi proposed holding a neighborhood watch program around the park. Alison Longworth will research what other cities are doing to combat this epidemic.
- 3. Youth Forum:** Alison Longworth will email Principal McNeill for possible September dates to hold this event. The forum will feature free pizza and end between 5 and 5:30 after school. During the forum, YAC will show the PSA, hand out information sheets, and will present a PowerPoint presentation with information about what YAC does, how people can join, and city issues YAC addresses. Ema Smith will make a google slides so all YAC members can contribute to the presentation.
- 4. YAC Liaison Reports:**

Ema Smith – Advisory Committee on Education (ACE): The last ACE meeting was fairly short. ACE members discussed the ACE awards and holding two meetings per month at their school sponsored clubs instead of one.

Honora Hammett – Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB): Absent.

Hunter Whaples – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB): Absent.
- 5. Web addition to greenbeltnmd.gov/YAC:** Alison Longworth will email out a questionnaire to members for their profiles. Bev will take pictures of the members for the website.
- 6. Voting age public meeting update:** Ema Smith and Julia Sharapi attended. Some council members support the lowering of the voting age, some seem to oppose it. Mayor Emmett Jordan was not there to give his opinion. Council moved to draft the

language necessary to amend the charter to allow 16 and 17 year old's to vote, as well as asked their lawyers to research the way other towns with the lowered voting age were handling it. Colin Byrd attended, he noted that council members were concerned as changing the language to lower the voting age as it would also lower the age of those who could run for council. He asked why YAC was interested in lowering the voting age. Ema Smith and Julia Sharapi answered that council, being older, does not seem to fully represent the youth, people voting younger may help instill good voting habits later in life, and that it would help promote youth becoming involved in government.

New Business

1. NLC 2017 Reports:

Mission: To form a mission statement, Alison Longworth posed four questions.

To "What do we do?" YAC responded that they advise council on youth perspective, volunteer at city events, and represent/advocate for the youth of Greenbelt. To "How do we do it?" YAC responded they conduct forums, hold monthly meetings, collaborate with other committees, and network with and survey other youth. To "Who do we do it for?" YAC responded they did it for youth and families of Greenbelt. To "What value do we bring?" YAC responded that they provide a voice, link people to public officials, and give community service, which all benefit the city. Members will send a draft of their mission statements to liaison.

2017 Goals: YAC would like to hold a successful youth forum, push the voting age issue, network and collaborate with other youth committees, and connect more will Greenbelt youth.

2. Letter to local governments: Ema Smith has conducted research about nearby cities who possess youth committees and those that do not. She will draft two letters: one to cities with youth committees, asking to connect with them, and the other to cities without youth committees, informing them how youth committees can benefit their city. She will share these via google docs so all YAC members can have input.

3. Committee Initiated Discussion:

Police Forum: Ema Smith will email Rick Ransom about the forum's status.

Greenbelt Master Plan: Ema Smith, Selim Boukabara, and Julia Sharapi plan to attend the Master Plan meeting on June 21st at 6.

Ema Smith asked if council would be willing to send YAC members to the NLC conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Alison Longworth will inquire.

Ema Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:39 pm.