



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Linda Walsh, Commissioner

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City of Newton
Youth Commission Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024, 7:30-8:00pm via Zoom

Attendance:

Meri Haas, Rhiannon Esposito, Chloe Lee, Nick Makura, Spencer Solcoff, Sarina Chand, Zach Gusenoff, Emma Zhang, Phoebe Anthony

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30pm

2. Attendance Taken

3. Discussion of Youth Commission Ordinances and Next Steps

a. Subject matter of note within the ordinances:

- i. The Youth Commission Advisory Board is made up of youth and adults. Right now, there are many youths in attendance.
- ii. The Youth Commission has an annual budget that is approved by the mayor and city council. For fiscal year 2024 (July 23 - June 24) the budget is \$300.00
- iii. Are food and water for meetings a portion of this budget?
- iv. If the Youth Commission doesn't spend the entirety of the budget, does it go away or rollover?
- v. Can some of the budget be spent on the Advisory Board subcommittee work?
- vi. The Youth Commission asked to prepare an annual report. Can this be combined with a newsletter or article?

b. How does the Youth Commission want to include the Advisory Board in this discussion?

- i. The Youth Commission would like to be transparent with the Advisory Board and receive input from them about next steps. Would like to bring the topic of ordinances up at the next Advisory Board meeting.
- ii. Perhaps break the Advisory Board out into breakout groups to get input.
- iii. Provide a small update about ordinances in March and host a larger conversation with working groups/breakout groups at April meeting.

c. Next Steps

- i. Increase the Youth Commission meetings to one hour instead of 30 minutes to allow more time for discussion and preparation. (All Youth Commissioners present at meeting in favor)
- ii. Invite the City of Newton's Assistant City Solicitor, Jaclyn Zawada, and Director of Community Engagement & Inclusion, Hattie Kerwin Derrick to the next Youth Commission meeting on March 25th. Use the first half of the Commission meeting to discuss questions and topics to bring to Hattie and Jaclyn. Have them

attend at 8:00pm to discuss identified topics and answer questions. (All Youth Commissioners present at meeting in favor)

4. Elect a Chair for the Youth Commission and Discuss Other Positions

a. Postponed until questions about ordinances are clarified.

5. Discuss Potential Speakers for Youth Commission Advisory Board Meetings

b. Postponed until questions about ordinances are clarified.

6. Meeting Closed at 8:05

a. Next Youth Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, March 25th, from 7:30-8:30pm via Zoom.