

SUMMARY MINUTES

ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS YOUTH COUNCIL ORIENTATIONAL MEETING

March 1, 2023

Meeting started at 4:08 p.m. at the Founders Park Community Center.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Riley Cooper, R.J. Dube, Kai Guth, Abbie Sargent, Olivia Sargent, Corley Smith, Caroline Waterman (IVOI), Anne Onsgard – Youth Council Liaison (IVOI).

ABSENT: Kaitlyn Dickerson, Zane Rindom, Ambrose Sanchez, Simon Gutierrez, justified.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Youth Council Chair Riley Cooper asked RJ Dube to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMERGENCY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:

Guest Speaker, Executive Assistant to the Village Manager & Public Relations Specialist, Amanda Merrin was not able to attend today's meeting due to an unexpected conflict.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Olivia Sargent motioned to approve the minutes from January 17, 2023. Abbie Sargent seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

YOUTH COUNCIL PROMOTIONAL VIDEO:

Anne presented the final production of the Islamorada Youth Council promotional video, produced and filmed by the present members. She congratulated them on their accomplishment of this goal and the video quality. The new promotional video will be posted to all Village platforms for public display.

VILLAGE OF ISLAMORADA'S NEW NO SMOKING INITIATIVE & YOUTH COUNCIL CAMPAIGN:

Anne informed the committee of the latest Village of Islamorada No Smoking Campaign. Cities across America are working hard to eliminate cigarette waste. She informed them of Village Ordinance No. 2206 amending the Village Code section 50 Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Public Places, to prohibit Smoking at Public Parks and Beaches as following the recent enactment by the State, House Bill 105 which amends the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act to allow county and municipalities to restrict smoking within the boundaries of any Public beach or park except unfiltered cigars. She further explained and reminded them that the Code is our cities' laws.

The group then reviewed the Village's No Smoking Brochure and other various resources provided by NOAA regarding cigarette waste. Unfortunately, the common misconception with cigarettes are that they are made up of natural organic materials, but they are actually made up of

man-made plastic fibers called cellulose acetate. Each year 4.5 trillion cigarette butts pollute our environment, and are the #1 most littered item in our streets and waterways. There are 15,000 strands of plastic in just one cigarette butt. Over 100,000 marine animals die annually due to plastic ingestion. It can take up to 400 years for a cigarette butt to degrade in saltwater, but this doesn't mean that it disappears; the plastic fibers from the filter remain as microplastic in the ocean. They are also toxic to the environment including fish, water fleas, and marine bacteria and the main reason we need to take steps to reduce litter.

Anne expressed that she and Amanda felt this would be a great topic for the Youth Council and for them to consider creating a Public Service Announcement regarding the campaign to educate the public on this issue. The group also reviewed some example projects from the University of Toronto's trash team and their initiative titled "Kicking Plastic's Butt" (<https://uofttrashteam.ca/cigarettebutts/>).

The consensus was in support of the PSA and the group discussed using the brochure as the outline, filming to be scheduled during the next meeting and production by Carlos G. (the Village's Social Media Specialist).

COMMUNITY SERVICE DETAILS:

The committee discussed the possibility of a Youth Council sponsored clean up event before Summer as a community service project and with the goal of eliminating cigarette butts. Ideas included competitions for most cigarette butts collected, incentives for participating such as custom water bottles, etc. The consensus of the committee was to further explore this opportunity and provide a date.

Anne presented information on Marathon Youth Leadership Club's "Champions for Change" and the group reviewed their anti-drug campaigns for reference and to consider more Youth Council campaigns regarding anti-drug and bullying. The members agreed to consider future production.

Anne explained the upcoming community service opportunities at Bay Jam to be held Sunday, March 19th, including assistance with concessions. Also, the Annual Spring Fest Egg Hunt event is to be held on Saturday, April 8th. Tasks will include event set up/break down of activities, guarding egg zones, bounce house attendants, "hopstacle" course, craft table and concessions booth. The members confirmed their commitment to assisting at the events for community service.

TEEN EVENTS:

The committee discussed ideas for potential teen events. Anne reported that the Drive in Teen event was explored, but not approved for this year due to budget and logistics. Caroline presented the idea of a movie night to be held on the beach or a "manhunt" game event. The members were open to the ideas and asked staff to further explore dates and details.

Anne informed the group that herself and the Parks & Recreation Director met with the Monroe County Parks and Beaches Director, John Allen and received an update on the County's efforts to obtain the old Plantation Key courthouse building for a Senior and Teen Center for the upper keys. Teen activities may include a rock-climbing wall. We will

continue to receive updates and may bring before the Youth Council for potential ideas and recommendations for the Village Council.

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY:

Caroline presented the resume challenge including a review of a resume template, guidelines, and tips for creating. She mentioned that resumes are totally customizable and there is no one template preferred by employers. Google and Word are both great resources. Other tips included: keep it short and direct, one page is preferred, and to put on information useful for the job in which you are applying for. Describe qualities and experience such as sports if the skills can relate to the position. She also recommended using buzz-words (certifications and characteristics listed in the job description). The group was then tasked to review the current Park positions and to create a mock resume for one of the three positions (Facility Attendant, Lifeguards, and Camp Counselors) to be reviewed at our next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Youth Council PSA
Teen Programs & Environmental Projects
Leadership Activities- Resumes

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting date is to be determined for April 2023. Olivia Sargent motioned to adjourn. Ambrose Sanchez seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 5:09 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Anne Onsgard
Recording Secretary

Riley Cooper
Youth Council Chair

Approved on: _____