

Tuesday, December 12, 2023
Mayor's Youth Council Meeting
6:00 PM Town Hall Room 217



1. Meeting Opening

- A. Call to Order
 - Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
 - Present: Daphne Brewer, Ava DellaFera, Ailani Roach, Kushal Gauli, Francesca Giordano, Adam Gold, Sarah Granquist, Joseph Landino, Kikoh Mordukai, Charlotte Mullin, Alexis Nguyen, Moh Palanki, Evan Piccioli (late), Grace Piccioli, Abby Sanderson, Priya Shinde, Rudra Singh, Priya Sinha, Caeli Sullivan, Catherine Zehr
 - Absent: Oliver Hartmann, Isabelle Mulready, Liam Wright
 - Guest: Laura Imscher, West Hartford Libraries Director

2. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes all approved, no changes made

3. School Reports

- A. Conard
 - Girl's basketball team has first home game
 - Distributed gifts to people in the community
- B. Hall
 - Toy and art supply drives
 - Chicago musical
- C. Kingswood Oxford
 - Choreographer showcase
 - Holiday assembly

- Concerts for jazz band and choir
- Midterms the next day

4. Chair & Subcommittee Reports

A. Chair

- None

B. Secretary

- None

C. Social Media

- None

D. Outreach / Recruitment

- None

E. Holiday Giving Committee

- Finished first project of the year
- No toy drive and instead there was a fundraiser to raise money and purchase gifts from a wishlist for a West Hartford family in need
- Finished up planning and spent 2 weeks soliciting donations at Hall
- Collected cash/Venmo donations during lunch waves
- Crossed off almost every item on wishlist
- Raised \$165 in cash and Venmo and \$685 worth of merchandise (\$850 total)
- Project has completed
- Group commended for organization and fast completion of project
- Members may now work on mental health and political activism subcommittees

F. Mental Health Committee

- Have not begun working yet
- Main focus is May because it is Mental Health Awareness Month
- One idea is mental health stations near Barnes and Noble
- Currently planning a fundraiser from now until midterms
- Want to reach out to a rehab center and make care packages for them (or it could be done with CCMC)

G. Political Activism Committee

- Liam has contacted the Registrar of Voters to do a voter registration drive in the schools
- Found out that they are already planning this
- May help them publicize the project
- Will work on ways to increase voter/political engagement
- Ideas: Pizza with the Mayor, Job Shadow Day at Town Hall, have MYC attend town board meetings and communicate youth ideas
- Joe has worked the polls at some elections, so he may be able to help MYC

members interested in volunteering for the spring primaries

5. Old Business

A. Kindness Project Update

- Mrs. Karp introduced the Kindness project boxing event, which is at 12/16 in the Noah Webster Library
- Items are already sorted
- Volunteers need to make sure boxes are not too heavy and can close
- Make boxes for Hall and Conard nurses' offices using the wishlists
- Refreshments will be provided
- Volunteers: Sarah, Moh, maybe Adam

B. Shirts

- Member needed to take over logo simplification, contact Fresh Ink regarding prices, and collecting shirt sizes
- Adam can contact Fresh Ink
- Permission to change/use logo given

C. Google Classroom / Calendar

- Reminder that there is a Google Classroom
- Members invited
- Code read aloud

6. New Business

A. Instagram Bios

- Francesca is making Instagram bios
- Photo sent in and form filled out
- Will be posted on Instagram account soon

B. Citizenship Ambassadors Collaboration with The American

Place

- Left out of meeting

C. Teen Storytelling Club

- Mrs. Karp introduces that the MYC has received collaboration requests from multiple people
- Okey Ndibe is a Trinity College professor that would like to coordinate with teens in West Hartford to offer a story-telling club, wants to train students in the the art of story-telling through Nigerian folktales, wants to encourage teens to find their voice and share their stories
- He wants a club at each school where he can go to teach about storytelling
- He wants MYC to help start this

- Kikoh says that it would be better to make a storytelling event over the course of a month after school on Tuesday rather than a specific club
- May be able to market this as a public-speaking club
- Conard has a public speaking class that they can coordinate with to set this up at their school
- Hall may be able to coordinate with an English teacher
- He may be able to come in as a guest speaker at KO for their public speaking class
- School libraries have a time for author's to come in and talk about their books and writing, so this could be one way to have Ndibe spread the word about his storytelling
- Creative writing club at Hall may be able to set something up
- Winter takes away lots of free time, so this may have to be done at a later time
- Adam will reach out at KO
- Ailani will reach out at Conard
- Priya Shinde will reach out at Hall
- Mrs. Karp will prepare a letter for each person to send out

7. Announcements

A. West Hartford Prevention Partnership Coalition December Meeting

- Joe introduced the meeting at December 14 at 6:00 PM
- Meeting is about mental health and anti-vaping
- Kelly Waterhouse runs this meeting
- Mrs. Karp mentioned that they are looking for new members and that there is a more official meeting at 5:00 PM on the same day
- Mrs. Karp introduced the Rise up for Arts Mural project, in which a mural will painted on a wall in the library
- Teens who participate will help design the mural and will get to paint it a little
- Will cost around \$25 per sq ft
- May be around \$3,000-5,000, so will need ways to find money to pay for it
- Evan will reach out to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving regarding funding
- Can also apply through the Library Foundation for grants
- Mrs. Karp announced that Room 217 will no longer be used starting in February due to construction; we will be in room 400
- Chair announced that we will enter a work session until 7:20 and will be allowed

to grab food while waiting

B. Work Session 7-7:20 PM

C. Holiday Party 7:20-8:00 PM

8. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM by Chair, seconded by Moh and no oppositions

Work Session: Tuesday, December 12 7-7:20 PM Town Hall Room 217

Holiday Party: Tuesday, December 12 7:20-8:00 PM Town Hall Room 217

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6-7 PM Town Hall Room 217

“Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.”