

SUMMARY MINUTES

ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS YOUTH COUNCIL ORIENTATIONAL MEETING

October 7, 2023

Meeting started at 10:03 a.m. at the Founders Park Community Center.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Corben Dean, Allegra Fucaraccio, Kai Guth, Zane Rindom, Julia Rusch, Ambrose Sanchez, Nathaniel Shugarman, Caroline Waterman, IVOI- Youth Council Coordinator, and Anne Onsgard – Youth Council Liaison (IVOI).

ABSENT: Riley Cooper, RJ Dube, and Abbie Sargent – all justified.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Youth Council Liaison Anne Onsgard asked Ambrose Sanchez to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS & REVIEW OF MEETING PROCEDURES, SUNSHINE LAWS, & COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

The meeting began with brief introductions of the members and welcoming new members Corben Dean, Allegra Fucaraccio, Julia Rusch, and Nathaniel Shugarman. Anne explained meeting conduct and procedures including Agendas, Chair & Vice Chair responsibilities, quorum requirements, committee duties and responsibilities and actions as outlined on Reso No. 19-08-52. She also explained and quizzed the members on “Government Under the Sunshine,” Florida government laws.

EMERGENCY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:

The annual committee chair elections were moved to the next meeting due to the current minimal attendance, also providing new members some time to consider the leadership positions.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Allegra Fucarracio motioned to approve the minutes from April 6, 2023. Nathaniel Shugarman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mayor Buddy Pinder introduced himself as a long-standing resident and Coral Shores High School graduate, he then explained his experience and position on the Village Council. He explained the importance of relationships in the community and considering the perspectives of others; being able to hear everyone’s points and coming together to make decisions. He explained that he is very active in the Florida League of Cities and Florida

League of Mayors and his time building relationships with other County Commissioners and State Legislatures. The connections and networking have been valuable resources as there are other cities who have experience in the issues we face and being able to bounce ideas and not have to “recreate the wheel”. He shared that he is also involved in other state government projects such as the Rails to Trails Project, the mission to protect our resources and make them available for everyone to enjoy in a safe and protected environment. He recommended to anyone in politics to pick something you are passionate about and focus on that, be sure to not spread yourself too thin. He is passionate about this community and wanted to make a difference for now and future generations.

He recommended the Youth Council participate in the Florida Legislative Days and other leadership programs of the Florida League of Cities. Anne mentioned that she would investigate that option and explained that the group does participate in the annual Youth Council Summit when it is available in Fort Lauderdale. He finished with a brief explanation of the Council/Manager government of Islamorada for educational purposes. Anne followed up with the thoughts that this group will focus on teen issues, but also the goal is to learn more about our government services and the complex issues of our overall community. Mr. Pinder highly recommends the Leadership Monroe program and the many other opportunities that come when you get involved with your community!

COMMITTEE REPORT, GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

Anne Onsgard provided a power point presentation for the report to the group including all activities and accomplishments of the committee for these past two years (2021-22 & 2022-23). (Written report of activities attached)

The consensus of the committee was to consider new and ongoing teen programs, other environmental activities and community services projects, the annual Florida League of Cities Conference (Youth Council Summit), FLOC competitions, and any other additional youth civic engagement and leadership activities.

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES VIDEO COMPETITION:

Anne introduced Carlos Garcia with *Attention Media* who will be available to assist us through out the year with digital media such as the video competition or other anti-drug or anti-bullying PSAs by the Youth Council. He explained the Village’s digital marketing plan for community outreach and his involvement with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department, Monroe County Early Learning Coalition, and the Florida League of Cities.

The video competition aims to provide youth councils to showcase their ideas, creativity, and commitment to their communities. This year’s competition asks councils, “What makes your city, town, or village great?” Within the video we need to address the following questions:

- 1) What makes your city, town, or village special?
- 2) What does your city, town, or village offer its residents, businesses, or visitors?
- 3) How does your Youth Council make your city, town, or village great?

Videos must be no more than 5 minutes long answering the above questions, along with a written response and recommendation from our Village Council.

The committee discussed the opportunity to participate and developed the following outline and tasked members:

Question 1 –

- Focus on Keys history, and uniqueness of our environment (ancient coral reef): Corben & Nathaniel
- Small town, tight knit community: Kai, Allegra, and Julia

Question 2 – Keys industry and recreation, being the “sportsfishing capital of the world”: Zane and Ambrose

Question 3 – Youth Council commitment to community and accomplishments: RJ, Abbie, & Riley

The committee statements will be due by October 17th for staff to assist in developing scripts for a tentative filming date of October 28th to meet the competition deadline of November 10th.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DETAILS:

Anne explained the upcoming community service opportunities at the Annual Trunk or Treat Halloween Party event on Saturday, October 21st. Members were assigned for set up 10:00am-2:00pm and then event operations (bounce houses, pumpkin coloring, costume contest, haunted laboratory feature, haunted hayride, etc.) 6:00-10:00pm.

TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY:

The members participated in a “Human Knot” exercise where they joined hands cross wise and must work as a team to get untangled. This served as an icebreaker and team bonding session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Youth Council Video
Teen Programs & Projects
Leadership Activities

ADJOURNMENT:

Due to member availability, the next meeting date is to be determined for November 2023. The meeting ended at 12:03p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Anne Onsgard
Recording Secretary

Youth Council Chair

Approved on: _____