

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH VALLEY YOUTH COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes September 16, 2020

Location: Virtual meeting due to COVID-19

Commissioners Present: Michelle Nadeem, Lori Nicholson, Doug Davis, Peter Van Acker, Taylor F. Rose, and Susan Mace.

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Erika Bischof, Kelly Spotlow-Durrett, Brooklyn Fizer, Amber Martino.

Others in Attendance: Ginny Newman - OOOY Director, Nancy Tyree - Office Manager, Grace Deshong - Division Supervisor, Susan Lendermon - Safe Routes to School Coordinator, and Kurt Plowman – Staunton City Chief Technology Officer, Allison Profeta – community member.

Doug Davis called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm Mr. Davis proceeded in reading the process of the virtual meeting, as well as, guidelines to follow throughout the meeting. None of the participants had any questions about the guidelines. Mr. Davis asked if all read July minutes and a virtual vote was taken, all approved. Peter VanAcker made a motion to accept, seconded by Lori Nicholson. Ginny Newman introduced the Office on Youth staff and their location during the meeting. The meeting was broadcast through Staunton City and recorded through zoom.

Announcements/Reports and Updates:

- 1) **Waynesboro Safe Routes to School Program and Walkability Institute Award:** Susan Lendermon has been at the Office on Youth for a year as the Program Coordinator for the Safe Routes to School program. Mrs. Lendermon completed a presentation for the Youth Commission on the program. She began by stating that 32 bikes and a trailer were purchased for use with the program. Mrs. Lendermon also reported that OOOY and SRTS had two successful weeks of bicycle instruction with Waynesboro Physical Education teachers before COVID19. Mrs. Lendermon reported that she is currently partnering with Waynesboro Parks and Recreation for some Tuesday afternoon programs in the latter part of September and all of October. Randall Wolf with The Bike Box will be assisting her with the Tuesday programs.

Mrs. Lendermon is also a part of Waynesboro Walkability Action Institute. (Slides attached) Mrs. Lendermon presented many details and statistics as to why Walkability matters in Waynesboro. According to the Community Health Needs Assessment conducted by Augusta Health in 2019 many residents of Waynesboro suffer from a higher than normal incidence of preventable health conditions.

Action Plan 1 – Tactical Urbanism Project on Popular and Main Streets a mural designed by a Waynesboro High school student, will be painted with bulb-outs where students frequently cross the road. High school students will be assisting with this project.

Action Plan 2 - Citizens Advocacy Group is increasing the awareness of Waynesboro residents about opportunities to walk and bike more easily and safely, thereby improving their overall health and well-being.

Mrs. Lendermon asked if Commissioners' would please visit the Facebook "Walkability" page and complete the survey on your interests in walking and biking in Waynesboro. This will aid the Citizens Advocacy Group.

Mr. Van Acker inquired if the program was getting any assistance from Public Works.

Mrs. Lendermon informed Mr. Van Acker that Mr. Powers with Public Works is a part of the team. Public Works has a 10-year plan to make some changes.

Mr. Van Acker is very interested in the Tactical Engineering approach with public works,

he has had experience with public works in the past.

Mrs. Lendermon reports that Kira Johnson, with the planning department, has been great to work with. Joy Stultz, grant writer for the Office on Youth is reaching out to the planning department for input on walking and biking.

There will be a Citizen Advocacy Group virtual meeting on October 1, 2020, at 5:00 pm.

For additional information contact Susan Lendermon at

lendermonsc@ci.waynesboro.va.us .

2) **Program Updates:**

- **Parenting** –Grace Deshong reports that parents are engaging with each other as well as the instructors of the class. All parenting classes are held virtually now. The first 10-week Parent Project class will start on September 22, 2020.

The program is receiving numerous referrals outside of our locality because at the moment we are the only location offering approved classes. The part-time program coordinator has returned to work, which has been helpful to our Parenting Coordinator in assisting with the workload. The parenting program has taken in \$850.00 in payments since July. Meredith Keppel, Parenting Coordinator, has been mailing parenting books or having parents pick them up at the office, to assist with social distancing regulations.

Ms. Newman has spoken with Staunton and Waynesboro about setting up virtual classroom/training rooms at both Rosenwald Community Center and Nelson St that the OOOY could utilize for classes. **Truancy** – Mrs. Deshong reported that Josh Mutters, Supplemental Education Coordinator is working with a caseload of 25 students, and Mr. Mutters has been in touch with about 15 of the students. Absences are different this year due to COVID-19. Schools are working with many other issues including technology. Mary Baldwin University will be launching a tutoring group.

- **Family Life** – Mrs. Deshong reported that Kelly Peters, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator, has updated the curriculum for Staunton and Waynesboro. Mrs. Peters has a new contact person in the Staunton City Schools for Family Life and they hope to meet soon. Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Deshong met with Dr. Barber, Waynesboro’s Director of Student Services, about what Family Life Education would like in a virtual education world. Dr. Barber advised that he would coordinate with the PE teachers and guidance so that Mrs. Peters could provide live instruction to the youth. Mrs. Peters is working on condensing some material because of the increase of days students are in classes. She is also looking into the possibility of setting up after-hours sessions. Dr. Shifflett with Augusta County will be offered the class also.
- **VJCCCA** – Mrs. Newman reported that the Bi-annual plan was submitted and approved by the state. All programs and funding will continue as they are currently. The local Court Service Unit continues to undergo staff changes.
- **Waynesboro Community Coalition** –This Coalition, started by the Waynesboro YMCA in March has branched out and merged with the YMCA in Staunton, Augusta Health, over 40 Churches, Local Government, and United Way. Check out the website is hosted by the United Way site. The group assembled quickly, but are now struggling with needed staff to open the sites for learning centers. 21 staff are needed to take kids off the waiting list.

Other Business and Discussion

1) Commission Membership

- Mrs. Newman discussed vacancies. The three localities each have vacancies for high

school youth. There are currently two Augusta County, and one Waynesboro adult vacancy as well.

2) Annual meeting

- Mrs. Newman stated that the November meeting is normally the Commissions' annual meeting and proposed that if members wanted the meeting could be held in person or a hybrid format. Commission members have elected to have the meeting in all virtual format again.

3) Public Comments and Questions

- Allison Profeta asked if anyone can join Walkability? The Advocacy group prefers volunteers to be Waynesboro residents but will be happy to have anyone that shows interest in the projects. There will be a Citizen Advocacy Group virtual meeting on October 1, 2020, at 5:00 pm. Contact Susan Lendermon or Mrs. Newman with additional questions about the walkability institute plans and safe walking programs in Waynesboro at 540-942-6757

Mr. Davis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm and Susan Mace made the motion, seconded by Michelle Nadeem.

Grace Deshong - Division Supervisor had left the meeting due to technical difficulties at 6:11 pm.

Next meeting date:

November 18th.