

DRAFT

**Commission for Children and Youth
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, August 24th, 2020

5:30 PM

Virtual Google Meet

Commissioners Present

Shara Kolodney, Chair

Denise Harvey

Denese Marshall

Hilary Misiano

Emma Spaulding

Michelle Tivey (joined after Agenda item 2)

Knox Watson

Commissioners Absent

Jane Hoeffner

Other Attendees

Laura Cleary, Youth Services Director

Charlene Monn, Program Director

1. Call to Order

Shara Kolodney called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Approval of minutes

Motion: *Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 15th, 2020.*

Motion by Denise Harvey, second by Shara Kolodney (Vote: 4-0-2 (For - Harvey, Kolodney, Misiano, Watson; Abstain: Marshall, Spaulding)).

3. Reports:

- Social Services (Allison): Deferred to next meeting as Allison could not be present; however, Laura Cleary reported that Social Services has been very busy.
- WOW summer and fall update (Charlene): Ran 11 summer programs with 60 kids. Programs ranged from science and art to business. For fall, have over 20 programs to offer virtually for K-10 students. Fall catalogue expected to be available by end of next week and plan to begin on September 21.

- WYS update (Laura): Couple of virtual programs doing with Wilton Youth Services. Coping with Uncertainty program is tomorrow. Planning to work with Stacy O'Neil on virtual hybrid learning. Also looking at anti-bias program ideas.
- Student updates (Knox and Emma): Knox - Executive student government did video on how school is going to work. Talked to Jasper Richardson about coming in and talking about social justice and anti-bias at their next meeting. Eight students thus far have earned the president's service award for their volunteer hours through the Community Service Project. Committee discussed arranging for publicity for the program and the award recipients through the school newspaper and Weston Today. Emma reported on lots of students talking about studying remotely.
- School/community liaisons as needed: Nothing to report.
- Other reports as needed - HES PTO did video with the Principal and Assistant Principal welcoming students and introducing parents and kids to HES.

4. Commission membership updates: Michelle Albright stepped down. Emma Spaulding was appointed as a Commissioner by the Board of Selectmen. Two other people have expressed interest in the vacancy created by Michelle's departure — they will be considered at the September 3 BOS meeting.

5. Update on Town Diversity Committee and TEAM Weston effort: Shara Kolodney reported that TEAM (Together Effectively Achieving Multiculturalism) is coming to Weston and will operate as a 501(c)(3) organization. Samantha Nestor will serve on the Committee. Membership will be open to everyone but still deciding who will be on the Executive Board. Harold Bailey Jr. will be the Director. Amy Meyerson, who set up the documents for Westport TEAM will set them up for Weston. TEAM will act as an umbrella organization. For now, the ADL program, Strengthening the Bonds of Our Community, will be on hold. The Diversity Committee being set up by the Town is expected to focus on housing and hiring. TEAM is designed to be a community-wide organization, including the schools.

6. School re-opening discussion/how to support youth and families, especially transition grades/new families: Laura Cleary and Shara Kolodney have discussed supporting students in transition grades and new families. Shara has been in contact with someone who is interested in doing something for new families. Charlene Monn reported that she received a phone call from Lachat wanting to do something with the Commission. Michelle Tivey suggested contacting the Weston Neighbors and Newcomers Club. She also suggested sponsoring a Welcome Party on zoom where

people from different organizations could introduce themselves. Knox Watson will ask the National Honor Society about mentoring younger kids. He also suggested having high school students put together videos of representatives from different Town groups. Hiliary Misiano noted that she has started offering weekly complimentary mindfulness sessions on zoom.

7. For the good of the order. None.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm. Motion by Hilary Misiano. Second by Knox Watson. Vote 6-0-0 (For: Harvey, Kolodney, Misiano, Spaulding, Tivey, Watson; Denese Marshall had to leave the meeting early).

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Harvey, Secretary