

## **Wauwatosa Youth Commission**

### **Report to the Community Affairs Committee of the City of Wauwatosa**

May 13, 2025 and Budget Committee in August 2025

#### **Mission of Wauwatosa Youth Commission**

- A. To act as an advisory body to the Common Council and the Mayor of Wauwatosa and to provide comment and recommendations on proposed policies and ordinances affecting youth.
- B. To encourage, develop and implement activities and services that promote a positive environment for youth in the City of Wauwatosa.
- C. To serve and represent a broad spectrum of youth from diverse backgrounds and all geographic areas of Wauwatosa.
- D. To report annually to the Mayor and the Common Council on the interests, needs and recommendations concerning matters that affect the youth of Wauwatosa.
- E. To cooperate and coordinate with other organizations that have in common the interests of Youth.

#### **Meetings:**

The Commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month, September-May.

- Youth and Adult Members meet at 6:15 PM -7:30 PM in the Lower Civic Center

#### **2023-2024 Goals for Commission Year and Progression (As presented to the Committee on April 28, 2024)**

- Continue to strengthen the relationship between the Wauwatosa Youth Commission and Executive Branch of Wauwatosa government (ex. Mayor, Alderperson and the Common Council, Mayor's Office and Staff). We would also like to partner with other City Commissions and Committees on projects in the upcoming year.

#### **Community and Promotion Events:**

- Birthday mailings to all identified Wauwatosa youth during the month of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to congratulate them and remind students to register to vote and for boys, register for the Selective Service duty
- Supported local high schools with donations to the theatre programs by purchasing Ad Space in the Playbills to promote the Youth Commission and possible membership in it.
- Continue Community Service and Outreach opportunities for youth of Wauwatosa. Members continue to look for service opportunities and events to increase the visibility of the Youth Commission.
- Continue to recruit youth and adult members for the Wauwatosa Youth Commission. The Youth Commission plans to reignite the member drive through acts of community service, public health initiatives, and word of mouth this upcoming year. We will have a table at the High School Registration days in August, 2023. We will also have an information table at the Incoming Freshman and Course Information nights at the High Schools in January, 2024.
- Revived again this year, from years prior to COVID shut down, we offered the opportunity to community members to nominate a youth who put forth outstanding volunteer effort in serving the Wauwatosa community. We had 2 nominations in late May of 2023, both were applicants with outstanding community volunteer efforts, and plaques were given to them on an individual basis. One young lady went off to college in Kansas and the other one, living in town, we invited to our May, 2024 meeting to congratulate her in person. (Their applications were

submitted in time, however we didn't receive them until after our May, 2023 meeting had passed due to a technical error). Pre-COVID, we always had a small ceremony with refreshments for our recipients and as a farewell to those members going off to college or leaving our membership. We had this ceremony this year at our May 8th, 2024 meeting and honored the young lady from 2023 and the young man from this year as our Volunteer Award recipients.

- Joined the Friends of County Grounds and Parks in helping with their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Story Book Walk in the park by donating funds to buy metal sign boards and helping them mount and laminate pages from 3 books in conjunction with the All City Read book choices. The sign boards were then installed in the park with 2 pages from each book inserted in the sign board. Each book will be displayed for a month at a time in the sign boards and then we'll help switch out the pages to the next book, and then for a third book. We plan to help with this again in the 2024 – 2025 Youth Commission year.
- We purchased a brick for the Veteran's War Memorial being constructed in Hart Park and will be working with the members of the Veteran's War Memorial committee to help research Veterans from past wars for their various War Kiosks at the park. We will also be a part of the dedication ceremony when the project is complete.
- We are participating in the upcoming Community Fair on June 14, 2024 to promote the Youth Commission and to learn what community members feel teens in Wauwatosa would benefit from having that they don't currently have available to them now.
- We are participating in the upcoming Community Fair on June 14, 2024 to promote the Youth Commission and to learn what community members feel teens in Wauwatosa would benefit from having that they don't currently have available to them now.
- We gained 5 Youth Members and no Adult Members in 2023 – 2024

#### **Guests in 2023 - 2024:**

Mark McNally, a representative for Mr. Johnathan Piel, from the Friends of County Grounds and Parks came to our December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting to explain what their groups mission was and ways we could help them attain their goals. We were told about the Story Book Walk and chose to get involved with that and support their mission.

School Superintendent, Dr. Demond Means, came to talk to us on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 about the 2075 Task Force and what their goals are and how they are attempting to develop a plan for the future of our schools.

Also on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Alex Kaleta from the Wauwatosa Veterans War Memorial Committee came to tell us more about the Memorial project to be built at Hart Park and ways we could be involved.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the Wauwatosa West High School APPSE (American Public Policy Special Emphasis class) Team came and gave their presentation to the Youth Commission so we could become better acquainted with and/or better understand what the group would be presenting and how they present their material at the National Competition in Washington D.C. at the end of April this year.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the APPSE Team from Wauwatosa East High School came and presented the topics they would be covering at the National Competition.

#### **2024 - 2025 Current Plans in Process and Achievements**

- Continue to strengthen the relationship between the Wauwatosa Youth Commission and Executive Branch of Wauwatosa government (ex. Mayor, Alderperson and the Common

Council, Mayor's Office and Staff). We would also like to partner with other City Commissions and Committees on projects in the upcoming year.

- We were appointed a new common council member this year, Andrew Meindl. We have worked with him to discuss communication ideas to the public as well as build connections for the events we worked to plan, such as Battle of the Bands.

#### Community and Promotion Events:

- Birthday mailings to all identified Wauwatosa youth during the month of their 18-birthday to congratulate them and remind students to register to vote and for boys, register for the Selective Service duty.
- Supported local high schools theatre programs by purchasing Ad Space in the Playbills to promote the Youth Commission and possible membership in it.
- Continue Community Service and Outreach opportunities for youth of Wauwatosa. Members continue to look for service opportunities and events to increase the visibility of the Youth Commission.
- Participated in the Community Fair on June 14, 2024 to promote the Youth Commission and plan to learn what community members feel teens in Wauwatosa would benefit from having that they don't currently have available to them now.
- Continued to recruit youth and adult members for the Wauwatosa Youth Commission. The Youth Commission plans to reignite the member drive through acts of community service, public health initiatives, and word of mouth this upcoming year. We had an information table at the Incoming Freshman and Course Information nights at the High Schools in January, 2025. We will have a table at the High School Registration days in August, 2025.
- On Saturday, October 19, Wauwatosa Youth Commission members participated in the Trunk or Treat event hosted by the Wauwatosa Rec Department, building community relations, decorating a trunk and handing out candy.
- In December 2024, we offered the opportunity to community members to nominate a youth who put forth outstanding volunteer effort in serving the Wauwatosa community. We had 5 nominations, all worthy of the Award Recognition. At our May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, we will have the Volunteer Award ceremony prior to our meeting and honor the 5 Youth as our 2024 - 2025 Volunteer Award recipients, followed by a brief reception.
- Joined the Friends of County Grounds and Parks in helping with their 3rd Annual Story Book Walk in the park by donating funds for sign board supplies and helping them mount and laminate pages from 5 books in conjunction with the All City Read book choices. The sign boards were then installed in the park with pages from each book inserted in the sign board. Each book will be displayed for a month at a time in the sign boards and then we'll help switch out the pages to the next book, and then for a third book and so on. We plan to help with this again in the 2025 – 2026 Youth Commission year.
- Purchased a brick for the Veteran's War Memorial being constructed in Hart Park and will be working with the members of the Veteran's War Memorial committee to help research Veterans from past wars for their various War Kiosks at the park. We will also be a part of the dedication ceremony when the project is complete.
- Gave \$100 each to the Wauwatosa East and Wauwatosa West APPSE teams to be put towards their competition and travel expenses for the National competition. This was a donation to them and publicity for our Commission.
- We used info learned from the survey questions we had at the Community Fair to decide to try to hold a Band Concert or Battle of the Bands Event in the Spring of 2025. Much work was done to plan the event this year, however when the time came to line the bands up, we were not able to

find enough bands that could by perform on the date we reserved the Rotary Stage at Hart Park, so the event didn't happen. However; the process and information we learned from planning the event, may be used this upcoming year to plan another type of event.

- An electronic survey was developed and sent out to public and private schools this past April for the Youth residents of Wauwatosa to give input on a more detailed survey asking for services or events they would like to see available to them in Wauwatosa. We have well over 70 survey responses, which will be reviewed at our May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting to begin planning for next year.
- We gained 7 Youth Members and no Adult Members in 2024 – 2025. In addition, one Youth renewed their membership term.

#### **Guests in 2024 - 2025:**

Ms. Sarah Grimalkin presented regarding Wauwatosa's Park and Open Space Plan on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 24. The Youth Commission members were encouraged to share ideas regarding youth needs in Wauwatosa spaces.

Mr. Johnathan Piel, from the Friends of County Grounds and Parks came to our March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting to assemble the book sign boards for the kick off month of this years Story Book Walk at the County Grounds Park. The sign board assembly occurred at 5:30 PM, prior to our business meeting.

#### **2024-2025 Goals and 2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget**

	2024– 2025 Expense	2025 - 2026 Proposed Exp.
• Continue to recruit youth and adult members for the Wauwatosa Youth Commission (membership post cards w/new logo & QR code)	\$ ----.--	\$ 80.00
• Update Coroplast Sign Board Contact Information	\$ ----.--	\$ none
• Continue Birthday mailings to all identified Wauwatosa youth during the month of their 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday to congratulate them and remind students to register to vote and Selective Service duty	\$ 850.00 estimate	\$ 850.00 estimate
• Plaques for 2 Community Volunteer Recipients (38.00 ea)	\$ 190.00	\$ 240.00
• Purchased Program/Playbill Ad Space in Tosa East High School And Tosa West High School Theatre Programs (Fall & Spring Productions)	\$ 350.00	\$ 700.00
• Continue to present community service awards in May 2025 (Reception costs) to students from Tosa	\$ 176.04	\$ 200.00
• Purchase more Youth Commission T-Shirts with updated logo	\$ -----.--	\$ -----.--
• Purchase a Memorial Brick in the Veteran's Memorial Walk	\$ 200.00	\$ -----.--
• Purchase sign boards @ 40.00ea/book for FOCGP Story Book Walk	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
• Tosa East & Tosa West APPSE Team Donation (Publicity)	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
• Total =	\$2,066.04	\$2,370.00