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

**Monday, November 16, 2020, 5:30 pm  
Virtual meeting via Google Meet**

### Commissioners Present

Shara Kolodney, Chair  
Gillian Donovan  
Denise Harvey  
Jane Hoeffner  
Denese Marshall  
Hilary Misiano  
Emma Spaulding  
Knox Watson

### Commissioner Absent

Michelle Tivey

### Other Attendees

Laura Cleary, Youth Services Director  
Charlene Monn, Youth Services Program Coordinator  
Allison Lisbon, Weston Social Services Director  
Sara Barr, Town of Weston Executive Assistant

#### 1. Call to Order

L. Cleary called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

#### 2. Approval of minutes

**Motion:** S. Kolodney made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting, seconded by H. Misiano. Minutes were approved (Yes - Kolodney, Misiano, Hoeffner, Watson, Marshall, Donovan; Abstain - Harvey, Spaulding).

#### 3. Introduction and Welcome to new Town of Weston Executive Assistant Sara Beer

Sara introduced herself and the Committee members and other attendees welcomed her to Town.

#### 4. December meeting date and 2021 meeting time discussion

Committee consensus was to keep 12/21/20 meeting date. L. Cleary will send out doodle poll to help determine meeting time for 2021.

#### 5. Reports

- Social Services (A. Lisbon) - Food deliveries will occur around Thanksgiving; Girl Scouts and other organizations will provide gift cards;

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will put items in pantry beyond what is covered under SNAP; as numbers rise in Town, she is being contacted by health department to reach out to homes with COVID cases.

- WOW Winter Update (C. Monn) - Two weeks away from end of this session's programs; working on winter catalogue with 21 programs to offer to HES, WIS and WMS - registration begins in early December and programs begin in early January; tried to do virtual social clubs, but did not have enough students; for WOW generally, normally have around 200-300 students/week, but now have 60 students/week, which is typical during the summer and spring sessions - emphasized that, regardless of size, WOW strives to meet, and believes it is meeting, the needs of the community.
- Weston Coalition Update (L. Cleary and D. Harvey) - Provided a summary of certain aspects of the last Coalition meeting; L. Cleary and A. Lisbon reminded the district of the services their departments can provide; L. Cleary will follow up on guidance schools were going to give on college students returning for the holidays. Discussion ensued about how WYS can provide information to families on COVID guidelines.
- Weston Youth Services Update (L. Cleary) - Shared with Commission members the statement about Anti-Racism sent by the CT Youth Services bureau; WYS is running a WIS social group and is working on parent support groups.
- Student Update - K. Watson reported that most students are happy to be back in school; helping freshmen work on service project for animal shelter; planning to meet with L. Cleary to consider if there is a way for WYS to help expand an existing Instagram page, Voices of Weston, to all students (the page's stated purpose is to "provide a safe space for members of WHS to share moments in which they felt ostracized on the basis of their race, gender, sexuality, ability, socioeconomic status, or identity"); noted WHS student government survey that yielded 95% response rate against doing alternate in person and virtual days. E. Spaulding got feedback from majority of her grade that they want more virtual learning; expressed concern about students not taking COVID more seriously.
- School/community liaisons as needed - G. Donovan will be the new HES liaison. H. Misiano contacted Lisa Wolak about doing mindfulness for teenagers; will discuss potential times. No other reports.

### 6. TEAM WESTON update

S. Kolodney reported that the next meeting will be this Wednesday evening; hundreds of people have signed up for anti-racism training.

### 7. Other Member Updates

Deferred to next meeting.

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8. New ideas/discussion

G. Donovan spoke about how families with young children are concerned about having activities for the kids during the winter; considering how to gather and share parents' tips and ideas for activities. L. Cleary raised thinking about what types of small activities could be done for community-building. C. Monn is talking to some of her vendors about doing a family fun night. L. Cleary will follow up with whomever on the Commission wants to brainstorm about this for the winter. K. Watson will report at the next meeting whether he believes WHS 15-minute break periods and after school office hours are having a positive effect on student mental health.

9. For the good of the order

No other matters raised.

10. Adjournment

K. Watson made a motion at 6:42pm to adjourn the meeting, seconded by S. Kolodney. Vote was unanimous (Kolodney, Harvey, Misiano, Marshall, Donovan, Spaulding, Watson, Hoeffner).

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Harvey, Secretary