

TOWN OF CROMWELL

Youth Advisory Board Tuesday, March 21, 2023 6:30 P.M. Town Hall Lower Level with Zoom option

MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting called to order by Margaret Schufer at 6:32 PM. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.
- 2. ROLL CALL** - Sarah Maffiolini, Jessica Zeedyk, Gayle Ivy, Paula Luna, Haley Stone, Suzanne Rutner, Aiden Miller, Eli Miller, Deirdre Miller, Lisa Smey, Jason Barber, Margaret Schufer, Whitney Simmons.
- 3. APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA** - A motion to approve the March 21, 2023 meeting agenda made by Suzanne Rutner. Seconded by Gayle Ivy.
- 4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**
 - a. Prior Meeting: 2.21.2023- A motion to approve the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Margaret Schufer. Seconded by Suzanne Rutner.
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Recruiting new members - Sarah stated the Youth Advisory Board is still looking to recruit new members.
 - i. Shirts - Sarah asked for the group to make a decision about the Youth Advisory Board polo shirts. The board members agreed upon a navy color, that the wordle be printed on the upper back of the shirt, and that the Cromwell Youth Services logo be printed on the left chest of the polo shirt.
 - ii. Group photo - Gayle suggested that the photo wait till the board members have their shirts, and the majority unanimously agreed.
 - b. Family Resource and Preschool Expo - Sarah began the discussion with a recap of the date, time and purpose of the Family Resource and Preschool Expo. She thanked Gayle, Paula and Aiden for volunteering and helping at the event. The board members in attendance that evening provided positive feedback stating that the event was well organized, the food provided for the vendors was good, and the gym was a great location to hold the event. Gayle added that attendees all seemed very happy. Suzanne commented that providing local organizations and community resources along with showcasing the preschools was a nice add on to the event. Lisa commented she ran into a rude vendor and a discussion was had by the board to make sure vendors make it clear when things are not free at their table. A brief discussion was had about holding a teen expo and how to incentivise teens to attend. Some ideas mentioned were gift cards, raffles, and having local businesses who employ teens in attendance. Sarah concluded the discussion by voicing her appreciation for maintenance staff for their help in the set up and clean up of the event.
 - c. Cromwell Community Center -

- i. Letter of support - Jessica presented the group with a list of their own ideas created during a brainstorming session at the previous Youth Advisory Meeting. Sarah asked if any board member would be willing to put the letter together on their own time. Suzanne suggested the letter stay in bullet point form as presented. The group decided to have Jessica put an intro and conclusion to the bullet points and have a draft of the letter ready for review at the next meeting.
- d. YAB fundraising - Sarah revisited the ideas presented at the February 21, 2023 meeting which included scholarships, and mini grants that could benefit the community.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. FY 24 State Budget - Sarah explained how Cromell Youth Services is partially funded by a grant from the Department of Children and Families. She continued to explain that Connecticut is still working on their budget for this coming year, and that there is a bill that has proposed over \$6 million dollars be divided up to Youth Services Bureaus across the state. If approved Cromwell Youth Services would have an additional \$60,000 to be used towards staffing, materials, supplies and programs. Sarah added that the bill was proposed last month, and that she provided testimony in support of the bill. She advised the board on the need and importance of the Youth Advisory Board, and CYSA members to contact their legislators with their needs, provide testimony and get youth involved.

7. STANDING REPORTS

- a. Youth Services - Sarah listed off current programs planned for Cromwell Youth Services including Family Plant and Paint Nights, Love 146, community workshops, and youth programs. Gayle shared a personal story of trafficking and how important it is to gain awareness. Whitney added that the state has great resources available on the state website, great initiative and support for victims of trafficking.
- b. Town Council- Paula reported that the Cromwell Town Council met two weeks ago. She reported that the Town has completed the budget workshops and the Board of Finance are reviewing. She added that the climate study will be presented to the Town Council at the April meeting and that the CMS project is still working on trying to cut costs. She concluded with news of Chief Denise Lamontagne's retirement as of June 30, 2023.
- c. Police Department - No report
- d. Youth- A discussion was had with the youth that were present about offering a teen hiring expo with local business. Sarah mentioned she is working on contacting regional organizations that will train and place teens in jobs. Suzanne asked about the program 'Hire our Youth' that was done in the past. Sarah explained there are some logistics to work out and that she would check with the Human Services Director on how to restart the program. Sarah added that she is hoping to add a teen empowerment and employment workshop this summer, and she is currently working on compiling a list of summer resources for teens for the Cromwell Town website.

8. CITIZEN REPORT - No report.

9. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION - Jason shared that Xavier High School would be holding a college fair open to all high schools students. Margaret shared that the Coffee House event held at the Cromwell Belden Public Library last month was a great event and well attended.

10. ADJOURN - A motion to adjourn was made at 7:29 PM by Gayle Ivy. Seconded by Margaret Schufer.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Recording clerk, Jessica Zeedyk