

Westport Youth Commission General Meeting
Thursday, September 17th, 2020 at 7:15 PM
Home

7:17 We have a quorum, Kevin introduces himself, logistical information

7:18 Sarah welcomes everyone, Kevin talks about approving the minutes. Voting members can approve or amend minutes using a motion

7:20 Valerie makes a motion to approve the minutes

7:20 Abe seconds the motion to approve the minutes.

7:21 What's Up

- Coleytown elementary shutdown
- The hybrid model is difficult for those online to keep up. Good skill for when you grow up.
- Every teacher varies, some interact with those online while others do not
- Sports are different this year, swimming is basically normal, soccer is slightly different,
- Clubs at school are meeting online
- Club rush/student involvement fair?

7:27 Kevin gives youth services report

- Budget for the Westport Youth Commission
- Not a whole lot going on on the legislative side of things is a lot of work on the juvenile justice side. Raising the age of minors, etc.

7:30 Advocacy Group Overview

Peer Education and Awareness

- Description of the group, events they hold (Imentor, dodge-a-cop, capture-a-cop, mini mentor, survey, Real Talk program)
- Programs will look different- what will dodge-a-cop and capture-a-cop look like for the following years?
 - Moving programs to the spring to give more time to see if things get better in terms of COVID (with a backup plan in case they don't)
 - Coronavirus relief or community outreach with the police department
 - Similar activities that are more socially distant
 - Opportunities where the youth and police can become more comfortable with one another
- Mini Mentor and Imentor?
 - Split the ideas in each into short videos and present them via zoom livestream, or posting videos on our website, facebook, etc.
- Real Talk
 - Moving the program to the winter or fall?
 - It is a bit too late for the program to occur- keeping it in the spring would make the program a lot better.
 - Brainstorm questions for the panelists, keep the program in mind throughout the year so we are not scrambling towards the end
 - Virtual Panel, in person, if it gets better
- Programs that address mental health, equality is possible- the survey could tell us more about what we need to address

7:42 Talking about the survey

- What the youth commission does should align with the community, the survey will tell us more about that
- Help us understand where to target programs, are issues being addressed in town and how well are they being addressed, and to simply get thoughts and feedback as to what youth are facing with the coronavirus.
- The goal is for everyone to look at the survey, vote on it, and get it sent out by various methods Abe has collected to get lots of feedback to form programs around it. People should take a look at it and get it approved tonight, so we can show it to Elaine and the first selectman to get it approved, revised, etc.

7:47 Sarah Corneck was made co-host

7:48 Looking over the details of the survey as a group to brief everyone on the content

- How do we work together to have a big enough impact that helps students and retailers
- Help people know we exist, get the word out about what we do
- Could we get the survey through schools? Lots of people that have to approve it could take a long time, maybe get it through connections?
- Could possibly align the information with other surveys that have been conducted

8:00 Rita makes a motion to approve the survey for review by human services

8:00 Eli seconds the motion

Unanimous approval

8:03 Town Improvements

- Talks about what we are, the events that we do (student discounts, mini-golf, student creation market, etc.)
 - Student discounts- get a gauge of businesses that want to participate this year, talking to the downtown merchant
 - Student creation market- not for awhile, gauge the coronavirus situation and move from there
 - Open Campus policy- would it be feasible with everything going on? Everyone at staples has extended free periods, which would be a good opportunity for people to take advantage of an open campus policy
 - Keeping the thought in his mind would be approved by the senior population, lots of work was done in the past so going radio-silent would not be a great idea. The school is encouraging people to leave, and we would support local businesses.
 - Could social distancing rules be violated if seniors are going out together? We would have to keep this in mind if we were to try and implement this policy
 - **Plan to look at how other schools in our DRG have been dealing with their policies during the coronavirus.** Review the proposal, meet with Mr. Thomas and go from there.
 - Is now the right time for the proposal? Will we receive more opposition if we pitch it now?
- Could we reach out to other commissions (or similar groups) to see how they are dealing with their own programs?

- Mini Golf- need members to come and pitch ideas, looking for a meeting to get caught up, and looking to refine the presentation to ensure it fits a post COVID world.

8:28 How do we move forward?

- Sarah is moving Imentor along, Eli is moving mini-golf along, Abe is working on open campus
- We are one commission, one can attend any meeting and work on any project.

8:32 Abe makes a motion to adjourn

8:32 Alex seconds the motion (enthusiastically).

Unanimous Approval