# APPROVED MINUTES

**FARMINGTON HILLS/ FARMINGTON COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES**

**October 1st, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

**Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall**

**31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336**

1) **Call to Order** – called by Tanya at 6:04

   **Members in attendance:** Dr. Tanya Nordhaus, Dr. Brian Spitsbergen, Manni Kohli, Bridget Gibbons, Daniela Peric, Bria Lewis, Monique Green Jones, Jennifer Day, Alt. Alyson Gay

   **Members absent:** Maiia Kishchukova, Bhumika Mistry

   **Liaisons in attendance:** Asst. Chief Brian Moore, Bill Dwyer, Caroline Silvagi, Sonja James, Angie Smith

2) **Approval of Agenda**
   Moved by Manni, seconded by Alyson

3) **Approval of September 10th, 2026 Minutes**
   Approved by Manni, seconded by Monique

4) **Welcome and Intros**
   Group introduced themselves to new team members.

5) **Hay Day**
   Update from Caroline and Manni—the two discussed the logistics of bringing the wheel and the set-up of the tables. Group then discussed kindness rock garden support at the event; Tanya motioned for a $125 for the total budget. Group planned to be at Hay Day by 4:15 pm. Budget moved to approve by Bria, seconded by Manni.

6) **Career Night**
   Caroline to confirm date for career night. Tanya will communicate the date once it is final.

7) **Upward Mobility Initiative/ National League of Cities Pathways for Early Childhood Leadership Initiative Update**
   Tanya updated the group on her and Jennifer's involvement with the National League of Cities Pathways for Early Childhood Leadership Initiative. Farmington Hills was one of nine cities chosen to participate in the initiative. Tanya and Jennifer will be working alongside the Mayor of Farmington Hills to help shape local early childhood policy.

Tanya gave a presentation on her work with the Upward Mobility Initiative, explaining how she, with the support of Steve Schneemann and Mayor Dr. Theresa Rich, decided on priorities or predictors of equity appropriate for Farmington/ Farmington Hills to focus on, as well as methodology around research.

Predictor One (employment opportunities) generated a lot of group discussion around local resources available and how success would be measured:

- Tanya noted that data is from the most recent census, and that we may need to do our own survey again at some point.
- Potential for Farmington to develop a stakeholder list like the one that's being developed for Farmington Hills.
- Bria asked about how we would go about measuring our success; Tanya said that after the proposal is complete, we will work to develop a more in-depth measurement plan.
- Jim mentioned the Oakland County 80 program and Blue Planet Jobs

Predictor Two (housing affordability) was discussed:

- Angie mentioned that Tanya could connect with the Board of Education to present to them as well.
- Chief Brian Moore mentioned that FAIA (Farmington Area Interfaith Association) could be a resource as well.

Tanya went on to discuss the other priorities the Farmington/ Farmington Hills committee would be focused on to begin with, including:

- Access to Preschool
- Effective Public Education
- Opportunities for Income

Tanya discussed that there are other predictors to tackle, but that we will work with both city councils to decide which ones need to be tackled, in what order, and when. The plan as of now is to create consortiums of stakeholders as subcommittees of this commission, and that our commission would serve as the backbone for these consortiums.

**8) Discussion of 2026-27 Strategic Action Plan**

Outside of normal community support (Hay Day, Career Fair, Volunteer Day, etc.) group will need to have a little more information around structure and implementation of Upward Mobility Initiative before committing to additional priorities.

**9) New Business and Announcements**

Caroline gave an update:

- Hawk 5K 10/11 at 8am
- Boo Bash at Heritage Park 10/25 11-3pm

**10) Public Comments**

**Bill Dwyer:** Discussed filling the role of City Manager. Acting City Manager Karen Mondora received all the votes from the City Council, out of over 50 candidates from across the country. She is Farmington Hills' first-ever female City Manager. Senior center update: The council is working to find additional funding for the project.

**Jim Nash:** Discussed the Rain Smart program, which incentivizes green building projects. Jim will speak at our January meeting.

**Asst. Chief Brian Moore:** Discussed open house this past weekend. Mid-October, they will be doing a meeting with school liaisons. Eight citizens' academy spots open (10/13). It goes for 10 weeks, until 12/15.

**Angie Smith:** Let group know that the city is on the ballot to renew our bond. Specified that this would **not** be an increase, but a renewal. Two members of the board are running to keep their seats. Two other candidates are running for those two seats. Manni and Tanya pointed out that further education is needed.

**11) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Bria, seconded by Jennifer at 7:22 pm.

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

NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 871-2410 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting, wherein necessary arrangements or accommodations will be made. Thank you.