

SUMMARY MINUTES

ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS YOUTH COUNCIL ORIENTATIONAL MEETING

December 5, 2023

The meeting started at 4:05p.m. at the Founders Park Community Center.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Riley Cooper, Corben Dean, RJ Dube, Allegra Fucaraccio, Kai Guth, Zane Rindom, Julia Rusch, Ambrose Sanchez, Abbie Sargent, Nathaniel Shugarman, and Anne Onsgard – Youth Council Liaison (IVOI).

ABSENT: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Youth Council Liaison Anne Onsgard asked RJ Dube to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMERGENCY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None

ANNUAL COMMITTEE CHAIR ELECTIONS:

Anne reminded the group of the committee position responsibilities including official representative and ceremonial head of the Youth Council, preparing and giving reports to Village Council, keeping meetings in order, taking the lead in helping the committee stay organized with events and activities. The floor was opened for campaigning.

Abbie Sargent shared that she served as Vice Chair last term and has been on the Youth Council has been serving for three years; with her experience and motivation she wishes to be considered for the Chair position. Riley Cooper motioned to nominate Abbie Sargent for the Youth Council Chair; Allegra Fucaraccio seconded the motion. Motion passed (10-0).

Zane Rindom expressed his interest in the Vice Chair position, he feels he would be a dutiful and helpful assistant to the Youth Council Chair, he is a team player, he also has three years of experience on the committee and with events and activities. Ambrose Sanchez made a motion to nominate Zane Rindom for Vice-Chair, RJ Dube seconded the motion. Motion passed (10-0).

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Abbie Sargent motioned to approve the minutes from October 7, 2023. Kai Guth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (10-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

GUEST SPEAKER & COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Peter Frezza, Village Environmental Resource Manager explained his position and responsibilities including handling nearshore water quality issues that arise, water quality monitoring and residential canal restoration (Village and Monroe County). He is also involved in marine resource issues, nearshore water regulations and land acquisition for conservation purposes. He is responsible for the management plans for these mentioned properties including invasive species management. He then explained his role in working on the issues caused by sea level rise and his involvement in planning/development environmental reviews. He explained the unique regulations due to our town being an “area of critical concern”.

He expressed his passion for the trees and explained the unique native plants and how they arrived and thrive in our tropical environments. In efforts for conservation, the Village monitors as well as studies growth and loss of hardwood hammock (70 % loss in the Village due to development) and then plans for mitigation (planting new trees where feasible). He explained the importance of these trees including the obvious producing oxygen, storing carbon dioxide, shore protection from storms and flooding, and providing habitat for our unique wildlife and ecology.

This led Peter to his idea for a planting project for community service, specifically he proposed it would be most appropriate to be conducted at Coral Shores High School. There is a great opportunity to plant native trees, lots of space for and unfortunately when the school was renovated, non-native plants were installed. He recommended that the group consider and that he would be available to assist in as little or as much as possible. The Village may be able to fund and event help with landscaping if the school approves. The committee discussed and the consensus was in support of the project idea. Several members mentioned that Mrs. Rosenow, an environmental teacher at Coral Shores, would be a good contact. Committee Chair- Abbie Sargent agreed to contact the school to initiate this process and project. The Village will also help explore the path to move forward with this project.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DETAILS:

Anne explained the upcoming community service opportunities including the Beats on the Bay ~ Family Friendly New Year’s Celebration & Laser Show. Members were assigned for set up and event operations (bounce houses, kids crafts, concessions, etc.) 4:00-10:00pm.

Members discussed teen event activities and developed plans for the Teen Night Out Beach Bonfire and Movie event to be held January 19th at Founders Park for teens in 6th grade and up. Members were welcome to enjoy the events but would also be needed for set up and operations. Community service hours would be awarded for volunteer commitments. The consensus was in support of the proposed teens events: Pickleball Party (for high school aged teens) for February, flashlight egg hunt (grades 6th & up) for March, and finally an event for April or May to be considered at a later date due to school event conflicts.

LEADERSHIP ASSIGNMENT:

The members discussed the idea of a “Lunch & Learn” event with Village Council members providing an opportunity to learn more about our local government, discuss issues and possible solutions, and provide youth input. The consensus of the committee was to move forward with the event idea (to be determined for February or March). Members were assigned to each draft two questions they would like to ask Village Council Members to discuss at the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Teen Programs & Projects
Leadership Activities

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting date is to be determined for January 2024. The meeting ended at 5:01p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Anne Onsgard
Recording Secretary

Youth Council Chair

Approved on: _____