

Des Plaines Youth Commission Meeting
Minutes -February 28, 2022

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Mary Dankowski, Chair at 6:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll call indicated the following commissioners present: Al-Naemy, Doerr, Neil, Burton, Sebastian, R. Cullotta, M. Cullotta, Ludwig and Dankowski,. Also present: M. Stern, City Liaison, and Dr. Michael Amadei, Superintendent of D62, Fall of 2022.

Welcome to Dr, Amadei - Introductions were made by commissioners and Maureen Stern. As we go through the agenda, we will briefly review some of the highlights of things that we help implement with the assistance of the YAB. Commissioner Dankowski shared the Powers and Duties of the Des Plaines Youth Commission as outlined in our ordinance.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from November, 2021 were presented- Motion made by Neil and seconded by Burton to approve minutes. Motion was carried.

Review of Tree Decorating, December 3rd, 2021 - Commissioners Ludwig & Al-Naemy said this was very well received by the community. There were about 300 people in attendance at this event that started at 4:00 p.m. The Maine West choraliers, as well as the Artistry in Motion dancers provided holiday entertainment. Thanks to Maureen Stern for planning this successful event.

Review- Holiday Hoopla, December 11, 2021 - Commissioners Sebastian, Al-Naemy, and Ludwig chaired this event. Because of Covid restrictions, community registered through the DP Library. People brought food which was donated to the DP Food Pantry and were able to pick up packets of goodies to go. There were “cutouts”, so that families could take pictures with our “elves” and volunteers. Thanks also to new commissioner, Maria Cullotta for her help. Commissioner M. Cullotta was voted in at the December, 2021 city council meeting.

Co-Rec Softball - June through August, 2022- Commissioners Neil and Dankowski gave a brief overview of dates and flyers that are being distributed to interested teens, as made by the DPPD. Commissioner Neil said we are currently going out for bid on the shirts that DPYC provides for this co-sponsored league.

Discussion on future activities/events- M. Stern presented an overview of what the city is planning for the upcoming months. The Taste of Des Plaines will be held on June

17th and 18th. There will be a “ sustainability cleanup” on April 9th. The Fourth of July Parade will be held this year and the city is looking to operate a Farmer’s Market on the second Sunday of the month. No start date was given. Friday Night Live in Metropolitan Square will not be held any longer, due to budgetary constraints. The DPYC is looking for commissioners to arrange/recruit youth for the July 4th parade. We can discuss ideas at our next meeting. Also, we have been at the Taste for many years. We are looking for commissioners to give time/ideas to help cover the long day.

Promotional Items - This was tabled until our March meeting. **Please visit 4imprint.com to review items.**

Budget - M. Stern said we have a budget of \$15,000 for this year. Commissioner Dankowski presented an overview of our budget, using the same format as last year. This is again due to the uncertainty of events, despite things opening up. A motion was made by Neil and seconded by Ludwig to approve the budget. The motion was carried.

We received copies of our expenses for 2021, which came to a total of \$ 3812.19 We had requested a purchase of 1000 buttons, since we had gone through 500 that were initially ordered last year. These were used at the Trunk or Treat. Maureen will order them from this year’s budget. A motion for this purchase was made and approved at the November, 2021 meeting.

Other Business - Commissioner Dankowski met with Mr. Aldworth, AP of MW, to discuss Fun Fair, which we have held in Spec. Gym for many years. Since this is an event that features elementary school children and high school teens, we are unsure of attendance, due to covid. Mr. Aldworth wanted to host this on March 13th. We decided to table it for this year.

Commissioner Dankowski has sent emails to Mr. Samuelson inquiring about the continuation of intergenerational events. We are waiting for a response.

Dr. Amadei briefly discussed his family and his enthusiasm in becoming the next superintendent of D62. It has been a difficult time for all and he is looking forward to moving forward in providing children with normalcy in education, as well as opportunities to continue the good work and push new initiatives. He is very interested and impressed with the DPYC. It was a privilege to have Dr. Amadei in attendance and look forward to working with School District 62.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m. **Future meeting dates are:** March 28th, April 25th, May 23rd, August 22nd, Sept. 26th, Oct. 24th, and Nov. 28th.

