

TOWN OF CROMWELL YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Gayle Ivy called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL – Sarah Calos, Jessica Zeedyk, Hope Fiondella, Gayle Ivy, Maggie Schufer, Officer Pietrarroia, Hailey Stone, Suzanne Rutner, Andrea Middlebrooks and Barbara Mcclane.

3. APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA – A motion to approve the March 19, 2024 meeting agenda was made by Maggie Schufer. Seconded by Suzanne Rutner.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - A motion to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Suzanne Rutner. Seconded by Maggie Schufer.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Select winner for YAB poster contest – The Youth Advisory Board provided rating scores of 1 - 10, on three categories; creativity, effort, and appearance for each of the poster contest entries. Totals were tallied, and posters with the high scores were selected as winners.

b. FY25 budget update – Sarah reported that the 2024-2025 Cromwell Youth Services Budget was passed unanimously by the Cromwell Town Council.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. YSB Day at the Capital on Wednesday, April 24 - Sarah explained that the event is held annually by the Connecticut Youth Services Association (CYSA) to showcase Youth Services Bureaus to state legislatures. The event is open to Youth Services staff, youth, and the Youth Advisory Board members.

7. STANDING REPORTS

a. Schools – Andrea shared the following information:

- The CMS production of Little Mermaid Jr. will be on March 22, 23 and 24.
- Parent-teacher conferences will take place on March 26 and 28.
- Yearbooks are currently on sale. Parents can purchase by going to YBpay.com and using the code 1323924. Deadline to order is March 29.
- The Youth Advisory Poster contest ended on March 15.
- Grade 7 Social Studies Classes on Team 2 are hosting a food drive to support Hinka’s Cupboard in Middletown, CT, through the week of March 18.
- Grades close to the third quarter on March 28.
- There is no school on Friday, March 29.

b. Youth Services – Sarah reported on the following:

- The Family Resource Expo & Preschool Showcase took place on March 7, 2024. She shared that over 30 vendors attended. The event brought in about 200 people and the event was well received.
- Cromwell Recreation is currently accepting applications to hire for summer

positions including camp counselors and office support.

- Bethany Lutheran Church held a drive and donated over 2,500 diapers to the Cromwell Diaper Bank.
- Cromwell Youth Services is working with Cromwell High School and School Resource Officer Pietraroia on a mock car crash event.
- Cromwell Youth Services and Cromwell Prevention and Awareness Council will present an adult youth vaping survey to collect data and gauge how to serve better the need for vaping education and prevention in Cromwell.
- There will be a Zoom presentation on March 20th at 7:00 PM about the impact legalization of cannabis has on youth and the community, presented by Ben Cort, public speaker and Author of Weed Inc.

c. Town Council – Paula Luna was not present. She provided the following information to the Youth Advisory Board:

- Construction has officially started at Cromwell Middle School.
- March Cromwell Town Department budget workshops are completed.
- Approval was granted to hire a prevention specialist to combat drug addiction, specifically the opioid crisis. Funding will come from the opioid settlement fund.

d. Police Department – Officer Pietraroia shared the following:

- A mock car crash will take place for Cromwell High School students at 10:00 am on April 23. A student assembly will follow. The event would include the involvement of student actors, local EMS, Life Star, and a local funeral home. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will provide the assembly to students after the mock crash and a parent informational assembly on April 22. Officer Pietraroia credits Sarah for her knowledge and organization of the event in partnership with himself and the school.
- The CHS Career Expo took place on March 19 and was well received by students.
- Officer Pietraroia provided a presentation on vaping at the most recent CMS PTO meeting. Sarah provided materials for him to hand out.
- Officer Pietraroia will be presenting about social media safety at the ECS/WIS PTO meeting on April 25.
- The D.A.R.E program is on week four and going well.
- The Cromwell Police Department received its Tier One Accreditation.
- The CPD Easter Bunny Meet and Greet will take place at the Cromwell Library on March 23.
- The CPD t-shirt fundraiser is in progress. T-shirts are \$20 and can be purchased at the Cromwell Police Department.
- There are plans to add a second School Resource Officer in the Fall of 2024.

e. Youth Report:

- Gayle asked Hailey on the progress of the bike rack letter discussed at the February Youth Advisory Board meeting. Hailey is working on it.

8. CITIZEN REPORT- No reports were given.

9. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION -

- Maggie shared that the elevator at her apartment building is now working. She also

shared that her band played at the Cromwell Arts Alliance Coffee House event and they had a great turnout.

- Gayle shared that her son and his wife are expecting a baby, due in October.
- Suzanne shared that she is going to California for her birthday to be with her children and grandsons.
- Hailey shared that she is part of the Stage Crew for the CMS production of Little Mermaid Jr.
- Barbara shared that a Wesleyan University Student is producing a documentary about her and her book “Blessed Not Bitter: The Barbara McClane Journey”. She will be speaking at Middlesex Community College on April 1. Barbara shared about her book and her experiences the book is based on.

10. ADJOURN - A motion to adjourn was made by Suzanne Rutner at 7:27 pm. Seconded by Maggie Schufer.

Recording clerk, Jessica Zeedyk