

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CLARKSVILLE YOUTH COUNCIL  
December 5, 2023 at 5:45pm  
Clarksville Town Hall**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Clarksville Youth Council was called to order on December 5, 2023 at 5:48pm by Youth Council President Jillian Hinton.

Council Members Present: Jillian Hinton, Eva Wheatley, Catherine Massingill, Clare Hinton, Lauren Hinton, Lorianna Liu.

Council Members Absent: Kodah Mendlik

Also Present: YC Advisor Ken Conklin, Guest Speaker Jerry Leonard

**2. GUEST SPEAKER**

**2.1 Jerry Leonard, Executive Director of Youth Link Southern Indiana**

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**3.1 IAW Tree Grant**

- We have received the grant check of \$2,000 from Indiana American Water.
- Arborist Eric Bitner says he needs to know where the trees will be planted to make species recommendations, but schools want to know what kind of trees before selecting locations.
- YC Advisor will contact arborist and as for a list of 3-5 trees that would work in our area, so YC members can take them to their schools.
- We will plant 3-4 trees on each school system's campuses.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**4.1 Clarksville Holiday Discussion**

- Residents have questioned why Clarksville does not have a tree lighting event or more Christmas decorations around town like other communities. The YC was asked to provide input on what local kids would like to see in town.
- The YC agreed that if given a choice of more decorations or an event, Clarksville Youth would prefer a one-night event in a place like Gateway Park or Ashland Park. The park would then stay decorated all season long.
- A YC member will write a letter to the Town Council suggesting this idea.

**4.2 Spring Event Discussion**

- During previous YC meetings, students expressed an interest in holding an event to help other youth in need. Some options were a school supply drive, summer job fair, or hygiene product drive.
- Guest Speaker Jerry Leonard spoke earlier about Youth Link's 'Bare Necessities' program, which give hygiene and other items to local schools/kids.
- The YC decided to hold a penny wars fundraiser for the program. Each YC member will work with their schools to figure out where to place jars and collect money.
- We will provide a traveling trophy for the winning school, along with a prize (TBD) for the winning grade level at that school.

- The YC will ask the Town Council for \$750 in support of this endeavor. Jillian Hinton will make the request via a letter. The money will be used for advertising and jars to collect the coins. The remaining funds will be used by the YC for other projects.

#### **4.3 Ashland Park Future Plans**

- YC Advisor announced that Riverside Drive will be undergoing construction in the area leading into Ashland Park. The Parks Department is also working on adding a new playground in the park.
- YC members were asked what they would like to see in the park in the future.
- Suggestions included a dog park, volleyball courts, and a running track.
- YC members will think more on this and bring other ideas to the next meeting.

#### **4.4 YC Meetings in 2024**

- YC Advisor expressed concerns that YC meeting dates/times may need to be changed due to attendance issues of YC members. With the start of a new year next month, he wanted to hear from YC members about a possible change.
- Suggestions included weekend meetings, meeting before school, meetings during school hours, and going back to virtual meetings.
- Several YC members stated they did not want to go back to virtual meetings.
- YC members will consider other times/dates and bring ideas to the next meeting.

### **5. BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

\*Eva Wheatley – Parks and Recreation Board

- Did not receive minutes from Parks Department

\*Lorianna Liu - Redevelopment Commission

- The commission received updates on several area projects. Nothing of note for Youth.

\*Jillian Hinton – Historic Preservation Commission

- Did not receive minutes

\*Catherine Massingill – Building Commission

- Did not receive minutes

\*Kodah Mendlik – No Commission Selected

- Not Present / No Report

\*Clare Hinton – Tourism Board

- Nothing of interest to report

\*Lauren Hinton – Arts Commission

- No Report

### **6. VOTE FOR NEW OFFICERS**

- New officers must be elected to lead the YC from January 2024 through June 2024.
- Eva Wheatley nominated herself to serve as President, Katherine Massingill seconded. Vote 6-0.
- Lorianna Liu nominated herself to serve as VP, Jillian Hinton Seconded. Vote 6-0.
- Jillian Hinton nominated herself to serve as Secretary, Eva Wheatley seconded. Vote-6-0

7. **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

-None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

-Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:45pm in the Town Council Chambers.