

Elmhurst Commission On Youth Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2014

In attendance: Melea Smith, Lynn McCreddie, Mark Soehn, Sharon Karpel, Jackie Tamer, Jan DeCoursey-Soule, Jeff Kucera, Dan Corrigan, Derek Schlager

Meeting called to order at 12:33 p.m.

- 1) Review of April, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion for approval made by Mark Soehn and seconded by Dan Corrigan. All approved – motion passed and April minutes were approved as recorded.
- 2) Jackie Tamer reported on efforts to secure speaker Chris Herren, a former NBA player who tours the US speaking about his use and recovery from heroin addiction
 - a) Currently, West Aurora High School has booked Herren for Thursday, Oct. 16th, 2014. In order to take advantage of savings on travel expenses, it would be ideal to schedule Herren to speak during that week.
 - b) Mount Vernon is also looking to schedule Herren that week, so it is a matter of which organization books him first
 - c) Cost is \$7,500 for a single appearance, \$12,500 for two appearances, plus additional expenses for Herren's travel
 - d) Superior Ambulance expressed interest to be the sole sponsor at \$15,000, however they have already allocated their sponsorship funds for 2014 and would not be able to support the program until 2015.
 - e) Melea also spoke with Diane McGinnis from the Elmhurst Hospital, and she expressed some interest in supporting the program. Diane suggested several possible contacts to approach:
 - i) Ken Wagner, chairman of Elmhurst Hospital Foundation
 - ii) E-CAF – Elmhurst Children's Assistance Fund
 - iii) Elmhurst Rotary
 - iv) DuPage Medical Group
 - f) Some of the people approached as potential sponsors indicated a willingness to reimburse but not to commit to the funds in advance
- 3) Discussion about alternative ways to finance the program if no large or single sponsors:
 - a) Multiple sponsors allows group marketing
 - b) Approach churches, sports clubs, large businesses with Elmhurst presence such as Elmhurst Toyota, Visitor and Tourism Board
 - c) Could offer a tiered sponsorship system – set specific amounts and invite groups and clubs to join at desired level
- 4) Also discussed possible venues
 - a) If a single presentation, would want to have it at York, since primary audience is high school students. Possibility of busing eighth graders in from the three middle schools. Possibility of setting up satellite feeds in either the middle schools or on site at York

- b) Need to discuss whether or not to involve parochial schools
- c) If a second presentation for community, possible venues:
 - i) Elmhurst College's Hammerschmidt Chapel
 - ii) York Theater
 - iii) Elmcreek Church (Elmhurst Christian Reformed) on Brush Hill Road
- 5) Action Plan: Jackie to follow up with bigger donors first, then move to sending letters to other organizations to gauge interest. Melea and Karen need to follow up with the Mayor to see how this might work (to whom would sponsors write checks?)
- 6) Jackie Tamer reported that the Elmhurst Junior League is interested in partnering with the Commission on Youth to put on a Volunteer Fair. However, neither group is willing or able to commit to any specific time frame at this point. If the Commission goes forward with the Herren program, it feels a Volunteer Fair would be beyond its capabilities for Fall 2014 and will have to be pushed to 2015.
- 7) Karen Stezowski had requested a discussion on the formation of committees. Tabled until next meeting.
- 8) Melea Smith requested if the location of the Commission's monthly meetings could be moved to the District 205 offices. The Commission agreed to try this change of venue.

Next meeting set for August 18th, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at the District 205 office.