

# **TOWN OF CROMWELL**

## **Youth Advisory Board Tuesday, December 19, 2023 6:30 P.M. Town Hall Lower Level with Zoom option**

### **MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by Suzanne Rutner. Seconded by Maggie Schufer.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL** – Sarah Maffiolini, Jessica Zeedyk, Gayle Ivy, Paula Luna, Haley Stone, Suzanne Rutner, Maggie Schufer, Andrea Middlebrooks, Det. Jason Tolton, Gavin Kusmider, and Joanna Kusmider.
3. **APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA** – A motion to approve the December 19, 2023 meeting agenda made by Maggie Schufer. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.
4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** – none
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Recruiting new members – Gayle suggested reaching out to businesses in town. Sarah suggested that this could be done through the Middletown Chamber of Commerce. Maggie offered to contact the new swim school business in town.
  - b. Approve updated bylaws – A motion was made to approve the amended Youth Advisory Board bylaws by Gayle Ivy. Seconded by Suzanne Rutner.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. 2024 meeting schedule – A motion was made to approve the 2024 meeting schedule by Maggie Schufer. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.
  - b. 2024 Family Resource and PreK Expo on March 7, 2024 – Sarah explained that the expo is for families to learn about preschool and other local family resources. She asked for assistance from the board to advertise the event. Sarah advised that the expo is for all families with kids, not just preschool families. A discussion was had about a possible name change for the event to get more families to attend.
  - c. YAB Poster contest – Sarah presented the idea to hold a poster contest for Cromwell Middle School students to design the 2024 Youth Advisory Board promotional flyer/poster. A discussion was had about prizes and how the contest would be judged. Ideas for prizes were gift cards, Tallmans, Amazon, Starbucks, and Dunkin. Andrea suggested expanding the contest to include a digital ad. The group discussed how to get information about the contest out to students that included, including advertising on student news, parent newsletter, presenting during the advisory period, and including the art, coding, and STEAM teachers.
7. **STANDING REPORTS**
  - a. Schools – Andrea reported the following:

- Andrea reported that Cromwell Middle School has been encouraging students to get involved in their community and give back this holiday season. She reported the following events.
  - CPS participated in the CCMC PJ Day for the Kids, on 12/8 and CPS raised about \$2,000 district-wide.
  - CMS is supporting a 6th-grade student in her efforts to collect warm clothes for the homeless by holding a clothing drive.
  - CMS collected toys for the Toys for Tots organization.
  - The CMS winter band concert was recently held.
  - CMS recently held an assembly about bullying, presented by John Halligan. Andrea reported that the tough subject matter was presented positively by the speaker, and was moving. She added that bullying is present at the schools and they are working to make some positive changes by implementing various strategies.
- b. Youth Services – Sarah reported the following:
- The recent Community Conversation on Addiction event was well attended and received positive feedback.
  - The FY2025 budget will be due in January. Sarah advised the board she would be requesting additional funding and asked for the board's support by being present at a budget meeting.
- c. Town Council – Paula reported on the following:
- There will be a special call meeting in January regarding the town's Conservation and Development.
  - The Mayor's Tree lighting went well.
  - The Town of Cromwell Farmers Market craft fair was a success with over 70 vendors.
  - The Cromwell Historical Society held an open house.
  - The Senior Center hosted a Meet the Mayor event with over 50 attendees.
  - The Mayor held his first Community Forum where the community could speak to the town council.
- d. Police Department – Det. Tolton reported the following:
- As a result of the new CPD contract, the department has added 4 new officers.
  - Officer Peter Pietraroia will be taking over as D.A.R.E instructor starting in January.
  - Det. Tolton will be changing back to patrol as of late June, or early July.
  - D.A.R.E's paper bag project will be picking its winner soon. The CAYAK club leads this project and works with local package stores, the bags are given to customers as a reminder not to drink and drive.
  - CPD has a food pantry that is being used quite a bit by the community. Food can be donated or collected in the lobby of the CPD 24/7. Officer Liz Jones is the officer in charge of this program.
  - CPD holds an annual toy drive to sponsor families in Cromwell.
  - Continue to lock up cars and belongings as car thefts and break-ins are still on the rise.
- e. Youth -

- Hailey reported that many kids are biking to CMS that the bike rack is not adequate for the amount of bikes and also that she hopes to have a covered area for the rack. Gavin added that along with the roof being helpful, he would like a paved location to store his bike. A discussion was had by the group and suggestions were given on organizations to contact, that could help with a donation of time, labor, or resources. Organizations discussed were the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, local trade schools, building trade organizations, and the CMS PTO.

**8. CITIZEN REPORT - none**

- 9. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION-** Maggie shared she was recently on the news regarding the elevator at her apartment complex being broken for over 6 months. Det. Tolton shared that his daughter will compete in a basketball championship in Puerto Rico after being cleared from injury. Andrea shared that her son has started getting college acceptance letters. Hailey shared that she recently won 1st place in a horse show.

- 10. ADJOURN-** A motion to adjourn was made at 7:47 pm by Suzanne Rutner. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.

*Recording clerk, Jessica Zeedyk*