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BELMONT, MA

DATE: January 10, 2022
TIME: 2:54 PM

Youth Commission Meeting, November 18, 2021

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

In attendance were Anya Chen, Joanna Tsouvelis, Gavin Farrell (Chair), Heidi Wickersham, and Agnes Shen

0 members of the public were present.

Youth Coordinator Update:

Brandon Fitts (Assistant Director of the Rec Department) presented an idea to transfer the Youth Coordinator position from the Health Department to the Rec Department. This would mean pulling job posting for the Youth Coordinator position temporarily (but keeping submitted applications), as well as potentially turning the Youth Coordinator position into a full-time Rec Department position. The Youth Coordinator would be working as part of the Youth Commission half of the time and as part of the Rec Department during the other half. More information will be available after the budget presentation for the Rec Department in a few weeks. Brandon Fitts's email: Bfitts@belmont-ma.gov

Heidi shared a Youth Commission Survey Outline: [Youth Commission Survey Outline - Google Docs](#)

Heidi suggested using survey logic (if you choose different answers, you will get appropriate corresponding questions). Heidi also mentioned working with the Rec Department to prevent sending out duplicate surveys.

Anya suggested contacting the school to see if the administrators could allot some time during a certain school day for students to complete the survey.

Joanna proposed partnering with a neighboring town that also has a Youth Commission.

Joanna suggested using the Town Hall Auditorium (and other underutilized facilities) for future events. In order to do so, the chairs stored inside must be moved.

Mark Paolillo from the Select Board will be attending the December 9th meeting.

Gavin gave a summary of the BHS Giveaway wrap-up: all five winners (out of about 30 participants) were given prizes. \$138 were spent on candy and gift cards.

The budget for this year is \$2000 (possibly the same each year). This is the baseline for the commission's spending, although the commission has received additional grants in the past (ex. from Mount Auburn).

Gavin mentioned that the Youth Commission has a banner that can be used for future events.

Joanna suggested creating an event calendar and potentially planning one event per month, for different age groups and partnering with different organizations in the town (for example, the Belmont Wellness Coalition). Gavin and Joanna encouraged centralizing the planning of town events (maybe combining the Youth Commission events with the Rec Department calendar).

Anya will prepare a short presentation about the Belmont Youth Writers and the *Belmont Times* magazine for the next Youth Commission meeting on December 9th.

Joanna and Heidi proposed using other social media platforms besides Facebook (such as Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok). Heidi suggested that everyone on the Youth Commission could be administrators on the Facebook page and share the administrative burden.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.