

MINUTES
FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES
March 2, 2023, 6:00pm
Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall,
31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI. 48336

1) Call to Order 6:00 pm.

Meeting was called to order by Sharon Snodgrass at 6:10 p.m.

Members Present: Tammy Luty, Sharon Snodgrass, Jordan Scrimger, Ed Cherkinsky

Members Absent: Marie Sarnacki, Colleen Coogan, Brian Spitsbergen, Adam Whitfield, Jeff Boyle, Rod Wallace

Others Present: Alisa Valden, Matthew Gale, Marla Parker, Kristel Sexton, Mary Newlin, Angie Smith, Pat Spelman, Dan Rodriluez

2) Approval of Agenda

Ed Cherkinsky approved the agenda, Jordan Scrimger seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

3) Approval of February 2, 2023 Minutes

Ed Cherkinsky approved the minutes, and Jordan Scrimger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

4) Youth Division Update

Matt informed us that the afterschool program has about 120 students in the program at this time. He said that they are dealing with a lot of mental health and social emotional behaviors in the program. We had a long discussion on this and would there be a possibility of a social worker for the after-school program. The discussion included conversations about how community members in the post pandemic world are struggling of all ages. Angie Smith informed that the schools have ESSR Covid funds, and they are looking at possibly using some of this funding for social workers at each building. If the behaviors and mental health issues can be addressed in the school setting it would benefit the after-school program. The city doesn't currently have a social worker but it has been discussed as something our city might be able to use that could do follow up after a police intervention in some situations. It was discussed that the commission fall event might need to be something around mental health due to the discussion that we had.

5) Issues Committee Update

Jordan gave the update. We have put the new member procedures we drafted on our commission drive for the procedure of being a future commission member. If you have any questions or feedback let Jordan know. Career Night is being worked on. The flyer for the event is finalized and color copies of the flyer were distributed at the meeting to be shared. We will do our best to share through many networks and local areas as well as our Farmington/Farmington Hills community. Matt will look for leftover supplies from last year's event folders and supplies. So, we can determine what we have and what we will need to purchase for this year. We also hope to have the commission member name tags in by this event to help with community members knowing who to ask questions to at the event as we will no longer have an opening ceremony.

6) Communications Update

We recently discovered that the City of Farmington had an old description for our commission. Sharon will reach out with the city to get this updated to be the same as City of Farmington Hills, which is the correct description.

7) Volunteer Recognition Program

After discussions with the city manager office, we can do the volunteer recognition program on May 8th with the FH city council meeting. We discussed the tasks that need to be done to make this event happen. Award nominations will be open and can be submitted from March 6 – April 7th. Online submissions will go into a google form and paper copies will be mailed to Matt's office. After the deadline the team will meet to review the nominations and pick a winner and we will complete the process of ordering certificates/plaques and food for the event.

8) New Business and Announcements

Pat Spelman – The police department was able to partner with the FH department to put all staff through crisis intervention training and active shooter training. They have hired two new officers as well.

Dan Rodriluez – The training that Pat mentioned was able to be done due to a grant that Samantha Steckloff was able to secure. The FH department was the first in the state to get all officers trained in this training. Currently they are fully staffed but will be hiring as some employees are considering retirement in the near future.

Kristel Sexton – Kristel mentioned a couple of upcoming programs that might be good for youth and families in our community. March 15th they are doing a parent/teen workshop on school habits, helping teens stress less and this is open to families with students in grades 6 – 12. Healthy U which will have sessions on credit cards, credit scores and financial topics in April. They have also noticed more social emotional issues and are working on extra training of library staff to help them as they face some of these issues.

Angie Smith – The district just completed Black History Month programs in many of the buildings. There have been some discussions from parents about having metal detectors in the school buildings. March is reading month just started and many members of the community are

going out and being guest speakers during March. On March 14th there is a community dialogue with the community and the BOE regarding social media. Grades and test scores in the schools are down and are being looked at as well as mental health issues regarding suicide and bullying. A discussion was had around discussions in the community about books being banned in the school, no books have been banned.

Mary Newlin – They have just hired a new public relations person and Diversity Equity and Inclusion staff member in the city. The city of FH will also be celebrating their 50th anniversary this summer.

Tammy Luty – Was at Heritage Park and asked some members walking if they had seen the Kindness Rock Garden, based on this feedback it seems we might need a sign at the entrance to the brick walkway about the rock garden. The Farmer’s Market has asked us about doing a rock painting event at the market again this year. We discussed possible dates and will check to see which one works. Nominations for the new members of the commission are still with the city manager’s office, hope to have an update by the next meeting.

10) Public Comments

None

11) Adjournment

7:30 pm.

Jordan Scrimger motioned to adjourn, and Tammy Luty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

April 6, 2023

May 4, 2023

June 1, 2023

September 7, 2023

October 5, 2023

November 2, 2023

Minutes drafted by: Secretary Tammy Luty