



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Linda Walsh, Commissioner
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1544

Telephone
(617) 796-1420
Fax
(617) 552-7063
TTY/TTD 617-796-1089
TTY/TRS 711

City of Newton, Youth Commission September 14, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.

Attendance/Introductions:

Davis Rattanavijai, Mia Chu, Rhiannon Esposito, Zack Gunsenoff, Meera Parekh, Spencer Solcoff, Nick Makura, Lily Siegelman, Matthew Wrigley, Andrew Feinberg, Preethika Vemula, Hana Futai, Audrey Wei, Emma Zhang, Kenneth Tsay, Priscilla Situ, Leo Liu, Shivani Gulati, Julia Dun Rappaport, Grace Cai, Sarina Chand, Armine Freeman, Allie Guo, and Meghan Murtagh.

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

- Welcome & Introductions

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
 - Learn more at our 10/12 meeting from City of Newton Law Department
- Roles & Responsibilities of [Youth Commission Members](#)
 - Commissioners
 - Advisory Board Member

Review of 2021-2022 Projects & Subcommittees:

- Commissioner, RE, led a discussion on the previous projects the Youth Commission has been involved in, along with events we have sponsored. Additionally, RE, reviewed the four subcommittees and their work: Communications, Community Engagement, Guest Speaker, and Mental Health. (Please review meeting slides for specifics).
- Additionally, RE, shared with the group their involvement in the Planning Dept., Community Engagement Network. As part of their participation in the group, they will be engaging young people through a focus group to gather feedback on phase 2 of the zoning redesign efforts.

What's next for 2022-2023?

- Members engaged in a brainstorm activity to determine projects/goals/initiatives for the upcoming year.
- Members were broken into four groups and asked to brainstorm and talk through the following:
 - What are you passionate about?
 - Why you here? 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?
 - Projects / outreach methods
- Members then shared out findings and we identified common themes.

Meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.