

## **Wauwatosa Youth Commission**

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

April 25, 2023 and Budget Committee in August 2023

#### **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 now meet at 6:15 PM -7:30 PM in the Lower Civic Center
- In March of 2020, our meetings were put on hold due to the pandemic and other circumstances occurring in the City beyond our control. Our first meeting was one year later on February 12, 2021 and it was a Zoom meeting which continued through our Commission year 2021-2022.
- This year, Commission year 2022 – 2023, was when we resumed meeting in person (initially in the Upper Civic Center and then beginning in April 2023, we moved to the Lower Level Civic Center).

#### **2021-2022 Goals for Commission Year and Progression (As presented to the Committee on March 29, 2022)**

- Continue to strengthen the relationship between the Wauwatosa Youth Commission and Executive Branch of Wauwatosa government (ex. Mayor, Alderperson, Mayor's Office and Staff).
- 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.
- Implement the findings of the School District's Youth Perception Survey. The Youth Commission was able to advocate for 5 additional questions to be placed on the School District's Youth Perception Survey the prior year, we were finally able to see the efforts come to fruition once the results from the October 2020 survey came to publication in March of 2021. However, due to concerns about the mental health of students because of the challenges over the past year, the commission will continue to work towards achieving a greater focus on the needs of our community in this area in 2021 – 2022. More information on this initiative to be provided in the section below.

As a result of the findings for the 5 questions the Youth Commission created for the Youth At Risk Perception Survey, we developed a flyer listing Mental Health Resources and Coping Skills which were distributed electronically in an Eblast to all the School Families by the School District in May of 2021 and were placed on the City Health Department's website. Hard copies of the flyers were hung on the inside of doors of bathroom stalls in the Middle Schools and High Schools as well as in doctor's offices, the City Community Bulletin Board, resource shelf in the Public Library and Health Department and coffee shop bulletin boards when the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

- 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 as permitted with COVID-19 precautions in place.
- Continue to offer recreation events to youth of Wauwatosa. We look forward to being able to Resume our efforts to encourage the youth in Wauwatosa to experience community events in 2020 – 2021 as possible with following CDC guidelines and social distancing.
- Continue to recruit youth and adult members for the Wauwatosa Youth Commission. This past year has been challenging on this front. Former means of being able to recruit new members were put on hold due to the pandemic. The Youth Commission plans to reignite the member drive through acts of community service, public health initiatives, and word of mouth this upcoming year.
- Participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade with an auto displaying the Youth Commission's Name and distributing candy to children watching the parade to bring awareness of The Youth Commission
- Supported local high schools with donations to the theatre programs and APPSE Teams as a way to advertise the Youth Commission and possible membership. We will participate in the City's first Tosa Takes the Trash Day on April 30, 2022.
- We gained 2 Adult Member and 5 Youth Members in 2021 – 2022

2021 – 2022 Guests/Presenters:

We had Officer Andy Yothesakda, Tosa East High School School Resource Officer as a guest speaker, and our Ex-Officio Member, Officer Dan Kane give a presentation on Bullying, focusing mainly on Cyber Bullying. The presentation was on December 8, 2021 during our Zoom meeting which gave the Youth ideas of how to manage this issue of concern they wanted to address this year.

### **2022 - 2023 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.
- The Youth felt many other groups were focusing on ways of providing information to reduce Bullying and Cyber Bullying in the schools and community, so they decided to concentrate on re-distributing the informational flyer they had created in May of 2021 addressing Mental Health Resources and Ways to Reduce Stress and list of coping skills. School District Representative, Emilie O'Connor, (Director of Student Success) helped by resending the flyer in a district wide eblast message to families and posting the flyers in the Middle Schools and High Schools bathroom stalls again.

#### 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.
- The Youth planned to Participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade with an auto displaying the Youth Commission's Name and distributing candy to children watching the parade to bring awareness of The Youth Commission. Unfortunately, the logistics of this idea proved to be something they were unable to carry out.
- 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.
- We plan to participate in a food collection/distribution event in October, 2023 in conjunction with the Tosa Cares Food Pantry and possibly again in the Spring.
- Continue to recruit youth and adult members for the Wauwatosa Youth Commission. This past year has been challenging on this front. Former means of being able to recruit new members were put on hold due to the pandemic. 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 also had an information table at the Incoming Freshman and Course Information nights at the High Schools in January.
- Revived 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 didn't have any nominations this year and hope to promote this Award earlier next year, beginning in December 2023.
- We gained 2 Adult Member and 3 Youth Members in 2022 – 2023 (and unfortunately, lost 1 Adult Member)

#### Guests in 2022 - 2023:

Mrs. Eva Ennamorato, Wauwatosa City Communications Manager, came to our December 14<sup>th</sup>, meeting to discuss ways and venues the Youth Commission could use to promote our Commission and stay within the Open Meeting Laws in doing so.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 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.

**2022-2023 Goals and 2023 – 2024 Proposed Budget**

	2022 – 2023 <u>Expense</u>	2023 - 2024 <u>Proposed Exp.</u>
• Stay in touch with the School District Director of Secondary Education for results to the 5 questions we created and the School District added to the Youth Perception Survey (replenish our flyers)	\$ 85.00	\$ 100.00
• Keep an active role in Tosa Takes out the Trash Day	\$ none	\$ none
• 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade	\$ none	\$ none
• Trunk or Treat	\$none	\$ none
• Continue to recruit youth and adult members for the Wauwatosa Youth Commission (membership post cards)	\$ 80.00	\$ 100.00
• Update Coroplast Sign Board Contact Information	\$ 85.00	\$ 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	\$750.00	\$ 800.00
• Purchased Program/Playbill Ad Space in Tosa East High School And Tosa West High School Theatre Programs (Fall & Spring Productions)	\$ 590.00	\$ 650.00
• Continue to present community service awards in May 2024 to students from Wauwatosa that volunteer to serve our community. (Put this on hold until January of 2022 due to pandemic and timing of needing to start preparing before we could hold meeting).	\$ none	\$1,000.00
• Create an idea/s of how to use our carry over balance of over \$6,000 (?) and carry the plan out	\$ none	\$2,000.00
• Purchase more Youth Commission T-Shirts	<u>\$ 400.00</u>	<u>\$ 400.00</u>
•	Total =	\$1,905.00 \$5,050.00