

Portland Youth Services Advisory Board
Regular meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Roll Call

Advisory Board: Michelle Donahue, Sara Donahue, Deb Calavas

Absent: Erin Livensparger, Jennifer Mizner, Anne Whalen, Margaret Stewart

Others: Jesse Revicki

Approve Agenda

Deb made a motion to accept the agenda, Michelle seconded; vote approved unanimously.

Approve Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting of the Youth Services Advisory Board were read and approved. Sarah made a motion to approve the minutes from March 21, 2023, Michelle seconded; vote approved unanimously.

Old Business:

A. Upcoming Event Planning

Jesse discussed the planning that has been taking place for the Juneteenth Celebration on June 24, 2023 from 11am to 2pm at Riverfront Park. Youth & Family Services, along with the Town, are co-sponsors and the Committee on Solidarity is the main organizer. YFS is planning on having a table there, as well as a table for Prevention. Deb volunteered to join for the day and help out. Jesse plans to have some coloring pages for kids to take home or work on at the Celebration, along with bringing back some recipes he had last year.

Jesse, Michelle, and Sarah updated the group on the Summer Kick-Off on June 26, 2023 from 3:30-5:30pm at the Town Green. Jesse, Michelle, and Sarah, met with Andy Dionne from Parks & Recreation, Dan Bourret from Town Planners, and Jenn Billingsley and Jenn Renk from the Library about the planning of the event. YFS has hired the Farm on Wheels mobile petting zoo and Ice Cream Emergency to come. The Library is getting materials to do a sun visor craft for kids. Michelle is contacting the school to see if any kids would like to help out and do face painting. Parks & Recreation will have a table and will ask if any counselors would like to volunteer. Economic Development Commission will have a table and will work on contacting businesses to provide menus and information, and ask about doing specials. The Complete Streets group will have a table for the Pace Car program.

After these two, no new events until Halloween.

New Business:

Jesse described the programs that are recently completed, ongoing, and upcoming:

- Intro to Dungeons & Dragons: completed 5 nights with six kids earlier in May. Jesse is interested in expanding it to a once-a-month club that will eventually use volunteers to run games.
- LGBTQ+ groups: still running these groups twice a month. 1st Wednesday is activity nights and 3rd Wednesday is support style groups for teens and parents. Attendance is still low, but consistent. Still working on advertising and reaching out to the schools. There was some discussion about pronoun use.
- Drop-In & Draw: still running these groups twice a month. 2nd Tuesday is after school, targeted at teens, but attendance is low. 3rd Friday is arts & crafts, targeted at 5 and under, and attendance has been good the past few months.
- Little Hikers: still running once a month on the 1st Friday. Targeted at 5 and under, and attendance is good, usually between 3 and 6 families.
- School-Based Diversion Initiative: Jesse has a grant through the Department of Education to support the School's SBDI efforts. He has been working to provide skill-based programs for lower-income families and improving the Community Center at Chatham Court.
 - Babysitting CPR class was held in early May. 12 people attended, mostly from Chatham Court
 - Canvas & Cupcakes was held last week. 12 people attended, all from Chatham Court
 - Permit Prep Test are in the process of scheduling for up to 10 people.
 - Jesse is getting quotes on Basketball Hoop replacements
- Potential program in June with Erin and Fire Ring Farm to do a "plant-and-take" with aloe 'pups' from the farm. Would be for kids and parents to come in and decorate a pot/planter and then take home the repotted aloe pup. Will either be June 10 or maybe part of Summer Kick-Off.

Administrator's Overview:

- Jesse talked about some Prevention & Wellness Council news. They are rebranding as POWER Up Portland and working at attending events that people are already going to, such as Juneteenth, Summer Kick-Off, potentially the concert series. The Prevention Council was also invited to attend the Stonehaven 5k on June 10.
- Jesse plans to march in the PRIDE parade on June 3 with the group from Portland. Anyone else interested should contact the Solidarity Committee at portlandtsolidarity@gmail.com

Next meeting: August 22, 2023 at 4:30p.m. There might be a joint meeting prior to this to discuss Halloween events.

Sarah made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Deb; vote approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Revicki, Youth & Family Services Administrator