

AURORA YOUTH COMMISSION

August 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

WebEx Meeting

MINUTES

Jenna welcomed everyone to the WebEx Event platform and went over guidelines for virtual meetings. AYC is a learning ground for Robert's Rules of Order. To make a motion, write it in the chat box, and same for seconding motions. Please do not multi-task during meetings; be present and engaged. Put your microphones on mute and choose a quiet place with good lighting so we can see you. Be respectful as always in sharing ideas and ensure everyone's voice is heard.

After this meeting, AYC will participate in civic engagement through the Aurora City Center public meeting. Josue suggested that in the interest of time, if a motion is properly stated and seconded, we will move on unless there is an objection.

I. Meeting called to order at 6:17 p.m.

II. Commissioners present: Josue Estrada, Dhruv Shrivastava, Vinay Malik, Angela Guardado, Jamie Nichols, Natalie Perez, Manar Jeelani, Advik Shrivastava, Josephine Stockton, Madison Dragon, Rediet Moges, Marbella Bettinelli, Kevin Duncan, Caleb Weiss, Kristina Lance

Commissioners absent: Mitali Desai, Jhostin Perez, and Joseph Soto (Unexcused)

Guests: Roland Green and Mike Burke, AYC applicants, introduced themselves.

City liaisons: Jenna Katsaros and Erin Ahlholm with Youth Development.

III. Caleb moved to adopt the agenda, 2nd by Dhruv. Without objection, the agenda was adopted.

IV. Jamie moved to approve March minutes, 2nd by Vinay. Without objection, the March minutes were approved.

V. REPORTS

- a) Chair Guardado shared a main goal of AYC this year is for everyone to feel supported. If you need help during this difficult time, please reach out to your fellow AYC members through email, text or phone. She recently attended a meeting with Council Members Angela Lawson and Curtis Gardener to discuss youth issues, including safe places and recreational opportunities for youth, mentoring, job training, entrepreneurship, youth violence prevention. The Council Members want youth input and opinions on these topics and ideas for solutions facing youth today. Josue requested info be sent out, for all to review and give input on.
- b) Treasurer Nichols reported the budgeted is unchanged since March. There is still \$1,284.56 remaining in the 2020 budget.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Vacancies update – Two youth are applying for two vacant youth seats, and there is one adult applying for an adult vacancy. AYC is nearly full going into the new school year.
- b) Public meeting on Aurora City Center is later tonight at 6 p.m. via WebEx. For those unable to make that virtual meeting, there will be other opportunities to give input.
- c) Goals for SY 20/21. Chair Guardado reminded members to reach out if they need support. This is a difficult time for everyone emotionally, mentally and socially, but you are not alone.

Vinay suggested virtual volunteering to support the community, such as tutoring to support other students.

Jenna shared the 2019/20 AYC annual presentation to City Council to re-cap last year. Goals stated in the presentation: Launch/participate in community initiatives, support youth leadership training, achieve and maintain full 22-member Commission and keep it fun.

Guest speakers attended meetings and shared their expertise on a variety of topics. Team building is a big part of AYC and in a virtual realm will be a challenge. Caleb suggested having T-shirts made, and Jamie offered to design something for the shirts.

September's meeting will focus on developing and refining goals. Kevin said there is a shortage of poll workers in the election, and you can work as a poll worker if you are a registered voter. Vinay is volunteering with When We All Vote and will send out the link to sign-up. Everyone should explore ways to engage in virtual volunteering. If AYC students are interested in offering free tutoring to other students, this would be a great year to do so. Kevin offered his expertise as a math teacher.

Manar is part of EEQUAL, a non-profit, and has applications on their Executive Board and staff positions.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) 2050 Regional Transportation Plan is still being developed. Natalie and Jamie shared the top priorities brought up by youth have been sustainable electric energy vehicles as well as less vehicles trips. More meetings will be held this fall.
- b) TED Talks and videos will be part of future meetings. AYC members suggested videos which we did not watch last year with the last two meetings being cancelled. Kevin offered to give the personal financial talk that was planned for last year. Josue will compile a list of goals and send out to the group.

VIII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

Angela again requested ideas and opinions to share with the Council Members regarding safe places for youth to go. They are interested in what AYC sees as issues, as well as potential solutions, around safe places, recreational opportunities, mentoring, mental health, civic engagement, and youth violence prevention. Vinay mentioned helping a food bank organization in Parker.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Jamie moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., 2nd by Manar.

Next AYC meeting is Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via WebEx Events.

Approved AYC Minutes:

Angela Guardado
Signature

8/6/20
Date

Angela Guardado
Name

Chair
Title