

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CLARKSVILLE  
YOUTH COUNCIL  
March 3, 2023 at 8:15am  
Virtual Via Microsoft Teams**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Clarksville Youth Council was called to order on March 3, 2022 at 8:20am by Advisor Ken Conklin.

Council Members Present: Lorianna Liu, Jillian Hinton, Regan Hinton, Alondra Feng-Baez, and Abigail Hicks.

Council Members Absent: Aidan Niemi, Garrett Skaggs, and Eva Wheatley,  
Also Present: Youth Council Advisor Ken Conklin

**2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**2.1 None**

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**3.1 Guest Speaker – Johanna Miller of the Clark County Youth Shelter (CCYS)**

- Ms. Miller was invited to speak to the Youth Council about the services offered by the Youth Shelter, but mainly about the Safe Place Program. Ms. Miller talked about how kids who feel unsafe can always find safety and assistance by visiting a location displaying the Safe Place logo. Locations include the Youth Shelter, the Clarksville Police Station, and others.
- When asked how the Youth Council could assist the CCYS, Ms. Miller said providing ideas and insight on how to reach local youth with the shelter's messaging would be the best help. Youth Council members will try to come up with ideas.
- Ms. Miller says CCYS holds a Summer Cookout fundraiser event each June and that Youth Council members are welcome to volunteer at the event. She will send event info to Youth Council Advisor Ken Conklin when the event gets closer.

**3.2 Selection of Mental Health Poster Contest Winners**

- Advisor Conklin sent scanned versions of all the entries to Youth Council members. About half of the Council has submitted their top 5 choices, but the rest of the Council needs to send in their picks.
- Once all picks are received, Advisor Conklin will tally the votes and send out the winners.
- Advisor Conklin will also arrange to get the gift cards to the winners.

**3.3 Discuss Mental Health Posters and Remaining Grant Funds**

- YC members need to start thinking about what type of information they want to include on the final posters. We will start with the Safe Place Text for Help line, but we need other options.

- After purchasing the posters for our community, we should have around \$300 left of our grant money. Council members should think of ways to use those funds. Advisor Conklin suggested something we could purchase for use at the school counselors' offices.

#### **4. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **4.1 Dates for Youth Council Shadowing/Volunteering**

- The Town will be hosting a public meeting on the Blackiston Mill Road project on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00pm. Youth Council members are invited to come and observe if they want to see how a public meeting is organized and run by the Town.
- The Clarksville Parks and Recreation Department will be holding their annual Easter event on April 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00pm in Gateway Park. Youth Council members are welcome to attend and volunteer to help. YC members just need to contact Advisor Conklin if they plan to attend, so he can inform the Parks Department.
- The Town Council will soon be changing the salary ordinance so that we can pay Youth Council members a small stipend for attending meetings. This will be \$25 for each meeting that YC members attend. YC members will have to fill out some paperwork in order to receive the funds. Advisor Conklin will be mailing the paperwork to the YC members.

#### **BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

\*Alondra Feng-Baez - Redevelopment Commission

- Not receiving minutes.

\*Eva Wheatley - Parks and Recreation Board

- Not Present/No Report

- Advisor Conklin discussed the Parks Department's new push to improve youth athletics in Clarksville.

\*Jillian Hinton – Tourism Board of Managers

- Nothing new or exciting to report.

\*Regan Hinton – Historical Preservation Commission

- The HPC welcome their new members and swore-in their new officers. They are also making progress on coming up with a way of honoring the history of the former Clarksville Dog Track.

\*Aidan Niemi – Building Commission

- Not Present/No Report

\*Abigail Hicks – Metro Board of Police, Fire, and Safety

- Not receiving minutes.

\*Lorianna Liu – Ohio River Greenway Commission

- Not Receiving Minutes.

\*Garrett Skaggs – Planning Commission  
- Not Present/No Report

### **YOUTH COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Abigail Hicks brought up her concerns regarding the conditions at Clarksville's Beechwood Park. As she has mentioned in past meetings, she feels that the park is in poor condition compared to other Clarksville Parks. Her main concerns are the condition of the shelter house and play areas. She also says the sand box is full of cat feces and trash.
- Abigail motioned to send a letter to the Parks Department asking them to make improvements to the park. Alondra Feng-Baez seconded the motion. It passed 5-0.
- Advisor Conklin will work with YC President Eva Wheatley on crafting the letter and sending it to the Parks Department. A copy of the letter will be included in the minutes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:55am.

Clarksville Youth Council  
2000 Broadway Street  
Clarksville, IN 47129

March 3, 2023

BJ Nelson-Lynton  
Superintendent  
Clarksville Parks & Recreation  
2000 Broadway Street, Suite 221  
Clarksville, IN 47129

Dear Superintendent Nelson-Lynton,

The mission of the Clarksville Youth Council is to provide the Town of Clarksville and its departments with the thoughts and opinions of local youth. The hope is that by including all voices, we can make our community a better place to live.

One of the topics discussed during our monthly meetings are the conditions of our public streets, facilities, and parks. Although the Youth Council believes most Town facilities are in great condition, the council does have some concerns regarding Beechwood Park. According to one council member, the park is in need of various improvements to the shelter house and play areas. One major concern is the sand box, which is often full of trash and animal feces. There is concern among the council that since this is a neighborhood park, it may not get as much attention as some of the community's more visible and visited parks.

During the March meeting of the Youth Council, members voted unanimously to send this letter to your department in hopes of shining a light on this issue. The hope is that your department may be able to come up with ways to improve Beechwood Park and bring it up to the same standards as the rest of Clarksville's beautiful parks.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eva Wheatley  
President, Clarksville Youth Council