



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee
Tuesday November 20, 2012

Lister Block Building, 28 James Street North, Basement Meeting Room.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Co-Chairs: To be determined
Members: Mikayla Zolis, Alex Fiorello, Camilo Sanchez Galindo, Daniel Sanchez Galindo, Jackson Virgin-Holland, Nicole Lachapelle, Alexandra da Silva, Daniel Puglia, Fan Yang, Ahmad Ahmad, Fiorella Villanueva-Heldmaier, Joselin Marcaccio, Lauren Hicks, Marten Kaas, Nashwa Khan

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Jackson, Lauren Hansen, Alex Ramirez, Becky Schmor, Michael Pratas, Daniel Puglia, Ryan Markesic, Michelle Leach, Don Mahleka, Liam Askwith, Mark Weingartner, David Boruch, Daniel Puglia, Sarah Medeiros, Alina Protopopescu

Also Present: René Reid, Amanda Richards, Alex Lee, Jordan O'Breza

A. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR OR CO-CHAIRS: Nashwa Khan, Alexandra da Silva

B. TIMEKEEPER/MANAGER : All

C. MINUTE TAKER: Joselin Marcaccio will take notes and prepare and distribute a draft of the meeting minutes to members for input.

D. AGENDA: Mikayla Zolis will prepare and distribute the agenda for the December 18, meeting.

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 Approval of meeting minutes from June 2012, September 2012, and October 2012 were accepted as written.

(da Silva, Khan)

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 City of Hamilton Recreation Department: Jason Ryan commented that youth are a tough age group to program for. He stated there are approximately 18 recreation centres and arenas in Hamilton that offer programs related to sports, music and art. An informal poll of HYAC members revealed 3 out of 15 HYAC members were aware of recreation programs offered by the City of Hamilton.

Jason asked a series of questions to generate feedback from committee members:

A) What is recreation? What does it mean to you?

HYAC Responses:

- Something to do for fun
- Past time/things that help you learn
- General interest/learning
- An activity to improve physical/social/emotional/mental health

B) How do we get you in?

HYAC Responses:

- Offer programs at a low fee/cost (e.g. student plan) or for free
- Better distinction in programs for youth, students (university/college) and adult populations
- More outreach. Recreation staff needs to lower their target population and start seeking youth below the age of 12 years old. Engaging this younger demographic earlier on will increase the likelihood of keeping them in the recreational system as they approach young adulthood.
- Better advertising and marketing (e.g. posters, staff members, going to school, word of mouth)
- Better accessibility and transportation/location awareness
- Offering consistent city-wide programs for youth
- A more user-friendly website (City of Hamilton site)

C) How's our programming?

HYAC Responses:

- More drop-ins/youth nights offering a variety of activities

- Offer youth nights that have specific age ranges
- Older teens do not like having to mix with younger teens- create a broader range of activities geared towards these specific age groups
- Open gym (e.g. game/movie nights)

D) How can you help us?

- Jason asked if it was possible for youth to promote recreational programs within their schools. Committee members suggested that in order to effectively promote the programs it would be beneficial to experience the recreational facilities for themselves.
- Jason proposed the idea of giving HYAC members free access to one or more programs to share their experience with others (ID cards).
- Alexandria da Silva volunteered to design the cards for these recreational passes for the next HYAC meeting.

Other HYAC comments:

- Recreation should provide specific volunteer opportunities that are easier to find on the City of Hamilton website.
- Recreation should incorporate meaningful youth input and youth-led programming
- Front line/Customer Service: More staff interaction, friendlier/more welcoming staff, more 'youthful' staff.
- Improve the cleanliness and maintenance of recreation centers
- Strategically placed youth drop-in areas/centres
- Consider how the message/information about programs is delivered. For example, rather than just simply describing recreation programs state how the program can improve the health and well-being of the participant or the community.
- Consider how to market to a youth audience
- Consider providing rental facility opportunities to youth (e.g. youth-led recreational activities/events)

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Attendance: That, as the following member has been absent for 3 or more consecutive meetings and staff have been unable to reach this member regarding continued membership, they be removed from the HYAC membership at this time:

(a) David Boruch

René reinforced that although a member is voted off the committee they are more than welcome to attend the meetings anytime, as HYAC meetings are open to the public.

(Virgin-Holland/C.Sanchez)

5.2 Raising the Roof Campaign: Media Launch and HYAC Participation:

HYAC was approached by Wesley Urban Ministries to help sell approximately 250 toques for \$10 each to raise money for poverty again this year. Committee members were asked to have their Media Release and Participation agreement signed and returned by the next meeting in order to participate in the sale of toques and associated campaign activities. Signed documents are to be given to René. René will be picking up HYAC allotted toques in the next week.

5.3 HYAC's Year End Summary Report is to be presented to Council December 10, 2012:

Camilo volunteered to present on behalf of HYAC. A copy of the presentation was circulated among members during the meeting for any additional comments.

5.4 CBC Town Hall: Mental Health 101: Youth and the Hidden Crisis in Our Community:

The CBC event featured approximately four panelists who told their personal stories of mental health, while addressing questions from the audience. Several HYAC members in addition to the Youth Advisor attended this event. All agreed it was very interesting, informative and inspirational. All gave positive feedback and said that the presenter definitely changed people's perspectives of mental health issues. The committee has tentatively decided that something more should be done as a committee. All agreed to consider possible initiatives at future meetings. René encouraged the committee to go on the CBC website for additional resources and information.

5.5 Unfiltered Facts Summit November 20th:

Several HYAC members attended the "Soundtrack for Change" Summit which featured youth artists, arts-based programming, youth facilitators, school sharing/networking, and tons of fun! Members indicated that this was the first time the summit featured live music and a twitter wall. Several members stated the event was very interesting and presented new way of including today's technology. The event touched on topic such as youth health issues within schools. The Summit armed participants with information and tools they need to tackle youth health issues in their school community. Some members quoted that this was the "best summit ever hosted" to date.

5.6 Youth Week Hamilton:

The committee discussed the priorities of Youth Week, which will be held from May 4th to May 11th, 2013, including advertising options and the selection of a slogan. The committee reviewed a list of possible themes/slogans and selected six to be the top contenders.

- Just add YOUTh
- Love the skin you're in
- We speak
- Be YOUTh

The committee chose '**Be YOUTh**' as the official slogan for the 2013 YWH celebration. Members selected this slogan as they said this statement allows people to personify and define their own image, whether that image is a youth leader, youth activist, etc.

(Kaas/Zolis)

5.7 Logo for Youth Week:

The committee stated they want the "**Be YOUTh**" slogan and the Youth Week logo to be consistent.

The committee discussed that the slogan "Be _____" could potentially be on the front of a t-shirt and "Be YOUTh" could be on the back of a t-shirt. Mikayla Zolis volunteered to draft the slogan/T-shirt design that could be placed on a t-shirt. This draft is to be ready and presented at the next HYAC meeting.

5.8 Preparing for YWH and the formation of sub-committees:

Some members raised the point that it may be beneficial to have two HYAC meeting every month. Nashwa will send out a Doodle Poll to determine everyone's availability.

5.9 Plans for HYAC's 'Summary of Issues/Initiatives'?

This item was deferred until the next meeting

6. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

6.1

7. ADJOURNMENT

That, there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 7:10p.m.
Next meeting December 18th.

(Fiorello/LaChapelle)