

# North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

**Date/Time:** Monday, December 17, 2018 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Leslie Shultz	Judy Hall	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Patty Harrington	Sandy Garniss	Danielle Masterson, NR Youth Services Librarian
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Kathy Dardeno	Samantha Miller	Jason Slattery
Amy DiChiara	Christy Damphousse		

**Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.**

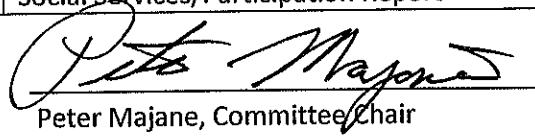
- Review of Previous Minutes:** November 26, 2018 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- Financial Report:** Y.S. Director Jennifer Ford stated finances have been pretty stagnant. She was reimbursed \$56 for various Y.S. projects and said she's looking into grants to generate money for Y.S. and the department.
- Social Services Report:** Jennifer Ford said enrollment has been slow, but steady. Youth Services sees new faces now and then, but hopes future programming will bring in more. She outlined a discussion that transpired during the Mentoring Program that expressed the desire to create a Dungeons & Dragons afterschool program. In the interim, Jen noticed a group of high school kids in the library and when having a conversation with them, determined that they are in the process of creating a HS Dungeons & Dragons Club and she opened the conversation to invite both middle school and high school students to join Youth Services to work together on a Dungeons & Dragons group that included grades 6-12. The tentative time for the YS club is on Tuesday's at 2:30-6:30 p.m. One of the potential barriers is the need for the use of laptops which Jen intends to seek support from the HS Media Specialist.
- Participation Report:** Jennifer Ford discussed she is still working on building more programming and observed that there were 171 total participants for FY18 and already 142 in less than 6 months of FY19.
- Old Business:** There was no old business discussion.
- New Business: Nomination/Election of YS Committee Chair & Co-Chair:** Peter Majane was nominated and re-elected as NRYSC Chair, and Frank Ferraro was nominated and re-elected as NRYSC Co-Chair for 2019. **YS Store:** Jennifer Ford outlined her vision of opening a Youth Services "store". It would enable and encourage residents to make donations that would generate revenue for Youth Services. She explained that the concept is similar to that of "Goodwill" and "Savers". Donations would be made and it would be run by North Reading youths. She outlined the need for designated space, for both storage of donations and the store itself. She also outlined the need for support from the Youth Services Committee for either manning the store or helping with donations. Prom gowns were mentioned as a top item for the store as many kids only wear their prom gowns once and are now just sitting, unused in closets. It was also suggested that perhaps college students, looking for projects to take on for college credit, could manage the store. The "More Than Words Bookstore" was mentioned as an example of a youth-run business. **YS Scholarship:** Jennifer Ford expressed her desire to one day offer a Youth Services Scholarship, but not in the traditional sense of a scholarship. She'd like for it to be lottery-based, rather than academic-based. To qualify, students would need to be an active participant in Youth Services every quarter during their high school years. She felt it was a good opportunity for kids who perhaps don't excel academically to have a chance at a scholarship. She outlined the need for sponsorships to fund it. **New Members:** NR Youth Services Librarian Danielle Masterson was introduced and she expressed her desire to become a member of the NRYSC in order to help serve the communities youth and to tie in her own offerings at the Flint Memorial Library. She said she's been in her position at the library for 4 years now and felt like she could now branch out and take part in volunteer positions. Jason Slattery was then introduced and he expressed his desire to become a member of the NRYSC. He said he has 2 daughters aged 13 & 14, coaches Lacrosse, and likes to donate his time. He wants to help kids who may be at risk and wants to give back to the community. Longtime NRYSC member Kathy Dardeno was thanked for her contributions over the years as she announced her exit. Kathy outlined how much Youth Services has grown since its installation and she is hopeful it will continue to grow. Frank Ferraro also outlined its growth and how he feels parents are finally starting to recognize the value of Youth Services. The history of Youth Services was discussed and Frank outlined how he'd like to see more parents who still have students in the system step up to be Chair and Co-Chair in the future. The desire for a female to take one of the positions was expressed for diversity.

Next meeting: Monday, January 28, 2019 - 6:00pm, Room 10

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from November Meeting
Financial Report	Social Services/Participation Report

January 28, 2018  
Minutes Approved on Date

  
Peter Majane, Committee Chair