

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, April 22, 2019 5:30pm **Location:** Flint Memorial Library, Activity Room

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Jason Slattery	Sandy Garniss	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Leslie Shultz	Danielle Masterson	
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Amy DiChiara	Samantha Miller	
Christy Dampousse	Patty Harrington		

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

- 1. Review of Previous Minutes:** March 25, 2019 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- 2. Financial Report:** YS Director Jennifer Ford outlined there was only one change to finances – she paid the Reality Fair bill (approx. \$617) and wound up taking it out of her operating budget.
- 3. Social Services Report:** Jennifer Ford stated the Spring Programming has begun and brought in 19 new faces. She had set a goal of serving 200 new youth and so far, has served 202 (which doesn't include the Reality Fair). She outlined there are thousands of hours that go into this programming, between planning and execution. She said the Dungeons & Dragons Club has 18 members and that alone takes up a lot of hours. Jen stated she will be working on a better way to tally up all the hours spent on programming. All the same types of issues (mental health / anxiety / depression / socialization) are still at the top of discussions with kids and parents. It was mentioned that the Reality Fair attendance seemed lower this year and there was no real way to measure exact attendance. It was suggested that a planning sub-committee be formed now to prep for next year's Fair to create an even bigger and better experience for the kids.
- 4. Participation Report:** Jennifer Ford stated that one club didn't make it on the Spring 2019 Newsletter (Knitting Club) but it's definitely still in the works. Discussion opened about how to encourage boys to join the knitting club and a famous former football player who is publicly known for doing needlepoint was mentioned and it was suggested that perhaps connecting famous male figures to knitting might help draw in boys. Jen stated how knitting is great for kids with ADHD. The goal is to run the program every Tuesday with assistance from Marci Bailey. Jen mentioned her concern about not having a substitute YS director should she need to take time off or is ever sick. She noted that if she did take time off for vacation or illness, programming would be at a standstill. She has brought it to the attention of the Town Manager. Jennifer shared one April break activity which went over very well. She described it as a sort of "scavenger hunt" where participants were in search of missing signatures on a list. They had to follow clues, solve riddles/puzzles, and participate in challenges in order to arrive at destinations for signatures. The "hunt" took kids through the senior center, Fire and police departments, Flint Memorial Library and NORCAM.
- 5. Old Business:** The committee was reminded about upcoming visits from guests: May will feature the 3 North Reading Elementary School Principals and June includes Detective Paul Lucci, NRPD, and Drug Grant Coordinator Amy Luckiewicz, who will chat about their 2-week trip to England which allows SRO's to shadow one another to share ideas/techniques, etc. of the jobs they do.
- 6. New Business:** Children being raised by grandparents was mentioned as being a common occurrence in North Reading. It was suggested that new programming to incorporate other departments be looked at in an effort to bring together at least the Senior Center and Youth Services. It was noted that summer field trips were now being planned. Jennifer Ford stated that the location of the white water rafting trip is significant and she is considering making the trip a 2-day experience, incorporating some leadership skills building into it. She also mentioned the North Reading Police Department would be hosting a summer program independently from Youth Services but had no further details. The Andover Youth Services Director was mentioned because their department built their own youth center and it was suggested the committee invite him to be a guest speaker to see whether it may be something North Reading could pursue. Vaping is still a large issue and it was outlined that the High School Assistant Principal Joseph Hehn has been cracking down on this and some bathrooms have been locked proactively.

Next meeting: Monday, May 20, 2019 - 6 p.m., NR Town Hall, Rm. 10

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from March Meeting
Financial Report	Social Services/Participation Report
NRYS Spring 2019 Newsletter	

May 20, 2019
Minutes Approved on Date


Peter Majane, Committee Chair