

MINUTES
FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES
June 1, 2023
Farmington Hills Nature Center (Maple/Oak Rooms)
24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI. 48336

- 1) Call to Order 6:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Jordan Scrimger at 6:22 p.m.

Members Present: Tammy Luty, Jordan Scrimger, Marie Sarnacki,, Alisa Valden, Tanya Nordhaus, Brian Spitsbergen, Ed Cherkinsky

Members Absent:, Sharon Snodgrass, Colleen Coogan, Adam Whitfield, Jeff Boyle, Rod Wallace

Others Present: Patrick Spelman, Ethan Reischling, Mary Newlin, Marla Parker, Kristel Sexton, Ashlie Smith, Angie Smith

- 2) Approval of Agenda

Marie Sarnacki approved the agenda, Brian Spitsbergen seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

- 3) Approval of May 4, 2023 Minutes

Marie Sarnacki approved, and Brian Spitsbergen seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- 4) Youth Division Update

The after-school program's last day is June 13th, and they are ending the year with 130 students enrolled. The program has been able to expand offerings this year using more of the Hawk's facilities including the aquatics center, fitness center, Club Z tutoring, open gym, and the concessions stand. The program is proud that FPS and the City were able to come together to find a solution for busing the students from the schools to the Hawk. The program will be hosting an open house for families at the Hawk in the spring and opening enrollment for the 23-24 school year. They will open enrollment for about 200 students and hope to grow to 300 – 400 by the end of the next school year. They will be adding an after-school club room and game room next year to the program.

- 5) Issues Committee Update

Tammy mentioned that she heard the student roundtable group attended our career night as they were looking to do an event like this. It was mentioned at a BOE meeting that they postponed the idea of them doing an event until fall. Marie will reach out to see if we can contact student leadership and maybe have them work with us on our career night. This would give us the

students' perspective for our event. We completed the May Farmers Market painting event for the Kindness Rock Garden. Tammy worked with the Nature Center preschool students and staff to get the rocks in the garden. It was great to see the kids reactions to the rocks as they put them in the garden. We will visit the garden with all the rocks at the end of the meeting today. The issues meeting will meet via Zoom in July and August to discuss our reflection activity from today's meeting and plan for next year.

6) Volunteer Recognition Program

The event was very successful and had a lot of positive feedback from the city council members and award winners. We had enough food and the personal cookies for the award winners were very appreciated. We hope to have a Farmington city council member that can attend the event in the future so both cities are represented.

7) End of Year Reflection Activity

Jordan led us in an end of the year reflection activity. We had four posters with questions to answer posted around the room. Attendees took a few minutes to get up and write on the posters their thoughts and answers to the questions. The information on the posters will be used to guide us with ideas for next year and celebrate what went well this year. The questions were: 1) A word to summarize the 2022 -2023 year, 2) Something you are celebrating from the past year, 3) New ideas for 2023 – 2024 year, 4) Something you would change for next year.

8) New Business and Announcements

Kristal Sexton – The library May Asian American Pacific Islander event had over 400 people in attendance. They also hosted a successful community resource fair. It seemed that the fair included more seniors than families so something that they will be working on for next year is making sure they are meeting all age level needs. Summer reading is starting, and community members are encouraged to read 10 hours over the summer.

Tanya Nordhaus – She is involved with the arts commission that is working to get a love mural in Farmington Hills at the Hawk. They are hoping to have a community event where families can get their picture taken with the mural at an event, hopefully next spring. This might be something we could partner with.

Brian Spitsbergen – The Michigan School of Psychology would like to work with our commission to partner and work on mental health in the community. Brian brought with him Ethan Reischling who works at the school in the program.

Ethan Reischling – Introduced himself to the committee as a doctrine student at the school of psychology and hopes to work with us more in work that we are doing around mental health.

Patrick Spelman – Reminded everyone of Art on the Grand coming up as a great community event in the city of Farmington.

Ed Cherkinsky – Ed has been on the commission since 2006 and has decided that it is time for him to retire from the commission work. We thanked him for his service.

Tammy Luty – Tammy brought forward that we had about \$755 left in our budget for the year, that needed to be spent by June 30th. The issues meeting had discussed some ideas, but we were open to other ideas, if we wanted to use this to fund a fall project. Four ideas were discussed and voted on after everyone had a chance to discuss ideas for projects. The members voted to use the money to purchase STEM games and will host a fall family game night and after the event will donate the games to the after-school program to add to their new game room.

Marla Parker – Marla mentioned that she has been invited to a meeting with Beaumont/Cornwell to discuss needs in our community. She will provide an update at our next meeting with the information that was discussed. She also reminded everyone about the 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 6th. Things at the court are moving along with no issues.

Angie Smith – The ESSA funds from the pandemic that were given to schools will be running out. This funding was important to help students due to impacts from the pandemic and remote learning. There are concerns about students’ mental health as some students are struggling.

Ashlie Smith – The Nature Center is working on getting training for camp counselors to deal with behavioral issues they see in summer camp programs with students. All FPS students were able to come to the park this year on a field trip.

Mary Newlin – The Farmington Hills fire department is looking to hire additional staff currently if you know of anyone interested.

10) Public Comments

None

11) Adjournment

7:00 pm.

Brian Spitsbergen, motioned to adjourn, and Tanya Nordhaus seconded, motion carried unanimously at 7:44 p.m. The commission then went to The Kindness Rock Garden and took a group picture by the garden.

All other meetings will start at 6 p.m. in the Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall.

September 7, 2023 October 5, 2023 November 2, 2023

Minutes drafted by: Secretary Tammy Luty