

Youth Services Committee Meeting  
October 5th 2016

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:01 PM

**In attendance:** John Williams, Anna S., Keith, B., Cal D., George B., Ashley S., Marge T., Willie M., Brenan S.

Anna motions to approve June's meeting notes, Marge seconds

**Public Comments:** None

**Director's Report:**

Due to contract changes, Hephzibah will no longer be working with Steckman Studios. Melissa Potrawski, an OP Youth Interventionist, will be leaving her position at the end of the month. The job posting has been listed on the Oak Park Township website and will be added to several other job sites in the coming weeks. Interest in Cargo Circles is gaining. Eight resident beat cops are interested in learning more and John is in the process of creating a training module for Cargo Circles. Brooks Middle School is asking for 70 staff members to be trained so John would like to allocate funds towards this. Tianna and Princess, our intern from Aurora University, will be doing group work at Brooks as well.

Hephzibah is starting a new mentoring program where they will be hiring former foster kids to act as mentors. John would like to allocate funds to them to help train teens to be Cargo Circle Facilitators who can then lead other groups in the schools and in the community. Brenan motions to allocate no less than \$4,000 and no more than \$8,000 to form a Hephzibah Mentoring Program. Molly seconds and the motion passes unanimously.

**Liaison Reports (brief summary of OP & RF Reports):**

**Oak Park Liaison unable to attend so no report was given.**

**River Forest:**

River Forest Committee member Jane Hastings will be resigning from her position on the committee effective November 1 so a search for a replacement has begun. There have been 2 sessions of Sibshops so far and they have been well received. Township day at both the Oak Park and River Forest Townships was a success. Rotary and the Village of Oak Park have both donated money towards a Community Needs Assessment, something they have not been able to conduct for a while. IMP.A.C.T. is launching a new ad campaign surrounding the riskiness of marijuana use that will be posted around OPRFHS. Content came from student focus groups. HYPE, a group of students dedicated to a substance free school played a large role in putting this campaign together.

## **New Business:**

### Robotics Camp Presentation:

Dr. Victor Govindaswamy, Joe B. and Rhonda B. from Concordia's Robotics program came to thank the committee for its continued support. They also did a presentation and Q&A session with members about the success of the summer camp and the goals they have for future camps. Dr. G.'s mission for the camp is simple; he looks to bring middle – High School aged students who are attracted to STEM and nurture that interest. The program started out with 12-15 kids last year and grew to a total enrollment of 51 for this past summer. Dr. G. was determined not to turn away any students so the camp was broken up into 2 different sessions. The robotics camp was very grateful for CUC stepping in to help provide money for the additional camp. Joe, an undergrad Senior at Concordia and Mentor, shared his experience working with Dr. G and acting as a mentor to the students enrolled in the program. Rhonda expressed how grateful she was for the program and how much her son learned and enjoyed his time at camp. Overall, the program helped create great relationships between the mentors and their students and everyone involved looks forward to future camps.

After seeing the presentation, the committee concluded that they would like to invite more program administrators to present information about their programs before we move into the next funding cycle.

## **Old Business:**

The idea of a retreat has been put on hold for now. Committee members really liked the idea of inviting more programs to attend meetings and present information. Until they have had the opportunity to see more of those, they have put the retreat on hold.

**Meeting Adjourned at: 9:43 PM**