

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Elmhurst Commission on Youth**  
**Sept. 22, 2014**  
**12:30 PM**

Present:        Mark Soehn                    Mike LaSpisa                    Patty McKernan  
                    Melea Smith                    Jan DeCoursey                    Jeff Kucera  
                    Karen Stezowski                Jackie Tamer

Absent:         Dan Corrigan                    Sharon Karpel

Meeting called to order at 12:35 p.m.

1. Melea Smith - Report on meeting with Mayor Steve Morley and Council Member Dannee Polomsky

- Request for \$15,000 budget is reasonable and Mayor Morley is committed to assisting the Commission on securing these funds.
- He expressed some concern that the proposed Commission budget allocated 85% for a single event/speaker in reference to the idea of contracting Chris Heron. Suggested pursuing sponsorships to pay for such a key-note event.
- Based on recent survey of City residents, one of the top concerns is the problem of drug/heroin use, so this is an important issue to address
- Mayor Morley would like the Commission to identify 5-6 areas of concentration that it would focus on and re-write its budget request letter to reflect these specifics

2. Discussion of Chris Heron as potential speaker for Heroin Awareness effort

- Would need to book in October/November if the Commission wanted a Spring 2015 event. Commission members determined that due to heavy community and school activities during the spring months, it would be best to push such an event to Fall 2015.
- Fund-raising for such a speaker would need to occur soon as many potential sponsors are in process of setting their budgets for 2015.
- Superior Ambulance a potential sponsor
- Rotary Club is very interested in drug/heroin use, treatment, education, etc. Goal of raising \$400k. Aim is community-wide effort that includes hospital, parks, schools, etc.

3. Discussion of alternative heroin awareness events that could be held Fall, 2015

- Mayor Morley expressed desire to have something for this fall, however the Commission lacks funds to sponsor any program
- Commission decided to pursue community outreach programs that are offered for free via Alexian Brothers and/or Linden Oaks at Edward
- DuPage County Coroner Dr. Rich Jorgensen offers a program
- Dr. Kathleen Burk, formerly of Robert Crown, offers presentation that includes Elmhurst-specific data. Many Commission members expressed strong desire for a

- direct Elmhurst connection in order to drive home the message that problems happen in our community
- Discussion about targeted audience for such an outreach – parents and adults vs. students
  - Determined that such an event is better focused on raising awareness in parents – New Face of Heroin
  - Discussion of best place to hold such an event – Elmhurst Public Library, Superior Ambulance assembly room
  - Commission decided to pursue a parent-focused event to be held the week of November 10<sup>th</sup> or November 17<sup>th</sup> in one of the Elmhurst Public Library meeting rooms. Jackie Tamer and Melea Smith to contact possible speakers and/or panel members.

4. Discussion of Commission on Youth's primary areas of focus

- Community drug awareness
- Youth job/volunteer fair
  - Elmhurst Junior League on board with volunteer fair, will help with fundraising
  - Kiwanis helps with job fair
  - Mayor pledged to help with fairs, survey sent to businesses and organizations asking who hires teens, who needs volunteer, etc.
- Exemplary Youth Awards Program will be held in the spring
- Anti-bullying – especially aimed at younger kids/grades
  - District 205's PBIS anti-bullying program – very intense in the schools so perhaps more focused on parent awareness. Ways to arm your child on how to deal with it. This helps stop it.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Next meeting Oct. 20, 2014 @12:30 p.m. at the District 205 Administration Center