

Elmhurst Commission on Youth Meeting

May 18, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. – Elmhurst City Hall

Meeting Called to Order: 12:35 p.m.

In Attendance: Karen Stezowski Patty McKernan
Jackie Tamer Sharon Karpel
Jan DeCoursey Lynn McCreddie

Absent: Melea Smith Derek Schlager
Mark Soehn Dan Corrigan
Jeff Kucera Mike LaSpisa

Public Comment None

Introduction of Guests None

Review of April Minutes

Adjust April ECY Minutes to reflect the following changes/additions:

- Fix title of movie from The Mask You Wear to The Mask You Live In
- Add to minutes the confirmation of Lynn McCreddie as secretary for ECY
- Change list of Mayor Steve Morley's priorities for ECY to reflect the following:
 - Youth employment, volunteerism, and drug awareness and education

Patty McKernan moved to approve minutes with changes as noted, Karen Stezowski seconded, motion approved.

Youth Job/Volunteer Fair Minutes and Survey Results

Sharon Karpel moved to approve Job/Volunteer Fair Minutes and Survey results as presented, Patty McKernan seconded, motion approved

Discussion of Budget and Treasurer Jackie Tamer

Tom Trosien, Assistant Director of Finance for the City, handles all budget expenditures, so all requests for funds/reimbursements will ultimately go to him. Patty McKernan will serve as ECY treasurer so commissioners should give all receipts and checks to her. Itemization of expenses is not included in the City budget. Jackie Tamer will discuss with City the issue of properly recording ECY expenses in the Commission's budget. Discussion of itemizing total budget of each event, in addition to ECY expenses, in order to track true costs. Patty noted that all expenses need to be accounted for, even if the costs are covered by a cosponsoring group and not the ECY.

Motion to reorder ECY Pens up to an amount not to exceed an expense of \$200 made by Karen Stezowski, seconded by Jan DeCoursey. Motion approved.

Fall 2015 Forum Jan DeCoursey

- Presentation of Fall Forum options and discussion about Michael Thompson appearance on September 28, 2015. See attached table of options and specific description of Michael Thompson.

- Table includes a wide variety of options for speakers on issues about adolescence and parenting, all of which are directly related to substance abuse risk and protective factors. In most instances, fees and timing are discussed, as well.
- Focus on national speakers, given the allotted budget and the itemization in the budget request. Michael Thompson is recommended by Jan due to his availability, time commitment, ability to reach a broad audience on highly relevant topics, and recommendations from local and national references about the success of his past presentations to both adults and youth.
 - Availability: Michael Thompson can visit/speak in Elmhurst on September 28th, 2015. He is already booked in the northern suburbs so ECY can share travel expenses.
 - Time commitment: for 10 hours, a maximum of five presentations.
 - Proposed agenda, audience, locations, and topics: He will conduct student assemblies at each of the three middle schools (“Best Friends/Worst Enemies”, one student assembly at York (“Adolescence is Hard Work”), and one parent forum in the evening (“The Pressured Child”).
- Three middle school principals are open to all-school assemblies. Sandburg offered space for afternoon and evening. Middle school principals are very enthusiastic. Haven’t gotten response from York yet.
- If York doesn’t participate, ECY could host a presentation/coffee for administrators and educators of middle school students for all public and private schools. Sandburg willing to host any related event during the day/evening. Also noted was ways to possibly include other schools in Elmhurst not in District 205.
- Sharon Karpel noted that the general public may also be interested in the evening forum. For example, one potential audience could be members of District 205 mentoring program.
- Sponsorships – Karen suggested the PTAs probably not a viable option for financial contributions due to the timing of the budget process and availability of finances. Although the PTAs cannot be relied on for financial support, they can offer PR/advertising and time. Sharon Karpel, of Elmhurst Public Library, suggested co-sponsorship in the form of a donation of perhaps \$500, willingness to ensure that Michael Thompson’s books are available for check out and/or sale, and willingness to highlight in the Library’s newsletter (The Fine Print).
- Discussion on budget. Mayor Morley has suggested/recommended that we don’t spend more than half of our budget on a speaker. The majority of commissioners present expressed concern about (1) the original intent of the request for the budget (for a higher-priced speaker) (2) limitation on spending, not otherwise specified in the budget (3) limitations of the Commission to engage in larger events.
 - Commission reviewed itemized budget proposed for 2015, determining that monies were requested for various activities, including a larger community event.
 - Commission reviewed 2015 expenses incurred to date to determine that monies are available for this expense and specifically noted the probability of a budget surplus after the Fall Forum.
 - Commission respectfully noted Mayor Morley’s concerns about spending more than 50% of ECY’s annual budget on any one speaker, but also expressed that the money was originally requested to host a speaker of higher profile and expense.
 - Discussion that the budget available allows ECY to pursue what it sees as a good opportunity to engage a speaker that will provide a useful, informative, and high-impact programs to schools and community.
 - Discussion to pursue additional partnerships and co-sponsors of time, publicity and space, and possibly to reduce expenses for ECY, but acknowledge that the Commission’s decision needs to be made under the current assumption that ECY is responsible for all costs involved.
- Karen Stezowski moved that that the ECY sponsor and engage Michael G Thompson for a September 28th engagement at the cost of \$8,000 plus shared travel expenses. Lynn McCreddie seconded. Since Karen is not technically a voting member, she was unable to make the above motion, therefore, Patty McKernan made the motion, however at the end of the meeting. Due to lack of voting members in attendance, suggestion was made to submit and take votes via e-mail and/or investigate the process whereby a vote can take place.

Movie series update

Lynn McCreadie

Lynn reported for budget purposes that the estimated cost to bring in a movie is up to \$1,000. Possibly lower depending on which movie. She handed out a list of possibilities from her research. Discussion tabled for next meeting.

Timeline 2015/2016 commission events

Commissioners asked to come to June meeting with expectations for 2015/2016 calendar and any ideas

New business

Concern that City of Elmhurst has not approved several Commissioners who, as a consequence, do not have voting rights. Commissioners yet to be approved include: Sharon Karpel and Karen Stezowski.

Next meeting: June 15, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at Elmhurst City Hall

Meeting Adjourned: 1:55 p.m.