

City of Hyattsville Youth Advisory Council

Thursday, October 12, 2023: 6 PM

IN PERSON

Driskell Park Community Center

MEETING NOTES

- 1) Call to Order
 - Meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM with a quorum of 9 Youth Advisory Council members : Angel Guzman, Ivory Boyce, Andres Espinal, Christopher Callejas, Christopher Jimenez, Diana Alvarez, Emily Amaya, Emily Sagastume, Gabriella Lemus
- 2) Election of Officers (Chair & Recordkeeper)
 - An anonymous vote took place which resulted in Gabriella Lemus being selected as Record Keeper and Emily Sagastume being selected as Chair.
- 3) Review of Roles
 - Roles of both roles (Record Keeper and Chair) were reviewed with the attending members and newly elected Chair and Recordkeeper.
- 4) YAC Meeting Procedures
 - YAC members and attendees were given an “in-general” explanation of procedures such as motions and voting.
- 5) Future Meeting Dates
 - YAC members and attendees were notified of future meeting dates and they are as follows: Thursday, October 12, 2023, Thursday, November 9, 2023, Thursday, December 14, 2023, Thursday, January 11, 2024, Thursday, February 8, 2024, Thursday, March 14, 2024, Thursday, April 11, 2024, Thursday, May 9, 2024
- 6) Topics of Discussion
 - a) Safety: Drug and vape usage in the youth population
 - The YAC discussed their concerns, some of which were the amount of youth drug usage, overdosing, and ways to prevent it. The primary consensus was that Narcan training should be incorporated into Health classes similarly to the mandatory CRP and AED trainings they receive. The YAC members would also take the training themselves and make it mandatory for future YAC members.
 - b) Transportation: School busses arriving late to bus stops resulting in late arrival to school
 - The YAC discussed the effect that late arriving busses have on their academic career. The Council also discussed the overcrowding of public transportation due to the unreliability of public school buses and that they understand that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to it to it, there was a major bus driver shortage within PGCPs. The Council proposed solutions such as paying bus drivers more and using other forms of transportation such as the local UMD buses and making the Metro bus fare cheaper or free for PGCPs students. Another popular Solution was utilizing the City of Hyattsville’s Call-A-Bus and meeting at a local landmark, such as Driskell Park, for pick up. The council also proposed attending PGCPs board meetings to discuss and voice their issues.
 - c) Safety: More crosswalks for safety when crossing the street
 - The YAC discussed the effectiveness of crossing guards at Northwestern HS and how to make the crosswalks more effective. Regarding the crossing guards, the Council members felt that the crossing guards aren’t there long enough during the “rush hour” of the school's arrival time. They also discussed the safety of the crosswalk and that regardless of it being there for students to use, drivers will still drive as if there isn’t a large number of students

waiting to cross the street. The solution they proposed was having an illuminated crosswalk sign that's activated by a button to increase driver awareness when someone's ready to cross the street. The council would like to learn how other PGC schools acquired theirs so they can do the same for Northwestern HS.

7) Public Comment (5 minutes)

- A discussion was had about planning a group trick-or-treat event where a group of youth would meet at Driskell Park and then start trick-or-treating together. It was also discussed that the Council should come up with more ideas for the upcoming holiday season.

8) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM on October 12, 2023.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, November 9, 2023