

**City of Newton, Youth Commission, Commissioner Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.
Newton Free Library**

Agenda Item I - Attendance/Introductions:

Rhiannon Esposito, Audrey Wei, Preethika Vemula, Arman Tendulkar, Ethan Situ, Zack Gusenoff, Nolan Anthony, Spencer Solcoff, Ethan Dhadly, Ava Freeman, Shiv Sawhney, Rachel Alpert-Wisnia, Leo Liu, Lily Siegelman, Kathy Shields & Meghan Murtagh.

Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm

Agenda Item II– Acceptance of minutes: 6

Commissioner, E.S moved to accept the February meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner, R.E, all in attendance unanimously accepted. (6 - 0 - 3)

Agenda Item III – Community speakers:

- a. Richard Lipof, VP of City Council and Bill Humphrey, Ward 5, City Councilor joined the YC to discuss the role and responsibilities of City Council and how youth can be more involved. In addition they answered several questions and engaged in meaningful conversation with the youth.

Agenda Item IV – Commissioner Updates:

a. Mask Mandate Lift Discussion

- i. Commissioner A.F led the Youth Commission through an open discussion of the Mask Mandate being lifted within their schools. Youth shared their experiences at North, South and within private schools and what trends they're seeing from their peers. The Youth Commission supports the young people of Newton's choice.

b. Lunch with the Mayor

- i. Commissioner R.E is scheduled to have lunch with the Mayor on Tuesday. R.E asked the Youth Commission if they had any questions or thoughts that R.E should ask or share during her lunch with the Mayor. It was decided that R.E would share the work of the Youth Commission, and the projects and tasks we have on deck for this school year.

c. Announcements from Youth Services:

- i. Newton Cultural Development is hosting a "Family FunFEST," on Saturday, May 14. They have invited the Youth Commission to set up a booth as part of the invite. Commissioners and Advisory Board members are encouraged to consider this event as an opportunity to outreach and support community events.
- ii. The City of Newton, Planning & Development Department would like to invite youth to join the 'Community Engagement Network' for Zoning Redesign: Village Centers! The Network will be a space for community members to collaborate with city staff on making engagement material & efforts as fun and accessible as possible - for the phase II of village center zoning updates. Go to

<https://tinyurl.com/ZRNetwork> for the application and full details; applications due by midnight on Sunday, April 10! Click here for their [full newsletter](#) for more information.

- iii. The Planning Department will also be joining the next Community Engagement Subcommittee meeting scheduled for April 6 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting is open to all Youth Commission members who are interested in the topic.

Agenda Item V - Subcommittee Updates:

a. Communications Subcommittee:

- i. Communications subcommittee shared and reviewed the March newsletter content with the Commissioners and Advisory Board members.
- ii. P.V moved to accept the March Newsletter content, R.E seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. (6 - 0 - 3)

b. Mental Health subcommittee

- i. The subcommittee has brought back the Instagram mental health campaign. The first post on 3/10 introduced the launch of the campaign, followed by 4 tips to managing stress on 3/11.
- ii. Two additional posts this month will consist of wellness and supporting ourselves and our peers.

c. Community Engagement Subcommittee

- i. The subcommittee is creating an FAQ based on feedback they received from a short Instagram survey. The FAQ will address COVID related questions and concerns.

d. Guest speaker committee

- a. Would like to set up a meeting to decide and plan on future guest speakers for the remaining meetings. Adult Advisor, K.S will send an email.

Meeting adjourned: 7:58 pm