

Youth Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 7th 2014

In Attendance: John, Danielle, Marge, Mary, Dick, Pat, Valerie, Carla, Jim, Molly, Anna, Frances Kraft, and Stephen Jackson.

Meeting called to order at 7:11 P.M.

At the time the meeting was called to order there was no quorum so March meeting minutes were not approved.

No public comments

Director's Report:

Peace Circles: There were 21 people trained over the winter and many of them have been active in the community doing a variety of circles. Stephen has been holding them at the Township offices and schools. John, Stephen, and Kelly O'Connor recently did two 90 minute circles at St. Luke's School with 5th grade boys and another with 5th grade girls. They both went very well and the school requested more circles in the future for youth in all grades. Frances Kraft and Ty Smith organized circles during a lock in at Holmes and John along with a few other peace circle trainees helped facilitate 6-8 circles with students and parents. Again, these circles went very well and there is hope for more to happen there in the future.

Stephen did a presentation at rotary regarding peace circles and that went well.

The discipline committee at the high school is talking about implementing circles as part of the discipline process instead of in school suspensions.

About 5 teenagers have been showing up to the early morning mentoring meetings on Fridays. One of them wrote a letter with proposed ideas about how to engage youth in mentoring in the community. Stephen sent over 40 letters to parents with a permission slip for alumni youth who were part of the YES! Program to help mentor peers.

There were a group of kinds sent through adjudication for a large party which had many high school and middle school in attendance. Some were sent to Face-It others to TIME, and others paid fines.

Oak Park Adjudication and the Township are discussing the possibility of the Township taking over teen adjudication for out of town offenders. It would likely start as a six month pilot and then be reviewed after that point.

The Intergovernmental Agreement is completed and reviewed by all parties and so far there are no questions. The signing ceremony is TBD.

Committee members asked questions about the Interventionist Team report- specifically about how sexting and drug use are becoming more prevalent with younger aged youth. Questions were presented about how to go about combating those issues, and what strategies work and are already in play.

Oak Park Liaison Report: Marge renewed her term with the youth services committee. Mary spoke about the board's work on the IGA and strategic planning goals. Both Youth & Senior Services Committees have vacancies.

River Forest Liaison Report: They are going into their 'Celebrating Seniors' Week with many senior activities and programs going on all week. They are working on their annual budget which should be done soon. They will be in the parade this year, for the first time in years. The bill to shut down the Township has been pulled, however they are still working through some pushback on that issue. They are holding a Q & A session on Tuesday evening open to the public about what the Township does, etc. Carla requested that John come present to River Forest board at some point regarding Peace Circles.

John suggested some type of Committee Retreat or gathering this summer. There was talk about when that could happen and what sort of format it would be in. Marge also talked about forming sub-committees about specific topics of interested and how that would help in the contracting process. This conversation was tabled but the committee wants to come back to it and discuss it further.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.