

Des Plaines Youth Commission Minutes August 29th, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mary Dankowski, Chair at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll call indicated the following commissioners present: Neil, Al-Naemy, R. Cullotta, M. Cullotta, Ludwig, Doerr, Sebastian, Burton, and Dankowski. Also present: M. Stern, City Liaison, Ms. Deborah Keegan, new city liaison to the DPYC, Dr. Michael Amadei, Superintendent of D62, Ms. Jennifer Bova, Director of Community Relations for D62, Kathy Garrity-Rodinos, Maine West Key Club sponsor, and Mr. John Hock. Also present were students Shannon Walsh, Brooke Leidloff, and Matthew Masek, who were creating a scavenger hunt. Thanks for coming early to work on this!

Public Comment: Guests were welcomed and provided an update on their roles.

Dr. Amadei - D62 schools are off to a great start. Iroquois started on July 13th.

Jen Bova- D62 vaccine clinics will be open at Algonquin on October 5th and at Chippewa on October 19th from 3-6 p.m.

Kathy Garrity-Rodinos spoke about Key Club involvement at Plainfield School, Blanket of Dreams, and Feed My sheep, among others.

John Hock is available to help on September 24th. We appreciate his willingness to help.

Deborah Keegan is the new city liaison. Welcome Deborah! Maureen will be at our next meeting to help facilitate transition.

Thank you for attending the meeting this evening.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from June 13th, 2022 were distributed. Motion was made by Burton and seconded by Sebastian to approve the minutes. Motion was carried.

Review - Taste of DP - Doerr and R. Cullotta gave input on community response. A passport/prizes were given to kids. Suggestion made for next year : DPYC table moved closer to library and kids' area. Neil M. Cullotta, and Dankowski helped as well.

Parade- Burton had D62 board members and their children, as well as teens from Co-Rec Softball League participate. Candy was distributed and the DPYC banner was carried. Water and treats were given to volunteers.

National Night Out - R. Cullotta and M. Cullotta created a wheel game and distributed bags for participants. Teens, Neil, and Dankowski assisted.

Co-Rec Softball - Neil said it is one of the best events we sponsor. It is well received by teens and their families. It ran from June through August. Water was given out to teens every week through donation received. Thanks to Neil for grilling for our annual barbeque.

Upcoming - Fall Fest - DPYC was asked to sponsor a face painter for this event. The commission was not in favor of sponsoring this. Stern, city liaison, said finance would have a problem with supporting this.

MW Homecoming- DPYC will provide chicken dinners for life skill students in celebration of this event. (as we have done in the past)

Trunk or Treat - This is a DPPD event, which will be held on October 29th from noon to three. We will participate again and give out buttons, which kids can design at the event.

Items were ordered earlier this year. We will spend approximately \$200.00 for snacks/treats/prizes.

Tree Lighting - It is scheduled for 12/2/22. Ludwig and Al-Naemy will chair this event. Ornaments will be made at our Community Appreciation Night and used for a community tree.

Holiday Hoopla - will take place at the DP Library on 12/3 or 12/7. Ludwig, AL-Naemy, Sebastian will chair. Mrs. Claus and our favorite elf will be part of the festivities.

Budget- Stern distributed the budget. We have a balance of \$ 10, 271.48. Budget was initially approved and put into general categories, due to uncertainty of what we would be able to do after the pandemic. The commission has been extremely vigilant in approving expenditures. Many of the items will be used for multiple events/activities.

Community Appreciation Night - It will be held on Saturday, September 24th from 5 to 8 at PLCC. Setup will begin at 4 p.m. This is a collaborative event with the city. Neil and Dankowski met with Mayor Goczkowski, with the intent being to invite community resources to inform the community about what is available to them. Over 30 letters were sent out to non-profit agencies and also include DP Police and Firemen, as well as DP City Council. D62 will be represented by teachers from the elementary and middle schools. A special thanks to Dr. Amadei for coordinating this. Each table will provide information and a brief game/treat for kids to encourage families to stop by their table. Details are:

- Attendees are asked to bring food for DP Food Pantry
- All will have an opportunity to show appreciation by writing/illustrating cards. D62 students will make mailboxes for groups, so cards can be deposited and given out. Cards can be brought directly by families to their special hero in the facility. Pictures are encouraged. Stern is looking at city backdrop for this and will provide details. *Doerr* is ordering cards, markers, and stickers and will assist with this.
- Ornaments will be given to groups so that each one can make an ornament for a tree in Metropolitan Square. Kids will also have an opportunity to make an ornament for their school. - *Burton and volunteers will coordinate.*
- MV Rooms - A balloon artist and crafts will take place in these rooms for kids. M. Cullotta has ordered crafts /prizes for kids to enjoy. Neil will work with balloon artist and supply balloons for kids. They will be able to get a balloon after completion of scavenger hunt. Tickets will be given. *Neil to coordinate.*
- Snack bags will be distributed *at the end of the evening by Ludwig and Al-Naemy.* They will decide on items for the bags. (healthy treats) We are looking for DPYC labels for these bags. *Ludwig/Al-Naemy will assemble bags.*
- Bags with DPYC logo will be given out at the front table upon entry for a look at the kids' treasures. *R. Cullotta* is looking at bags and will send information to Stern. She is also looking at labels, which can be put on snack bags. *R. & M. Cullotta will set up DPYC table.*
- Sebastian is making flyer for this event. *Note: Stern/Keegan did flyer on city letterhead.*
- Dankowski suggested kids in the community color a board at event that would be rotated throughout D62 schools to encourage kindness. This would align with the April Pay it

Forward program that DPYC sponsors in April. Dr. Amadei approved of this idea and said that an art teacher could provide the digital art on board and that transporting this to schools would not be a problem. Stern is looking at foam boards and will be provided details, so the board can be ordered. *Burton will facilitate this.*

- *Dankowski* will furnish a list of what activities are available to families as they enter the event. These will be on the front desk.
- YAB members are creating a powerpoint presentation of community groups that will be setup in area of appreciation cards. They have also completed questions for the scavenger hunt. *Dankowski will assign student volunteers to assist at various stations.*

Announcements -YAB had brainstormed ideas on what they would like to see in DP. One idea that was implemented was a high school basketball league. Thanks to Tyler Fuchs, DPPD, for helping facilitate this. League was held this past summer in the PL gym.

Dankowski said that the DPYC welcomes ideas that D62 may have to benefit the students. Our ordinance specifies that the DPYC is to promote, develop, and coordinate youth oriented programs.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. *The next meeting will be held on September 26th at 6:00 p.m. at PL.*