



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee
Tuesday December 17, 2013
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Lister Block Building, 28 James Street North, 4th floor.

Present: Co-Chairs: Nashwa Khan

Members: Jackson Virgin-Holland, Nicole Lachapelle, Lauren Hansen, Martin Kaas, Don Mahleka, Mikayla Zolis

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Jackson, Becky Schmor, Joselin Marcaccio, Alex Fiorello, Daniel Sanchez Galindo, Ahmad Ahmad, Alexandra da Silva, Camilo Sanchez Galindo, Fiorella Villanueva-Heldmaier

Also Present: René Reid, Mark Weingartner

COMMITTEE SECRETARY/MINUTE TAKER & TIMEKEEPER/MANAGER – René

- 1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) – HYAC did not achieve quorum**
 - 3.1** Tuesday February 19, 2013
 - 3.2** Tuesday March 19, 2013
 - 3.3** Tuesday April 16, 2013
 - 3.4** Tuesday May 21, 2013
 - 3.5** Tuesday June 18, 2013
 - 3.6** Tuesday September 17, 2013
 - 3.7** Tuesday October 15, 2013
 - 3.8** Tuesday November 19, 2013

***HYAC now has 15 members. Quorum would be 7 members plus 1 additional member for a total of 8 members in attendance at the meeting in order to approve minutes and to vote on committee matters.*

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 City of Hamilton Snow Angels Programme: Barbara Klimstra

- Barbara provided recruitment postcards, her business card and an overview of the Snow Angels Program. Samples are included in the appendix.
- One of the HYAC members at the meeting shared their previous experience with the Snow Angel program and found it to not be very youth friendly.
- Youth volunteer schedules (school, exams, and part time jobs), the structure of the Snow Angel program, the weather and the need for youth-friendly communication and coordinators are a challenge to attracting and retaining volunteers.
- HYAC members asked about the \$100,000.00 budgeted for the Snow Angels program. Barbara had left by the time this question came up.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Keep Hamilton Clean & Green Committee: HYAC members read and approved the résumé of a youth applicant to the above committee.

5.2 HYAC Summary Report to Council & action items mentioned by Councillor Merulla: Jackson reported on his experience reporting to E&CS. Following HYAC's year-end summary, Councillor Merulla asked Jackson what his thoughts were on how to engage youth in volunteerism.

HYAC members discussed youth and volunteerism and came up with the following points:

- The Government/Board of Education should increase the number of mandatory volunteer hours.
- Better marketing and messaging needed. 'Mandatory' turns youth off. Should look into 'packaging' volunteering to youth as 'skill building', 'career exploration', 'résumé enhancement'. Promotion/encouragement of volunteering should be peer to peer, for youth by youth.
- Suggested implementing a 10 hours per high school year to ensure the minimum number of hours is reached. One youth from outside the area commented that his high school implemented a 10 – 10 – 15 – 5 schedule of yearly volunteer hours.

- Members felt that youth who have it in them to volunteer in the first place will do so well before graduation and are likely to continue beyond secondary school.
- Unauthorized people are signing-off on 'volunteer' hours that do not take place – therefore some youth do not take volunteering seriously or see it as adding value to the community. How is this monitored?
- Meaningful opportunities are not well advertised to youth. Youth do not even know what options they have and how to go about volunteering their time.
- Youth are not sure about the role of Volunteer Hamilton and how well they are able to meet mutual needs. Process to volunteer too intensive, not youth friendly.
- Volunteer Hamilton hours are not youth friendly.
- Committee members suggested that a City-wide volunteer fair be held annually in a central location or by ward. All schools/students would attend (part of an assignment for marks?).
- Need to have youth-friendly administrators and processes in place.
- Some volunteer opportunities appealing to youth also cost money i.e. LIT's and the SPCA – cost prohibitive to many (\$45).
- Bus tickets/cab vouchers should be available, if needed, to ensure accessibility.
- The cost of Police Checks for some volunteer positions is not accessible to many youth.
- Can't find volunteer opportunities on City of Hamilton website - very bad site and difficult to find the stuff you are looking for.

5.3 Youth Friendly Spaces Report: Committee revisited previous meeting minutes and discussed them further. No further plans were made.

5.4 Youth Week Hamilton: Sponsorship package will be ready for committee to endorse by the January meeting.

5.5 Unfiltered Facts Summit: Nashwa attended the annual youth-led summit, 'Change Unleashed', held in November. The summit was held again at the Convention Centre and was attended by elementary and high school students City-wide. The goal of the UFF Summit is to educate, engage and empower the youth of Hamilton on health topics that affect them. Participants learn new and creative ways to advocate and to take action within their communities. Guest speakers, breakout sessions, a market place, and various interactive experiences defined the day.

5.6 Leadership Quest: Members were asked if there was any interest in attending in the spring should HYAC be invited. René will forward names.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

- Committee members played a low tech version of 'The Game of Things'
- Those needing bus tickets - René

7. ADJOURNMENT

That, there being no further business and that members had to leave to catch buses, the meeting be adjourned at 6:45p.m.

All

Next meeting January 21, 2014.

Appendix Snow Angels

Background

In 2003, the City of Hamilton introduced a By-Law enforcing a fine to residents of Hamilton who have not cleared their city sidewalks of snow within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall. However it was recognized that low-income seniors and the disabled would have difficulty in clearing their snow. To alleviate the ramifications of this by-law, the City of Hamilton initiated a volunteer snow removal service and in partnership with Volunteer Hamilton developed the Snow Angels Program.

Who can receive this service and how?

In order to receive this service, the Hamilton resident must be:

- 65 yrs of age or older who currently receive the seniors Tax Credit
- A resident with a disability documented by an Ontario Disability support Program cheque stub (ODSP), a wheelchair parking pass or a doctor's note regardless of age.
- All interested residents will be assessed for financial eligibility.

Who can volunteer and how?

Anyone 14 years of age or older, who is physically able to participate in the task of snow removal, may volunteer for the program. Volunteers are required to complete an application form, which can be accessed online at www.volunteerhamilton.on.ca or by calling the Snow Angels Hotline at 905 523-1910 or Volunteer Hamilton 905 523-4444.

Each volunteer is screened via personal references and attends an orientation. The volunteer once screened and accepted into the program is then matched with an eligible

service recipient who is living within a reasonable distance to the volunteer. The volunteer must agree to the geographical location before being matched.

Once the volunteer agrees to a specific address the service recipient is informed that a volunteer has been found for them and the match is made. From this point on, the service recipient can expect their snow to be removed from their city sidewalk, the windrow at the base of the driveway and the main walkway to their home, within 24 hours AFTER the snowfall has ceased. Once the job is completed, the Snow Angel leaves a 'Snow Angel post card' in the service recipient's mailbox just to let them know that their 'Angel was there'.

This very worthwhile activity lends itself very well to group volunteering from such organizations as minor hockey teams, skating clubs, armed services cadets, scouts and guides etc. High schoolers doing their 40 hours community service are also encouraged to participate either as individuals or as a class.

The Snow Angels program is a great way to give back to your community and participate in the joy of volunteerism.

Please feel free to contact Volunteer Hamilton/Snow Angels program:

905-523-1910 or snowangels@volunteerhamilton.on.ca