

Westport Youth Commission  
General Meeting  
December 17, 2020

**7:17** Kevin begins the meeting, passes it onto Sarah

**7:18** Sarah begins the meeting, brings up minutes

**7:19** Rachel makes a meeting to approve the minutes

**7:19** Eli seconds the motion to approve the minutes

**7:19** Minutes are approved

**7:20** Everyone misses Colin very much

**7:20** What's Up

- Snow day!, Christmas break, candlelight concert, inklings issue, staples players did another online show, winter sports, spirit week, ugly sweater day

**7:25** Kevin gives the youth services report

- The prevention coalition is looking at vaping, and the culture of alcohol. Westport will survey youth grades 7-12 regarding these issues in February
- Toquet Hall is continuing with its virtual programs, working with Matt and the Westport Library to extend its Dungeons and Dragons workshop

**7:28** Advocacy group overviews

Peer Education and Awareness

- imentor/mini mentor activities: finalized a plan and settled and subjects for the videos, people have tasks to complete for the next meeting, such as scriptwriting, etc.
- Discussed new initiatives around mental health, drug use, etc. Waiting on the survey to see what we need to address. Could team up with other groups?
- A potential project could be advertising/education around drug prevention around town
- Bacharach award as well as Youth Commission applications

**7:33** Town Improvements

Student Discounts

- Finishing up a list of businesses and begin reaching out to new and old businesses to revitalize student discounts

Mini Golf

- Would like Valerie to take a look at the survey, make sure everything is up to date, and fix minor suggestions.
- The strategy has not changed (become familiar with the material, move forward to meet with parks and rec)
- The next meeting will be with Jen Fava, get it on their radar and get the introduction

Open Campus

- Have the letter done, will wait to send the letter to Mr. Thomas after the break

**7:42** Needs Survey Update

- 68 people have responded, lots of high school students, as well as a number of parents and people who work with youth.

- Top issues are stress, anxiety, mental health, as well as vaping and underage drinking and illegal substances, followed by race/gender issues. Lack of following COVID protocol was another issue.
- In terms of timing, we should keep it open during the holiday break, when is the cut-off point to shut it down?
  - Might need a push to get the survey out. We are a commission of twenty/thirty individuals and can spread it to family, friends. Try and push for 200-250 responses.
- Need to make a push during the holiday season to garner more responses.
- Stafford Thomas and the like are aware of the survey, might want to push to have him send it out?
- Westport Local Press is a new resource, trying to fill in the void for Westport now, we could contact them to try and get it published on his site
- Should give a readout to the commission of the collected data in January

**7:55** Next general meeting is on January 21, Abe makes a motion to adjourn

**7:56** Alex seconds the motion

**7:56** Lily Weisz abstains from the vote to adjourn, however, the motion still carries, meeting ends.