

**Tuesday, April 19, 2022**  
**Mayor's Youth Council Virtual Meeting 6:00 PM in Town Hall Room 400**



## **1. Meeting Opening**

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- A. Staff liaison Kari Karp called the Mayor's Youth Council to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Council members Reese Berigan, Daphne Brewer, Grace Furia, Jack Gold, Tziyona Goldfischer, Sarah Granquist, Kikoh Mordukai, Kris Rimal, and Priya Sinha. Guests: Carol Waxman, West Hartford Libraries Head of Children's Department

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

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- A. No corrections were made and the March 22 minutes stand approved.

## **3. School Reports**

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### **A. Conard**

- i. Reese shared that Conard has received grant money that the student vice president is currently distributing. There have also been recent issues with school bathrooms. Students have been behaving inappropriately, and administration has responded by closing all but a few bathrooms. This has created issues including long lines and wait times. Additionally, Conard has a debate competition that will be occurring soon.

### **B. Hall**

- i. Hall students shared that there have been similar issues with bathrooms. Specifically, incidents of racist messages being written. Administration has responded by closing restrooms. Additionally, AP exams are starting in 2 weeks and a musical called Madea will be happening soon.

### **C. Kingswood Oxford**

- i. Jack shared that in 4-5 weeks, seniors will be graduating. Kingswood Oxford will be holding its popular annual ceremony for seniors. Additionally, a KO student recently won a selective essay competition and

the baseball team is in 1st place in the Founders League. Also, a new committee of parents and alumni has formed with the goal of reinventing the circle of KO to make it more inviting.

**D. New England Jewish Academy**

i. Tziyona shared that they are on spring break. The school's Moot Beit Din team recently went to a weekend competition they have been prepping for and placed well. Additionally, AP exams will be taking place soon along with graduation for the seniors.

**4. Subcommittee Reports**

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**A. Mental Health Action and Awareness Committee**

- i. Tziyona shared that they have been discussing new ideas.
- ii. One is a storytelling submission project. West Hartford youth would be invited to submit fiction or nonfiction stories related to mental health. These stories could be read and recorded, with the final audios posted to the MYC instagram. Caitlin Striff-Cave, a student at Hall, has a podcast and is willing to record with the MYC.
- iii. The writing submissions/podcast would be centered around May as it is Mental Health Awareness Month.

**B. International Night/Diversity Night Committee**

- i. Shared that Blue Back Square is reserved May 14th for “Celebrate Diversity,” however, they have been trying to get performers to confirm their participation. MYC members will contact musical directors or other student musician groups they know to find performers for the event.
- ii. The subcommittee will notify Mrs. Karp about their status of performers by next Tuesday (4/26).
- iii. The group will plan a backup project in case they are unable to locate enough performers. One possible option is a diversity-related tiny art show.

**C. Social Media Committee**

- i. Shared that they have sent out a Google form to MYC members’ emails in order to collect biographical information. The subcommittee is working on creating bios to be posted to the MYC Instagram page.
- ii. Shared that they would promote any future MYC events. The subcommittee will send a representative to take pictures and make posts

at these events. To coordinate the dates, MYC will attempt to use the Outlook calendar feature that is accessible using town emails.

## **5. Old Business**

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### **A. Logo Design Contest Winner**

- i. The logo contest winner is Libby Karim. Libby chose a \$100 visa gift card as a prize.
- ii. Mrs. Karp would like to go to Libby's school library to deliver the gift card and take a picture. If any MYC members are available, their help taking a photo would be appreciated.

### **B. Elmwood Community Center Advisory Committee Alternate Update**

- i. Tziyona will be Kris's alternate on the committee. However, this term will only last 1 year as Tziyona will be graduating in 2023.

### **C. 2022-2023 Applications and Flyers**

- i. Council members were given copies of the MYC application draft. The highlighted areas were sections that needed to be discussed.
- ii. Changes include stipulating that there will be 2 MYC meetings per month: 1 formal meeting and 1 work session led by subcommittee leaders. Additionally, 4 additional seats will be added to the council, bringing the total number of MYC members to 15.
- iii. Current MYC members do not need to reapply for a second term. Seniors may serve for a 1 year term. Any 9-11th grade members who will not be returning for 2022-2023 should send a letter of resignation to Mrs. Karp or Mrs. Waxman as soon as possible so that their seat can be offered to a new candidate.
- iv. MYC will communicate with middle schools next year. The topic of having interested 8th grade applicants observe the final MYC meeting in May was brought up as well.
- v. Mrs. Karp will make the decided edits to the application and share the final draft with MYC members.

### **D. Witness Stones Project Update**

- i. Shared that they have completed the task of collecting signatures. The petition and signatures have been verified, and the next step in the street renaming process is presenting to the Town Planning and Zoning

Commission on May 2nd. Members working on the project are preparing for this presentation with Dr. Tracey Wilson.

ii. There will be a section at the meeting for community comments, and any MYC members who would like to speak in support of the project were encouraged to attend.

iii. The social media committee offered to make posts about the street renaming.

## **6. Announcements**

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### **A. West Hartford Greater Together Advisory Committee**

i. The West Hartford Greater Together Advisory Committee is looking for a teen representative aged 14+. Danielle Moghadam, co-chair of the committee, would like to know if a student from MYC can participate.

Members received a copy of this email, and anyone interested in this opportunity should contact Danielle or Mrs. Karp directly.

ii. The committee selects which local projects receive support from the West Hartford Community Fund. The teen member of this committee would participate in making these important decisions.

### **B. West Hartford Climate Projects Update**

i. Zoe, from the West Hartford Climate Projects would like to come to the May 17 MYC meeting.

ii. MYC members who reached out to Grace about collaborating with West Hartford Climate Projects should send their emails to Grace who will forward their contact information to Zoe.

### **C. Application Interviews**

i. MYC members were asked for opinions on last year's application interviews.

ii. It was decided that interviews should occur in June, close to the end of the school year. They will take place over Zoom again for increased efficiency.

iii. A selection committee representing the library, town hall, town council, and school system will be assembled and will be different from last year. Anyone with recommendations for panel judges should contact Mrs. Karp. The possibility of having a MYC member serve on the panel was mentioned.

## **7. Work Session**

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- i. Due to a lack of time, the work session was skipped.
- ii. Subcommittees will work on their projects on their own, and the Mental Health committee will meet within the next few weeks.

## **8. Adjournment**

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### **A. Adjourn**

- i. Motion to adjourn was made by Grace, Reese seconded.
- ii. The vote to adjourn the meeting was anonymous.
- iii. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 17th, 2022 6-7pm in Town Hall Room 400**