

Portland Youth Services Advisory Board
August 23, 2022

Present: Michele Donahue, Margaret Stewart, Sarah Donahue

Absent: Anne Whalen (alternate), Jennifer Mizner, Amy Milardo. Deb Calavas (alternate)

Others Present: Jesse Revicki, (Youth and Family Services Administrator); Meg Scata, (Youth and Family Services Prevention Coordinator); Stacy Benham, (Board of Education liaison)

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Michelle Donahue at 4:46 pm

Roll Call:

- Michelle Donahue, Sarah Donahue, Margaret Stewart. A quorum was reached.
- Jesse Revicki noted that Amy Milardo withdrew from the committee as she has moved out of town.
- Stacy Nolan had resigned from the committee as well. We have a new member, Deb Calavas. Jesse will check to see if Anne Whalen, or another alternate, can move to the full time position from her current alternate position.

Approval of Agenda:

- A motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting was made by Michelle Donahue. Sarah Donahue seconded. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022 meeting was made by Michelle Donahue with Margaret Stewart seconding. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Old Business:

- The Ethics statement has been signed by all current members.

New Business:

- Beautification Portland initiative: The Economics Development commission will take the lead. Youth Services will support.
- They will be looking into getting large planters to put around our downtown areas.
- Some towns have given their towns themes as a way to promote their town. Middletown has the, "What the Duck?" program. There is some thought that Portland should have a theme around brownstone, quarries, oxen etc. This will be discussed further at future meetings.
- Dan Bourret, Portland Town Planner, and another person to be named as the Economic Development Coordinator will work together to get all this off the ground. Duncan Oleshay and Angela Aresco, town business people, are independently working to get the business community together.
- Youth Services will take a role in plans around Halloween and Christmas.

Early Childhood Development:

- *Little Hikers*: Jesse runs this group once a month on Friday.
- *Drop in and Draw*: program has been gaining interest. Jesse does it once per month and will adjust the time of the program to accommodate the school schedule.
- *Board Games*: Jesse will speak with the schools to find a good time to run these programs.
- The Library, Park and Rec, Alicia Currier, and Mike Pelton all have programs for youth. Alicia and Mike are private providers and run specific programs. Jesse will check with the town to see if private providers who work in town sponsored programs are covered under the town's liability insurance.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monster Mash**: Saturday, October 22. Youth Services, Library and Park and Rec will be involved. The plan is to build on what was done last year. It will begin at 12:00 noon with a children's costume parade combined with a costumed dog parade. (all dogs participating in the dog parade must be on leashes). We anticipate face painting, crafts, cider and doughnuts, popcorn, pumpkin painting etc.
- **Halloween on Main**: Friday, October 28: Youth & Family Services and the Economic Development group will work with businesses around this event.
- **"Come on Over" 5k**: Saturday, October 29. Park and Rec's annual 5k run. They encourage runners to wear costumes. Prizes will be given to those who participate. Also, possibly on October 29 there will be a scary movie shown outdoors, possibly at Riverfront Park. Details to come.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting**: Sunday, December 4. This date also coincides with the Historic Society's Christmas Wreath Event. There has been some discussion of expanding this event to include a parade with decorated cars, house decorating etc. The Economic Development group may become involved.

Administrator's Update:

- The petting Zoo and ice cream truck activity that was shared by Youth Services and Senior Center was a great kick off to the summer and was enjoyed by many. Approximately 275 people attended.
- The board games program that Jesse ran during the summer did not get the numbers that were anticipated. Jesse will continue to try and grow this program in the fall.
- Little hikers program did well.
- Drop in and draw program attendance increased through the summer.
- The Library anniversary event did well and Youth Services had a table.
- Juneteenth event did well. Prevention Council handed out informational swag.
- Juvenile Review Board: During the summer we saw 5 families. Jesse is working on a brochure for parents about the program. He will be looking to expand the Restorative Justice training in the schools and for individuals.
- Jesse will be contacting P.J. Eason and other speakers to run trainings and support groups for parents and LGBTQ youth. It is anticipated that there will be two separate groups, one for parents and another for youth. At some point they may fold into one group.

- Also looking at starting up some town sponsored day trips for families to various places such as Old Sturbridge Village, Mystic Seaport, Bronx Zoo, Movie nights, dances etc.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Stewart, Recording Secretary