



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Linda Walsh, Commissioner
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**City of Newton
Youth Commission
September 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Newton Free Library**

Attendance:

Rhiannon Esposito, Shivani Gulati, Spencer Solcoff, Zack Gusenoff, Andrew Feinberg, Armine Freeman, Emma Zhang, Grace Cai, Hana Futai, Kenneth Tsay, Matthew Wrigley, Nick Makura, Priscilla Situ, Ryn Leffler, Sarina Chand, Tenley Hanson, Phoebe Anthony, Georgia Finkelstein, Julia Feldman, Gassia Minassian, Vikram Scherfke, Aanika Mohta, Eitan Leshem, Chloe Lyons, Pete Olhava, Andrey Sarkanich, Dhruv Lal, Joshua Levitt-Horne, Cindy Qiao, Joya Tendulkar, Ava Qui, Nina Smy, Simba Makura, Justin Feldman, Christian Chau, Meghan Kennedy, Jenna Bancroft

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Review of Youth Commission & City Ordinance:

- Volunteer body of Youth, 8-12th grade, appointed by the Mayor.
 - 9 Commissioners
 - 30 Advisory Board Members
- Our work is determined by current events, community needs, special projects, initiatives, and to elevate youth voice in local government.
- Our purpose is to:
 - Encourage youth to take leadership roles in the community.
 - Facilitate opportunities for and access to resources on local, state, and federal levels.
 - Coordinate programs and activities carried on by both public and private agencies.
 - Create and implement policies for the prevention of youth problems in a cooperative and professional effort.
 - Create a sense of permanency of action and continuity of purpose for all youth activities.
- Guided by the [Youth Commission, City Ordinance](#).
- Follow Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law
- [Roles & Responsibilities of Youth Commission Members](#)
 - Commissioners
 - Advisory Board Member

Guest Speaker:

- **Jaclyn Zawada, City of Newton Law Department**
 - The attending members were led through an Open Meeting Law and Public Records training led by Jaclyn Zawada from the Law Department.
 - [Full meeting presentation slides available here.](#)

2023-2024 Priority Identification:

- Members engaged in a brainstorm activity to determine the Youth Commission's priorities for the upcoming year.
- Members were broken into four groups and asked to brainstorm and talk through the following:
 - What are you passionate about?

- What are things you want to change or improve?
- What are you seeing in your school/community that you want to be involved in, improve, make different?
- Members then shared ideas and we identified common themes: transportation, healthy food access, mental health and wellness supports, environmental sustainability, community-wide events, and Youth Commission communication methods (social media).

Meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Newton Free Library