



Youth Commission Minutes: June 8, 2023
City Hall, Galesburg, IL

Meeting Called to Order: Eciel Burns called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Members Present:

Eciel Burns, Mia Haneghan, Chantiara Jackson, Andrew Jowers,
Zakary Warfield,

City of Galesburg:

Elizabeth Varner, Director of Parks and Recreation

Absent: Precious Dortch, Joy Basosa-Nzumba Courtney Wallace

Minutes: Minutes from April 2023 meeting were approved, with motions from Mia Haneghan and Chantiara Jackson. The May 2023 meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Chairman Eciel Burns called on Tuesday Cetin to Speak. Elizabeth introduced her as the Director of the Galesburg Civic Art Center. She spoke about the operations at the Civic Art Center, performances, exhibits and classes. The Art Center has moved to the old antiques mall at 349 E. Main Street with multiple floors of art. There is also a gift shop with over 100 artist items of art from different medians. The Galesburg Civic Art Center has great events and exhibits open to the public. June 16th there will be a Casey Foubert & AM Higgins Concert open to the public for \$5 per person with food and drinks. Other activities were provided on a flyer with an artist workshop, art camp for middle schoolers, Senior Studios and other events in June and July. There is a free Art Club for High School students planned for September and will include working with clay. The 3rd floor of the new facility has permanent collections, Historical Society and can be used as an event space. She discussed that volunteers are always needed to assist if anyone is interested in helping at the Art Center. Volunteer opportunities include cleaning up, sorting art supplies and assisting with shuffling rooms around. Tuesday also informed every one of the June 17th Blick Sale at 8 a.m. on Linwood Road.

Tuesday then led the Youth Commission members in a Contour Line Drawing activity, which was fun for everyone. Tuesday and Elizabeth were impressed with the artwork created by each member. A picture was taken with Tuesday to share with others. Everyone had a great time.

CITY OF GALESBURG ILLINOIS



Parks & Recreation Report:

Director of Parks and Recreation, Elizabeth Varner, provided flyers and a report of programs offered by the City of Galesburg Parks and Recreation. There is a large variety of programs being offered during the summer season. Programs included FREE Yoga in the Park, FREE Fishing Derby that was in May, FREE Second Saturday Nature Programs, FREE Nature in your Neighborhood and Mobile Playground. Additional programs include Kayak Nights, Volleyball, Swim Camp and Lifeguard Training. Elizabeth also mentioned the special events held in city parks such as the upcoming Railroad Days and Café in the Park. There is also a Farmer's Market and Horse Show this weekend.

Old Business:

Youth Commission Members: Chairpersons, Eciel Burns and Zakary Warfield, asked for Youth Commission Member ideas. Elizabeth explained that there are youth openings, and that there is an adult appointment by the Mayor. She stated there are 3 youth openings since Precious Dortch does not think she can find the time to attend meetings. Elizabeth also mentioned that she shared the City Council liaison suggestion with the Mayor and is waiting for an appointment. Elizabeth will submit a press release on the Youth Commission openings.

Earth Day / Arbor Day: Elizabeth reported that the City of Galesburg had a successful Earth Day event in April with trees being planted in the morning and a cleanup day at Kiwanis Park with 61 volunteers. Arbor Day was equally successful with a tree being planted at Steele School.

Youth Extra Effort Award: Elizabeth reported that the City Clerk is working on a form to be on-line for Youth Extra Effort nominations.

Guest Speakers: Eciel and Zakary asked for Guest Speaker ideas Elizabeth could contact in the future. Ideas included Gabe Quartermann (Food Truck), Children's



Museum, Selfie Museum, Grateful Shed, and Percy Jackson (Construction with Hein). The Beauty Bar was also mentioned since they have a June 24 Grand Opening on Main Street. Past ideas were mentioned and included Steve Abron (Barber/Juneteenth), John Asplund, Tracy Engstrom (CSC Professional), and the Galesburg Christian School Director. Reverend Jowers mentioned that Juneteenth is being celebrated at CSC and Steve Abron is an organizer. Reverend Jowers is also in the committee and invited everyone to attend. He provided contact information to Tuesday.

New Business:

Adopt A Park: Youth Commissioners discussed setting up a date to clean at H.T. Custer Park as part of the Adopt a Park program, and community service. Members decided to pick a date in the fall and will discuss this at a future meeting.

Treat Street: Elizabeth asked if members were interested in participating in Treat Street once again. They all agreed it was a good program.

Guest Speakers: Chairperson, Eciel Burns asked for a list of future guest speakers for the Youth Commission. Ideas that were suggested included the Superintendent of Schools, Steve Abron, Tracy Engstrom (Career Development Director of CSC on Public Speaking) and Galesburg Christian School Director. Eciel asked members to email Elizabeth with ideas and contact information.

Youth Commission Report: Eciel Burns agreed to present the Youth Commission report at the June 19th, 2023 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned: 5:30 p.m.

Motions from Mia Haneghan and Reverend Andrew Jowers.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 11, 2023
(Zakary and Chantiara will not be able to attend the July meeting due to attending a TRIO Trip. Zack will be going to Memphis and Nashville, and Chantiara is going to Kentucky and South Carolina.
They will both be touring colleges along the way. We look forward to hearing about their trips.)

Elizabeth Varner

Director of Parks & Recreation, Elizabeth Varner