

AURORA YOUTH COMMISSION
February 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
AMC, Aurora Room, 1st FLOOR, 80012

MINUTES

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:42 p.m.
- II. Commissioners present: Josue Estrada, Spencer Scheef, Dhruv Shrivastava, Vinay Malik, Angela Guardado, Joe Lewis, Lukas Keller, Caleb Garvis, Josephine Stockton, Mitali Desai, Jhostin Perez, Madison Dragon, Kevin Duncan, Kristina Lance and Jamie Nichols.
- Commissioners absent: Behta Christian, Zeru Christian, Kris Kerr, Taniya Mills, Joseph Soto (all excused)
- City liaisons: Jenna Katsaros, Erin Ahlholm, and Trevor Anderson with Youth Development.
- Guests: Caleb Weiss, AYC adult applicant, introduced himself. Beck Varcoe, AYC youth applicant, will begin his term at the next regular meeting March 7.
- III. Vinay moved to adopt the agenda, 2nd by Caleb. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Vinay moved to approve the January minutes, 2nd by Josephine. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. **REPORTS**
- a) Chair Report – AYC officers met last week to discuss the 2019 budget. At the next officer meeting, they will prepare a presentation for the City Council policy committee meeting anticipated for Tuesday, April 23rd at 4 p.m.
- b) Treasurer Report – Treasurer Desai noted the budget is \$1,400. The officers made recommendations on how to spend these funds, which included moving money from “Guest Speakers” into Training and Teambuilding. Most speakers have not charged for their presentations. Budget items are fluid, with the exception of printing.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
- a) In school year 2017/18, former member Angela Rivera initiated the AYC scholarship, which provides assistance towards college and/or post-secondary education expenses of a graduating senior serving on AYC. The \$100 scholarship is to recognize an outgoing student who gives back to their community. The scholarship will be awarded at the May meeting, with applications due at the March meeting. The requirements were discussed. Seniors include Behta, Taniya and Lukas. The selection committee consists of Dhruv, Vinay and Kristina. Jenna will receive scholarship applications and share with the committee.
- b) Vice Chair Malik provided an overview of his debate tournament experience in Arizona, which AYC supported with funds in 2018.
- c) Members who attended the Cherry Creek Diversity Conference shared their insight on a variety of the classes offered. Joe, Dhruv, Angela, Kris and Jenna attended. This low-cost leadership event brings youth from across Colorado and all topics are youth-initiated. Joe suggested greater AYC attendance at the next conference.
- d) AYC officers propose a teambuilding activity of bowling on Saturday, March 16 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at AMF Aurora Lanes. The cost is \$18.87 a person. Members stating interest include Mitali, Spencer, Angela, Josue, Jhostin, Vinay, Jamie, Madison, Caleb, Kevin and Dhruv. A final roster for bowling will be determined at March’s meeting. A vote to spend the money will also be taken at the March meeting.
- e) There are only three meetings remaining until the summer recess and the start of the new School Year 2019/20 Commission. In March, there is a guest speaker from the American Heart Association. In April, a guest speaker from Aurora Youth Options will provide information on teen mental health. Also in April, AYC will assist Erin with evaluation and review of summer food program sites. For the final May meeting, the officer’s discussed doing a scavenger hunt.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a) AYC participated in a winter school supply drive and secured 9 large boxes of school supplies for Peoria Elementary, who could not believe how successful it was! Members who participated shared their insights and debriefed on the event. AYC will look to do more events like this in the future.
- b) Goals, Objectives & Projects
 - a. Last year, AYC supported the Kid's Fishing Derby at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. The event is hosted by Commerce City Parks & Recreation, a partner of the city of Aurora on an initiative that tries to get youth outdoors. Volunteers can help with set-up, measuring/recording/releasing fish (if familiar with doing so), and leading activities for youth and families. Youth 15 and younger can fish, or learn how to fish, during the event. Caleb, Lukas, Kevin and Vinay spoke to the merits of this event and, while very cold, it was a fun morning. The event will occur Saturday, April 13 and volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. until noon. Members expressing interest were Lukas, Caleb, Beck, Jhostin, Dhruv, Madison, Jamie and possibly Vinay. Jenna can provide transportation for some members, if needed. More discussion to follow.
- c) AYC Book Discussion – Members discussed the reading of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* and which sections they found insightful and relevant. After discussion, it was agreed AYC members would read up to and through page 162 prior to the March 7th meeting.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- a) Mitali is a representative on the Colorado Youth Advisory Council for Senate District 28. Mitali is looking for youth members who live in SD 28 to join the organization and voice their opinions. Jenna will send out the flyer.
- b) AYC will not be volunteering with Children's Literacy Center to tutor youth at MLK Library. After discussion with the non-profit, it was determined the program needs consistent volunteers to commit to 13 Saturdays, rather than splitting up dates among volunteers. AYC members can continue to seek other opportunities to bring forward, and there is the Fishing Derby to support in April.
- c) Jenna presented flyers for current AYC members to recruit new members. We will have at least 3 youth vacancies in SY 2019/20.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 by Josue. 2nd by Caleb. The motion passed unanimously.

Next AYC meeting is March 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Aurora Room, 1st floor of AMC.

Approved AYC Minutes:

Dhruv
Signature

3/7/19
Date

Dhruv Shrivastava
Name

Chair
Title