



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

5:00 p.m.

Room CH264, 2nd Floor

City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Co-Chairs: Alex Fiorello
Members: David Boruch, Fan Yang, Michelle Leach, Lauren Hansen, Michael Pratas, Mikayla Zolis, Alex Ramirez

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Jackson Fabian Ahmed, Zil Nasir, Natascha Del Prete, Jessika Del Prete, Don Mahleka, Meg Chalmers, Julie Ling Ma, Mohammad Nasir

Also Present: René Reid, Mark Weingartner, Samantha Molinaro

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Item 4.1 was changed to add an item from Emanuela Ducharme. All other items followed in order of priority as identified by the group.

Michelle Leach facilitated the meeting in the absence of Fabian Ahmed and the late arrival of Alex Fiorello.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were made

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Quorum not achieved. No minutes were approved.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 On behalf of Emanuela Ducharme, Volunteer Management Specialist, Community Services, City of Hamilton, René asked for a volunteer who is willing to share their volunteer experiences with Emanuela for a report she is preparing for Council. Fan Yang volunteered. René to follow-up with Emanuela who will then contact Fan to arrange a time to talk.

- 4.2** Website updates: deferred
- 4.3** Facebook: Michelle Leach is currently maintaining our Facebook page/group and website until the committee is able to elect a person to fill that role. Everyone is encouraged to ask their friends to 'like' our page.
- 4.4** Youth Week Hamilton Kick-Off Event/Opening Ceremonies: Discussion took place based on the working template provided by René. Discussion focused on scheduling, specifics regarding what will be taking place and logistics. More needs to be decided and details identified. Alex Ramirez volunteered to draft a schedule for the Kick-Off based on the discussion. René to follow-up with Andy Thibadeau to see if he is available. Alex Ramirez to confirm Mac's Marching Band. Lauren to follow-up with her school's Drum Line and Michael Pratas to contact school's Glee Club. It was decided that an attempt at a world record or flash mob would not be conducted. Banner for Main St. will not be a consideration for this year as the space is already booked until 2014. Informally discussed more interesting and fun ways to promote YWH'12 such as another Cup'n Run in the Spectator's fence, letters spelling the website in a prominent office window etc. Nothing has been decided. Mark to follow-up about the use of the forecourt of City Hall and special invitations. Ideas and Activity Planner as well as a info sheet for YWH'12 is done and is now in circulation. Members are asked to promote events at their schools for YWH'12.
- 4.5** HYAC's overall budget was reviewed and key YWH'12 expenses flagged.
- 4.6** YWH'12 promo items discussed. Mikayla Zolis volunteered to research items within our budget and suitable for the event. René to forward links to City's approved vendors for Mikayla to consider. Mikayla to work with René and Mark to finalize promo items before the next meeting. Some items mentioned during the meeting include H2O bottles, t-shirts with the logos of all the groups who participated in YWH'12.
- 4.7** Clean City Liaison Committee: René shared information about a new advisory committee that is seeking youth representatives. This committee seeks to engage citizens to take greater responsibility for improving our Hamilton community environments. Currently the committee meets at noon in Room 222 of City Hall on the third Thursday of the month (except March when they avoid the March Break and meet on March 22). This may change back to evening meetings when the new committee is constituted, likely April at the earliest. Michelle Leach expressed a tentative interest pending employment opportunities. René to forward HYAC response to Clerks.
- 4.8** Youth Engagement Policy: deferred
- 4.9** Youth Strategy Roundtable & idea for report to Council: René shared info about attending the Youth Strategy Roundtable meetings. One of the interesting points made during the last meeting concerned the need for youth to feel respected in their communities. A short discussion on that topic at that meeting mentioned simple things like going into a store and being greeted by a clerk as many adults are greeted. René shared with HYAC her observation that some stores in Hamilton post signs restricting access to young people.

When asked if any of the committee members had seen signs saying “No more than 3 students in the store at time” or “No more than 3 youths allowed” several members held up their hands or nodded and shared some of their experiences. Further research and a report to Council are being considered with the goal of encouraging a more respectful community toward young people.

- 4.10** Hamilton CAS Youth Conference, Moving Forward: Navigating Your Own Success: René shared with the group an invitation for HYAC to host a breakout session at the Hamilton Children’s Aid Youth Conference, for ages 13 to 18 years, taking place Tuesday March 13th 9:30am to 3:30pm. HYAC’s 1 hour breakout session is on Self-Advocacy and Social Responsibility. René asked for a couple of HYAC members to help present. René has already started the presentation, secured prizes and handouts. Transportation to the CAS will be provided. We are welcome to come for lunch as well. René to follow-up to see who will be helping with the presentation.
- 4.11** HYAC recruitment update: Clerks will be posting another ad in the Spectator sometime in April to recruit more HYAC members. René to forward information to committee as it becomes available.

5 ADJOURNMENT

That, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00p.m.