

**Des Plaines Youth Commission Minutes**  
**August 28th, 2023**

**Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call** - Neil, Doerr, M. Cullotta, Al-Naemy, R. Cullotta, Ludwig, and Dankowski present. Also present: Dr.M. Amadei, District 62 Superintendent, Keegan, City of Des Plaines, Mr. John Hock, Mr. Richard Ludwig, Ms, Jill Swanson, Ms. Kensey Reeves, Mrs. Kathy Garrity-Rodinos, and Mr. James Bober.

Absent: Sebastian & Burton *Note: There were 18 students working with Reeves and Garrity-Rodinos in an adjacent room on ideas for youth in Des Plaines.*

**Public Comment-** Ms. Jill Swanson from “Lemons of Love” gave a brief overview of her organization and the wonderful work they do for those who have been diagnosed with cancer. They are hosting a 5K in October and are looking for volunteer students. Ms. Swanson then went and met with students to seek assistance.

**Minutes of May 23rd, 2023** - Neil and Doerr made motions to approve minutes. Motion was carried.

**Brief Reports: Taste of Des Plaines** -Doerr & R. Cullotta commented on the success of the event for the DPYC. We did run out of cards on Saturday; prizes were well received.

**High School Co-Rec Softball** - Neil & Dankowski spoke to the success of this high school program. Teens appreciated the barbeque, snacks , and water. Dankowski mentioned that in keeping with the focus of having kids invested in their community, we have helped start a college league. Subsequently, the college players went to an Adult League and won the championship. The 20 years we have been sponsoring the softball league has gone full term and young adults are proud to be part of the DP athletic opportunities. Thanks to Ludwigs and R. Cullotta for their help. Over 200 teens participated.

**July 4th Parade-** Burton’s report focused on appreciation of Dr. Amadei, R. Cullotta and son, and Rich Ludwig. Teens did not show up as they have in the past. Dankowski inquired about Burton receiving information late. According to Keegan, this was intentional, so details were not given to the general public, due to safety concerns.

**National Night Out-** R. Cullotta & M. Cullotta bought crafts and treats for the families. Neil and Dankowski were also present. It was not as heavily attended as in the past. Event was held at MS, due to construction at the police station lot..

**August 18th - Food Truck Event-** Commissioner Ludwig and Rich bought promotional items and stuffed them with pencils and goodies for school. They were very well received. Ludwig kept track of the schools youth attend.

**Funds Requested for 2024-** Dankowski sent a letter of request to Mayor Goczkowski, Clty Manager Bartholmew, and Keegan, city liaison According to Keegan, November will be the month the budget is determined.

**Budget-** Keegan distributed copies of the current budget to commissioners.

**Upcoming:**

**Intergenerational** - Dankowski received information on an item that was ordered by Mr. Samuelson from Wal-Mart previously. We already had the amount budgeted for this item and Dankowski will send order information to Keegan. Doerr suggested that we order 15 large gingerbread houses, so that more participants could be accommodated..

**Middle School Event-** Doerr proposed a bowling event for MS students, in an effort to attract teens, who did not attend the BB and Dodgeball Tourneys. A motion of **\$ 1200.00** was made by Doerr & Ludwig. Motion was carried. Students would bowl 3 games, get shoes, pizza, and pop. Keegan said that a certificate of insurance would need to be reviewed by the city attorney. Followup is necessary for planning, since we are looking at an October date. Keegan also asked about the supervision of kids. *ALL of our commissioners have made themselves available to oversee events on a monthly basis, so we do not ever anticipate a problem.*

**Fire Department Open House** - We were invited to attend this event. R. Cullotta and Doerr's motion of **\$250.00** was approved for treats.. Dankowski will host table and distribute promotional items and treats.

**Pay it Forward Plaques** - They are scheduled to be presented at the *September 18th* D62 board meeting. All schools participated in various acts of kindness and submitted pictures to be inserted in plaques. Burton would like pictures to be bigger, so that they could be seen at each school. Neil & Ludwig made a motion, which was approved to purchase 12 plaques for **\$ 600.00**. Date is flexible, if not ready, by above date, per Dr. Amadei.

**Youth Training** - Burton has been working with Dr.Amadei and school officials to implement a Youth Empowerment Seminar, which is a huge focus of our ordinance. A motion of **\$1200.00** was made by Neil/Ludwig & motion was carried. This is an "Education for Students Program, with a focus on equity. Details will be forthcoming. Keegan suggested that this program could be shown to the parents at the DP Theater.

**Homecoming Celebration for LS Students** - Doerr and Neil made a motion to approve **\$ 150.00** for pizza. (Motion was carried) Keegan said they should order it and she would pay with city credit card. This event is scheduled for Sept. 29th.

**Trunk or Treat** - R. Cullotta and M. Cullotta will host, with John Hock assisting. Treats and Buttons will be distributed. M. Cullotta & R. Culotta's motion of **\$ 350.00** for purchase (best price) of 1000 buttons was approved. R. Cullotta is reviewing more information on this.

**Harvest Hoot** - This new city event will take place at Oakton College on October 14th. Keegan said they are looking for someone to host a table for pumpkin decorating, with supplies purchased by the city, This was tabled until the next meeting.

**Cards for Thanksgiving Baskets**- D62 and 207 students will submit these to Mrs. Argus, as was done last year.

Other business was tabled for the September meeting.

Kensey Reeves, previous Youth Advisory Board leader for DPYC, met with students at 5:45 p.m. Students were provided with pizza and salad. Various posters were hung up and students had an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and sign up for various volunteer opportunities in DP. Kensey gave a brief overview of discussions and engagement of students. Thanks to Kensey for coming in to help out!

Alessandro Moraca, Athletic Director of the DPPD, stopped in to talk about a flag football program run during Thanksgiving break for students.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43. ***The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 25th at 6:00 at PLCC.***