



City of Newton
Youth Commission: Commissioner Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2024 8:00-8:30pm at Newton Free Library

Attendance:

Meri Haas, Rhiannon Esposito, Chloe Lee, Nick Makura, Spencer Solcoff, Sarina Chand, Zach Gusenoff

1. Meeting called to order at 8:05pm

2. Attendance and Introductions: Why did you apply to be a commissioner?

- a. Commissioner responses ranged from impacting mental health to uplifting the youth voice within the city. Commissioners mentioned being interested in getting more involved with the Newton City government and creating more of a relationship with adults in the community.
- b. This discussion led to a discussion about how to increase awareness of the Youth Commission among both youth and adults within the community.
 - i. Perhaps, focusing more on the Youth Commission Instagram account, including information about the commission in weekly newsletters, school emails to both students and families, and through class officer's social media accounts.
- c. The commission meeting then turned to discuss how to get more out of the time we have left before the end of the school year. How do we increase collaboration with City government where possible? How do we continue this discussion?
 - i. Commissioners suggested increasing the number of Commissioner meetings to 2 per month/every other week. The meetings will be held virtually, via Zoom, every other Monday, beginning on February 26th from 7:30-8:00pm.
 - ii. Commissioners proposed sending a Youth Commissioner to listen in on/attend each Newton City Council meeting moving forward. Commissioners would attend on a rotating basis.

3. Open Discussion and Review of Youth Commission Description and Goals

- a. This discussion was postponed since we ran out of time.

4. Open Discussion: Structure of Youth Commission and Commission meetings

- a. This discussion was postponed since we ran out of time.

5. Commissioner sign-up for chairing Youth Commission Advisory Board meetings

- a. Nick Makura volunteered to chair the upcoming March 13th Youth Commission Advisory Board Meeting

6. Other business:

- a. The Commissioners suggested the following topics for upcoming Commissioner meetings:

- i. Social media
- ii. Attending City Council meetings
- iii. Youth Commission Advisory Board meeting guest/discussion topics brainstorm
- iv. Discussion of Youth Commission description and goals

7. Scheduled next Commission meeting

- a. Next Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, February 26th from 7:30-8:00pm via Zoom.