

**TOWN OF CROMWELL**  
**Youth Advisory Board**  
**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**  
**Town Hall Lower Level with Zoom Option**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Whitney Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Suzanne Rutner.

**2. ROLL CALL**

In attendance is Sarah Maffiolini, Jessica Zeedyk, Paula Luna, Suzanne Rutner, Whitney Simmons, Detective Jason Tolton, Gayle Ivy, Jason Barber, Aiden Miller, Henry Groper, Eli Miller, Diedra Miller, and Kyle Pierson.

**3. APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA**

Whitney Simmons motioned to approve the January 17, 2023 Meeting Agenda. Seconded by Suzanne Rutner.

**4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Suzanne Rutner motioned to approve the October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Gail Ivy.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Recruiting new members/volunteers - Sarah Maffiolini began the discussion with a reminder of past discussions of recruiting new members. She mentioned getting more youth involvement and working on recruiting members from the 12 sectors. She furthered the discussion on youth involvement by explaining that time spent at the meeting will count towards community service hours. Sarah suggested for youth to bring friends and invite teachers to the meetings. She explained that members employed in the community are allowed to participate in the meetings but non-residents are not voting members of the committee.
- b. Spring community safety event - Sarah suggested that the event might be held in collaboration with Cromwell Recreation Summer Concerts or the Cromwell Farmers Market. There was a discussion about marketing the event and Detective Tolton offered up some suggestions for Police Department safety programs the event could include.
- c. Cromwell community center - Sarah addressed the youth in attendance their thoughts on a community center. A discussion was had about why the community center is important to youth in Cromwell. Ideas presented included having something to do for youth after school, youth having a place to be involved in the community, and a positive space to stay out of trouble. Detective Tolton suggested that the youth should brainstorm ideas of what things they would like to have at the community center. Sarah mentioned items included in past discussions, and the committee added new ideas such as foosball and virtual reality equipment. Eli Miller added his support to

the community center. Sarah suggested residents write letters of support to the Town Council.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Update on CYS winter programs and services
  - i. Restorative Youth Diversion - Sarah stated that there is a slight increase in RYD cases and that she recently completed interviews for a case manager. She explained that the state made a change to Juvenile Justice policies as of January 1, 2023. Detective Tolten provided an abbreviated version of the new policies; all cases with the exception of car theft, weapon related charges and family violence will be first admitted to local Juvenile Review Boards. He added that in previous years multiple JRB offenses would go to court, and new policies have even repeated offenders being sent back to local JRB's. He expressed the need for more services and resources provided to prevent repeat offenses. There was a brief discussion by the committee as to what might be adding to a rise in youth getting in trouble including parent involvement, lack of social skills, and the pandemic.
  - ii. Diaper Closet - Sarah stated that the Cromwell Diaper Bank opened on December 1, 2022 and has currently received a lot of donations. She discussed some ways Youth Services is marketing the diaper bank, and asked the committee for help getting the word out.
  - iii. Kin Care Program - Sarah presented the kick off to the Kin Care program that took place on January 11, 2023, and that meetings would take place each month and include childcare. She reported a diverse group of 7 caregivers were in attendance and that a speaker from a foster and adopted family agency presented.
  - iv. Family Resources and Preschool Expo - Sarah provided the details of the Expo that will be taking place March 2, 2023 and included that she is working with Sylvia Webb, the Coordinator of The Cromwell Early Childhood/School Readiness Council at Edna C. Stevens School. Sarah explained that they are looking to market to families and vendors. Whitney offered a suggestion to contact Head Start in Middletown to attend.

## **7. STANDING REPORTS**

- a. Town Council liaison - Paula Luna reported that the community center is on the Town Managers radar. She added that they are assessing a possible new location off of Coles Road. She reported that the Middle School Project has chosen a contractor and building will start in the fall of 2023. She concluded by reporting that there is an Environmental Culture/Climate Study currently being conducted among the Cromwell Town Employees.
- b. Police Department - Detective Tolten reported that unlocked cars were still getting broken into in Cromwell and car thefts are on the rise. He added that catalytic converter crime is still occurring. He advised to be aware of your surroundings and always lock car doors.

- c. Youth - A discussion was had about the advisory block provided at Cromwell Middle School and Cromwell High School. Aiden Miller provided an explanation to the committee that Advisory is a 30 minute block of time that acts like a study hall.

**8. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- a. There are no citizen comments to report.

**9. ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Whitney Simmons at 7:29 PM. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.

*Jessica Zeedyk, Recording Clerk*