



City of Rockville Youth Commission

Meeting Minutes Monday, January 13, 2025 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Rockville City Hall

Commissioner attendance: Becca Fulton, Eli Noda, Leila McCarthy, Daniela Naaman, Alex Makriyiannis, Sam Abatemam

Staff Liaison Attendance: Jordan Perry, Melinda Norton

Other attendees: Tara Stewart, Director of Recreation and Parks Department

Welcome and Convene

- Becca called the meeting to order

Agenda Review

- Becca reviewed the meeting agenda

Approve Minutes from the December 9, 2024 Meeting

- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one change adding Alex Makriyiannis as in attendance

Chair Report

- Nothing to report

Staff Liaison Report

- Jordan gave an update on upcoming camp registration

Council Member Report

- Tabled

Recapping meeting with the SGA's: Are they interested in supporting the Town Hall Event?
What other contact can we reach out to?

- Alex spoke with the Julius West Middle School SGA and they were not interested in working with the Youth Commission.
- Daniela spoke with the Wooten High School SGA president and presented the town hall idea and invited her to attend a Youth Commission meeting if there is anything that they would like to speak to the Youth Commission about.
- Leila spoke with one of the teachers involved with the Richard Montgomery High School (RMHS) SGA and told her about the Youth Commission and talked about possible future collaborations.
- Eli spoke to the SGA at Wood Middle School and they were not interested in collaboration.
 - Jordan said he would reach out to the principal of Wood MS and Robert Frost MS to see if there was interest.
- Becca spoke with one of the teachers involved with the RMHS SGA and brought up the collaboration effort. The teacher was interested and mentioned that offering SSL hours for involvement would encourage more students to get involved.
- Becca spoke to the SGA president of the RMHS and invited him to one of the youth Commission meetings. He said he would be interested in attending.
- Becca asked the commissioners if there were any other clubs or groups in their school that may be interested in collaborating with the Youth Commission.
 - Daniela mentioned the Class Planning group at Wooton which might be a good club to reach out to.
 - Leila suggested that the outreach to clubs should not be limited to only certain clubs but instead all clubs should be contacted.
 - Sam said he would reach out to head of the Minority Scholars program at Bullis.
 - Becca also suggested the Minority Scholars program at RMHS along with a group she belongs to called Empower.
 - Becca suggested using the list of school contacts compiled last summer to get the word out on any events or to ask for collaborations.
 - Daniela suggested reaching out to MCR the county's regional SGA.
 - Becca also mentioned the SGAC which is the middle school version of MCR.
 - Sam said he would talk to the newspaper at RMHS to advertise the town hall event.
 - Becca mentioned her friend Anya who is from Gaithersburg who is trying to start a Gaithersburg Youth Commission.
 - Jordan mentioned the Youth Commission of the City of Takoma Park.

Solidifying the Town Hall Event: Where, when, what, and how?

- After much debate on date, time, activities and feasibility of the event it was decided that instead of the Youth Commission hosting their own event they should instead piggyback on events hosted that the Recreation & Parks department including hosting the end of the school year youth pool party at the Swim Center, a table at the upcoming youth lock-in event to reach middle schoolers.
- Questions for a wide-reaching youth survey were discussed. This survey is intended to

find out the issues that are important to youth.

- What school do you attend?
 - What is your age?
 - What grade are you in?
 - What programs do you participate in?
 - What programs would you like to see?
 - Do you feel that your voice is heard by your city government? Yes/No If no, then why?
 - Top three issues do you see facing youth today?
 - Please provide your name, email address and phone number if you would like to be included in a raffle drawing for prizes.
- Daniela suggested that the Youth Commission make a video to be included in slides shown in the high schools.
 - Discussed possibly editing down Becca's video from Rockville11
- Action items:
 - Jordan will create a shared calendar with upcoming Rec and Parks events
 - Melinda will get the survey into Survey Methods

New/Old Business

- Daniela and Eli shared their experiences on the Grant Review Panel
- King Farm Farmstead community meetings

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.