

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

FAMRINGTON/ FARMINGTON HILLS

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Community Room, Farmington Hills City Hall

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

### **1. Call To Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm.

Members in attendance: Tanya Nordhaus, Manni Kohli, Bridget Gibbons, Bhumika Mistry, Daniela Peric, Bria Lewis, Jennifer Day, Alyson Gay

Liaisons in attendance: Kristel Sexton, Bill Dwyer, Steve Schneeman, Asst. Chief Brian Moore, Matt Gale

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Bridget motioned to approve, and Manni seconded the agenda.

### **3. Approval of April Minutes**

Mani approved the April minutes, and Bhumika seconded

### **4. Vote on Allocation of Remaining 2026 Fiscal Year Funds**

Matt discussed collaborating with the Art Council—he suggested reupdating the rock garden at the nature center and installing an “art house,” which would act as a free-standing library for rock painting tools. He also suggested that the commission could use the funding to collaborate on special projects that the Youth Center puts on (specifically mentioning Hay Day, the Marshmallow Drop, the Egg Hunt, etc.). Matt let the group know that the Youth Center is also looking for funding for chairs.

Tanya and Bria suggested collaborating to help fund the Farmington African American Parenting Network. Alyson mentioned that the commission could assist with activities that they put on, like their pancake breakfast or pizza party.

Daniela mentioned that shirts could be a good use of funding to earn more visibility for the commission. Matt mentioned that he could discuss it with the marketing department. Jennifer suggested fidget toys so that branding would be on toys for kids, and Manni suggested mini footballs.

## TAKEAWAYS & NEXT STEPS:

1. The group decided to explore the cost of sponsoring/ helping with a few of the events put on by the Youth Center, as well as a few of the other ideas that were mentioned. The group will reconvene in June with additional details and will vote then. **Events/ ideas are listed below, as well as the point person for researching costs and details:**
  - Hay Day: 10/1/2026
    - **Point of contact: Manni**
  - Farmington Hills Fair/ Open House: Typically, the first weekend of October
    - **Point of contact: Bridget**
  - Egg Hunt: tentatively 03/20/ 2027
    - Unable to get volunteers to explore pricing
2. **Daniela and Matt** investigate pricing on t-shirts for the group. **Need by: 6/4**
3. **Jennifer and Matt** to research pricing for branded fidget tools. Matt is also to look into storage to see if we already have toys with the logo. **Need by: 6/4**
4. **Matt** to get a quote on the chairs needed for the Hawk. The quote will be **needed by 6/4**. Orders will need to be placed by June 15.

Motion by Tanya to have those listed above investigate pricing/action items above ahead of our next meeting, and to move the formal vote on the budget to the June meeting. Seconded by Bridget.

### **5. Development & Approval of 2026-2027 Strategic Action Plan**

- a. Tanya mentioned this should be in the September meeting.

### **6. New Business & Announcements**

- a. Tanya discussed the career fair—turnout was lower than usual, likely due to conflicts with college students taking their finals. Timing will likely be shifted to February 2027, TBD in September.

### **7. Public Comments**

- a. Bill Dwyer, FH Council:
  - i. Mention of the new location of the senior center at the Costic Center. Hawk was nixed due to congestion and cost. Looking at funding: federal grants, state grants, etc. Budget meeting otherwise—police and fire picked up new members.
- b. Steve Schneemann, F Council:
  - i. Update on award—mention of the most walkable city in the US.

- ii. Recently selected a new vendor to run Founder's Festival. Riley Park will be dedicated to family and children's events.
  - 1. Tanya asked about funding, which is a mix of revenue and grants.
  - 2. Jennifer volunteered to assist where possible. Tanya mentioned rock garden painting. Daniella mentioned a float. Jennifer to reach out to Founder's Festival for more info.
- c. Asst. Chief Brian Moore: Farmington Hills PD:
  - i. I discussed the upcoming youth police academy. Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from June 15<sup>th</sup> (limited to 25 students on a first-come, first-served basis). Looking to add a liaison to schools, as well as additional opportunities to connect with local youth.
- d. Kristel Sexton:
  - i. Past events: Battle of the Books was a success, and the sixth annual API fest was well attended.
  - ii. Upcoming events:
    - 1. 5/31: Event at Farmington Library meeting room, celebrating El Dia de los Niños, which will include cultural dancers, piñatas, selfie station.
    - 2. 6/1: Summer reading begins, though sign-up starts now. Kristel noted that summer reading is for the entire family.
    - 3. 6/11: summer celebration, aligning with the Hawk celebration later that day. The Kona Ice truck will be there.
    - 4. Note that renovations will start next fall (next September).
- e. Matt Gale, Special Services

Discussed upcoming events:

- i. 5/16: Archery Tournament, 50 kids participating. All day at the Hawk. Same day as Rouge River Cleanup.
- ii. 6/6: Camp out event. Check-in is at 3 pm, and the event ends the next morning. Area becomes a temporary campground—they do allow pop-ups. Dinner is included.
- iii. 6/11: Starting at 5 pm, movie at 8 pm. Kick-Off to Summer. Prizes, live music, celebrations. Vendors. Free movie. People preferred blankets in the field.
- iv. 7/4: 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Heritage Park. Matt noted that there's going to be a lot of great activities, on par with the city's anniversary celebration.

## **8. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn at 7:15 pm: Manni, approved. Bhumika seconded.

Notes for public:

- All future meetings will start at 6 pm in the Community Room at Farmington Hills City Hall.
- Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) 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.