

Westport Youth Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
1/25/24
Secretary: Annam Oalsewere

What's Up:

- Cabry updated us on the conclusion of midterms.
- Annam informed us that recommendations are starting at Staples.
- Danya shared news about GFA squash at Staples.
- Jake reported on recent flooding in Westport.
- Lee informed the group that LLS has approved the site plan.
 - We had a quick garden debate.
- Due to the lack of quorum, there were no minutes from the last meeting.

Youth Services Report:

- Kevin provided comprehensive updates:
 - Westport Together hosted a screening of the documentary “Like” with the National Charity League (NCL)
 - Well attended for a Sunday and good discussion afterward
 - Westport Together is collaborating with the Staples counseling team for a follow-up discussion on "Never Enough," focusing on parents of athletes.
 - Planning a talk about toxic achievement culture with athletes' parents.
 - Kevin and Detective DelVecchio was part of a joint Westport Prevention Coalition legislative forum with Westport, Wilton, etc., addressing increased prevention work due to changes in cannabis laws.
 - The budget season for the town of Westport is approaching.

Membership Slate:

- In December, we looked a lot over the membership skate.
- First vote in a while: Switched Jared Evan from a voting member to a non-voting one.
 - Recommended Danya Herman as the newest voting member.
- Cabry emphasized the importance of communication when unable to make a meeting and acknowledged the work others are putting in.

Lee's Comment:

- Lee noted the gap between the Jan. meeting and the Dec. one was the longest break between the two meetings and encouraged everyone to think about what they want to accomplish before the end of the school year.

Marketing & Awareness:

- Danya informed the group that the website could be published tomorrow morning.
- Valerie highlighted the need for more students to help with marketing and awareness:
 - So far.. Jordy Greenspan, Zoe Boxenbaum, Lola Lamensdorf, Isabel Alfageme, are intersted
- There was a discussion about updating the website with new photos.
- Kevin suggested a follow-up meeting for the marketing group to discuss their needs.
- Kevin asked Danya whether there is an opportunity at GFA to put up a bulletin board about the Youth Commission.

iMentor Bedford:

- For the presentation at Bedford on Wednesday at 8:30 for 6th graders, the list of students attending includes Taylor, Lola, Cabry, Annam, Ayaan, Marla, Isabel, and Jacob.
- Taylor provided an update on a small Zoom meeting before midterms for miniMentor, encouraging more people to join.
- During the majorMentor discussion, concerns were raised about middle schoolers overloading themselves.
- Cabry and Jacob were unable to set a date for this year, leading to considerations about postponing or conducting it at the end of the year.
- There is a plan to address concerns from *parents and counselors* after the Jennifer Wallace presentation.

Corn-A-Cop:

- Kevin shared updates about CornACop in May, and the group is looking for a good date.
- There was a discussion about incorporating it into GFA's after-school program.

Job Bank:

- Jake provided an update on progress, aiming to launch soon.
- Kevin suggested Jake form a subcommittee, and he did after the meeting
- There is an aim for press coverage, and Ayaan can get it onto Inklings and maybe on the Wreckord.

Mini Golf:

- The group is waiting for Parks and Rec to get back with a plan for 24-25.
- There was an update on Compo Playground.

New Business:

- Detective DelVecchio shared info on upcoming events and bike-related protests.