

CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Youth Opportunities



Matilde Castiel, MD
HHS Commissioner

Raquel Castro-Corazzini
Director of Youth Opportunities

DATE: 1 August 2017

TO: The City Manager's Committee on Youth

FROM: Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Director of Youth Opportunities

SUBJECT: Minutes: 1 August 2017

Members Present:

- Judi Kirk, Chair
- Brianna Turner, Member
- Laurie Ross, Member
- Sam Martin, Member
- Virginia Parent, Member
- Leighann Soucy, Member
- Casey Burns, Member

Members absent:

- Laura Farnsworth, Member
- Carmen Carmona, Member
- Sue Hunt, Member
- Tim Garvin, Member
- Kanchana Fernando, Member

City Staff Present:

- Scott Dowling, Project Manager, Division of Youth Opportunities
- Andrea Boffice, Intern, Division of Youth Opportunities

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

- Meeting Called to order at 4:11 P.M

Agenda Items 2: Updates

- a. Rec Worcester is going well, with approximately 120 employees. Attendance is consistent with last year. East Park is the largest park.

1. Group brainstormed as to how Rec Worcester could have access to the pool at Vernon Hill. Perhaps they could pay for Rec Worcester staff to be trained as lifeguards, and cycle sections of the camp who can use the pool at a time to limit crowd size.
- b. WRTA Youth Passes: going good after a few technical hiccups.
 1. Ideally, there would be a plan in place to track better which routes are being used next year, but swipe systems are expensive.
- c. The Diversity Chair resigned: a request that the commission puts forth recommendations for the new position.
 1. It could outline where specifically this position should be held, who it should be under, and that it be in a position of power.
 2. Can/should the commission do anything beyond supporting and endorsing existing candidates or plans?
 3. Plan is to contact Maddie, Joyce, and other coalitions to see what current actions are in place and see if we can collaborate and endorse.

Agenda Item 3: SoarMA

- a. SoarMA is a pilot program from the Treasurer's Office that would give Worcester East middle school students money to open bank accounts for higher education and provide financial literacy
- b. Also wants to do a large celebration on National College Acceptance Day (May 1st) with younger students to inspire them to aspire for higher education.
- c. His ask of the commission was to help find volunteers to pair with the middle school students and to staff the event.

Agenda Item 4: Youth Speak Out Events #2 and #3 Debrief, Review, & Next Steps

- a. The second went well, the third didn't happen. With a very large age range.
- b. Reflected that in the future the events need to be hosted in a location where youth already are and spaced further apart from each other.

Agenda Item 5: Mental Health & Media Analyses Presentation Debrief

- a. The possibility of an ambassadorship considering if that would be helpful to Worcester organizations, especially smaller ones.
- b. Added the idea of the ambassador also creating their own youth-oriented content.

Agenda Item 6: Review and Next Steps

- a. There is a new possible commission member Amparo Cruz. She currently works for Pathways for Change and used to work at You Inc. She is currently going through the process to become a commission member.
- b. A motion to invite a member of the Worcester Public School system to be a commissioner, most likely Maura Mahoney.
- c. We should demand a representative on Worcester Strategic Plan Advisory Committee- still TBD on who that will be, but it would not be the new public school system member.

Next Meeting: September 5th at City Hall which will also be the Youth Council Induction Ceremony

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 P.M.