

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

A Regular Mayor's Youth Council Meeting was held on April 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Youth Council Member Na-Kowa Ryals called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Roll call was taken. Present were members Lydia Ragsdale, Janelle Lewis, Brody Bishop, Na-Kowa Ryals, and Hailey Dester. Matthew Goldfarb arrived at 6:04 PM. Mahi Nooka, Catherine Shell and Noah Ringeisen were not present.

Youth Mentors present: Mayor Melonie Bahr Monson, Sam Abrahani and Dr. Randy Stovall.

Staff present: City Clerk Ricardo Quinones.

The Invocation was led by Brody Bishop.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Na-Kowa Ryals turned the meeting over to Council Chair Matthew Goldfarb.

1. MINUTES

1.1 Approval of March 03, 2025 Mayor's Youth Council Minutes

Na-Kowa Ryals motioned to approve the March 03, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Brody Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

2. TOASTMASTERS

Mayor Monson recommended the Youth Council repeat the introductory speed round of Toastmaster due to Youth Council Chair Goldfarb not being present at the last meeting before continuing. The Youth Council Mentors reviewed observations made during the speed round and provided pointers on filler words and hand gestures. Each Youth Council Member then took turns speaking at the front in a timed-structured format.

Mayor Monson asked the Youth Council for their own observations during this second round. The Mentor's agreed that improvements had been made by the Youth Council.

For the next meetings Toastmaster exercise, the Youth Council Members will need to prepare a three-minute speech on a topic of their choosing.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1 Discussion/Next Steps: Positive Message Project

The Youth Council and Mentors separated the Positive Message Cards that have been collected for review. Cards not removed due to content will be brought to one of the eight distribution points.

About 320 collected cards were sorted in this session with more to come. The cards were bundled for the Council Members to distribute.

Mayor Monson advised the Council members to go with a parent or mentor, ask for the director of the organization. They should bring flyers to help explain the project and if they agree, give them the cards and ask them to give it to a resident when they need a pick-me-up of a kind word. Discussion followed about how they can get around to the distribution points and if rejected, how they can reallocate the cards.

A social media account is being made for the Youth Council - TBD.

Na-kowa Ryals motioned to close this item. Seconded by Hailey Dester. Motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Discussion of Volunteer Opportunities

The Youth Council discussed different volunteer opportunities.

Mayor Monson shared the KidsFest event hosted by Main Street Zephyrhills. She asked if the Youth Council could participate to make it better. The event will be on Saturday, June 21st. Mayor Monson advised that she would not be present for this event and that the Youth Council will work with their mentors on this. Chair Goldfarb asked about the ABC News spots on April 11, 2025 in the morning. Mayor Monson explained that she will be there along with City Staff, if the Youth Council is able, they can be present in their Council Shirts and she can ask if they can speak.

Discussion followed details on how they could contribute to the KidsFest event.

Na-Kowa mentioned her family cemetery business as a volunteer cleanup event.

Discussion followed regarding making a database for youth volunteers and how to best communicate with them.

Discussion followed regarding what games or things they can do to engage the kids at the KidsFest. Ideas for events at Veterans Park included; Open Mic Night, Brody Brain Quiz [beat the bishop]. For the record, the Youth Council donated \$10 to The Academy of Spectrum Diversity.

Council Chair Matthew Goldfarb asked for a vote to incorporate the Youth Council into KidsFest. The vote passed unanimously.

Dr. Stovall asked the Youth Council to think ahead about summer and what they might want to do. Discussion followed regarding availability.

3.3 Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items: May 5th @ 6:00pm - Items TBD

City Clerk reminded the Youth Council that the Chamber Dias will be under construction starting April 29, 2025. The next meeting will be held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of City Hall.

ADJOURN 7:18 PM

Submitted by Ricardo Quiñones