

**MEETING MINUTES**  
FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS  
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES  
JANUARY 9, 2025  
COMMUNITY ROOM, FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL,  
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE RD., FARMINGTON HILLS, MI. 48336

1) Call to Order

- A. Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm
- B. “Dad joke” shared to start meeting
- C. Bhumika brought cookies for the commission in celebration of the New Year
- D. Quorum announced
  - a. Members present: Roderick Wallace, Jordan Scrimger, Brian Spitsbergen, Tammy Luty, Marie Sarnacki, Tanya Nordhaust, Alisa Valden, Bria Barker-Lewis, Bhumika Mistry
  - b. Members absent: Sharon Snodgrass, Ashley Gabb, Adam Whitfield
  - c. Liaisons present: Doug Edwards (YMCA), Pat Spelman (Farmington Public Safety), Marla Parker (47th District Court), Sarah McCarthy (FCL), Angie Smith (FPS Board)
  - d. Others present: None

2) Approval of Agenda

- A. The following edits were proposed:
  - a. Correcting the meeting date to January 9, 2025
- B. Moved by Tammy
- C. Seconded by Rod
- D. Motion passes unanimously

3) Approval of November 7, 2024 Minutes

- A. The following edits were proposed:
  - a. Spelling of Kristel’s name
  - b. Spelling of elected school board member names
- B. Moved by Marie
- C. Seconded by Rod
- D. Motion passes unanimously

4) Youth Division Update

- A. Holiday party for MS students. Archery open shoots and HAWK on Friday’s nights, Free archery event with FHPD tonight, Nature field trips on March half-day with fishing at Founders Park later in the year.
- B. Camps scheduled for Feb/March breaks.
- C. No MLK events as school is not in for MLK – referring to the library for activities of interest.
- D. Rod asked about discounts available for low income community members – Free child

care is available at the HAWK's nest for members (8am-noon and 4pm to 8pm) and non-members pay only \$5 for child care. Scholarships are available for programs as well.

E. Tammy shared that she did drop off paints and rocks as discussed at the last meeting.

#### 5) Issues Committee Update

- A. Meeting was not held this month. Jordan proposed new time for meeting on 2/4/25 @ 6pm to allow for attendance in light of time conflict. Members agreed to this time.
- B. Discussed activities wheel and officer elections at the next meeting. Descriptions of responsibilities are in the by-laws. Bhumika shared she is unable to attend next meeting.
- C. Discussed commission participation at the Library event on March 3rd – due to difficult timing it appears the commission will not participate directly but will share flyers and event information through other participants. Doug offered for the YMCA to share such items.
- D. Ashley was not at tonight's meeting but had shared she will run the Volunteer Recognition – discussed linking with Farmington Youth Assistance for discussion. Marla discussed keeping the event the same or possibly not doing the event at the discretion of the commission. Linking with other agencies may not work as the other agencies have very specific limitations on their events (i.e. recognizing youth only etc.). Jordan will link Ashley with FYA.
- E. Tammy shared that she was able to work with the Mayor of FH and secure a proclamation for World Kindness Day and has also received the same from Farmington. Angie presented the idea to the school board but was denied due to some members feeling that if a proclamation for Palestine could not be given, it was not fair for this to be given either.
- F. Tanya gave an update on the Career/Hiring Fair. It will be 3/10/25 @ 6-8pm. Members are asked to attend and support the program. New this year, tables for interviewing. Tanya assured the commission that there is no need for screens for privacy or that there will be no overlap in the needs of participants to interview possible hires. Marla discussed the ongoing interest by Corwell to participate in the program but Tanya has not yet contacted them.
- G. Jordan shared a flyer for a program that she has put together to address the text incidents from last fall that gathered local and national coverage to young /women of color. She has worked with Monica at the Better Business Bureau as well as Robin from Washtenaw Area Council for Kids to put together a program for youth and parents. This is scheduled at the HAWK for 2/10/25 6:30-8:30pm. Discussed wording of the flyer – specifically mis/disinformation wording – and alternative wording options. Discussed working with schools for extra credit for attendance as well as connecting with the school program “OK 2 Say”. Angie suggested linking with Superintendent Kelly Coffin to discuss this program.
- H. Jordan proposed \$400 budget for the event to support a stipend for speakers from outside our area, printed materials and snacks.
  - a. Seconded by Brian, and budget motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Doug shared some suggestions for support of this program.

- I. Survey results were discussed in detail by Rod; thanks to Jordan and Ashley for support and technical assistance. Two hundred responses were received with 11% being children/youth. After discussion Rod, asked the commission to pick three items in each of the areas of “concerns, needs and what to do with \$1000” and bring them to the commission meeting next month for further discussion. Liesl offered the use of Kahoot as an option for continued follow up or additional surveys and suggested using pictures for youth feedback. The commission will consider who could benefit from this data and make decisions about sharing it forward.

6) New Business and Announcements

- A. YMCA – Holiday party was a success with hot chocolate bar and a roving snowman. They are working with Jessica for an event to address sleep concerns and will share a flyer.
- B. FPS – Angie shared that the new members of the school board were sworn in by Marla Parker. There will be two openings coming this year; one in June and one in November. C. FPS – Pat discussed the transition to the Ice Rink events of the winter and the skate times set for kids.
- D. 47th court – Marla shared that caseloads are up from last year, both civil and criminal, this year. Numbers were down during the Sars-cov-2 pandemic.
- E. Library – Sarah shared that there are lots of events on schedule for teens for fun and volunteer opportunities as well as discussion of the teen advisory board. Spring events are planned and coming soon. There are winter break activities planned and adaptive story time series that is scheduled. Parent workshops will also be coming.

7) Public Comments

- A. None

8) Adjournment

- A. Before closing meeting, Jordan utilized a randomizer to select numbers to choose which of the survey respondents would win the gift cards.
- B. Moved by Rod
- C. Seconded by Tanya
- D. Motion passes unanimously
- E. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm