M I N U T E S
Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 16, 2010

McMaster University Centre for Continuing Education, Downtown Centre
50 Main St E. 2nd Floor, Room # 234
4:45 – 7:30 p.m.

Present: Goce Dimitrioski, Fan Yang, Michelle Leach
Katrina Schotsman, Anda Wang, Fatime Sadeq

Absent with
Regrets: Ben Konyi, Tahiya Bakht, Aman-Preet, Matt Terry

Also Present: Philip Homerski, Corey Beaudoin, René Reid,
Mark Weingartner, Edward Lee, Mihai (?), Paula Hearn, Nenad
Radivojsa, Bogdan Pinzaru

1. INTRODUCTION & ICE-BREAKER

1.1 General information about HYAC (Goce)
Goce provided a brief introduction to the Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee for the guests at this meeting.

1.2 Brief ice breaker game (Fan)
Fan facilitated a simple ice breaker for the group called “Apples, Watermelons, and Onions”. We went around the group and shared something from our individual day that was an apple (something good), a watermelon (something so so) and an onion (something that wasn’t very good).

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

5.2 René requested time to show the video she created based on video and still images she captured while attending the Unfilteredfacts Summit in November 2009 with members of HYAC.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None
4.  GUEST PRESENTATION

4.1 Mr. Philip A. Homerski, Information and Business Advisor from the City of Hamilton Public Works Department, provided background to the role of Public Works as being leaders in Environmental Stewardship and City Beautification i.e. Adopt-a-Road program, median flower beds and tree planting etc., all in an effort to take the edge off the urban landscape. We also learned Hamilton is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and Hamilton submits regular reports to this organization regarding environmental and beautification initiatives undertaken. Goal for this year and beyond is to engage a wider community of businesses in dealing with the issues and challenges regarding littering, dumping and unlawful graffiti. Phil shared information about the upcoming ‘Tim Horton’s Team-up to Clean-up’ campaign happening April 19-25, ‘10. Previous city-wide initiatives involved 20-30 thousand engaged citizens from area schools, churches and community groups. Another aim is to engage youth in sustained efforts towards the beautification of Hamilton especially by and beyond 2015. One area of particular focus is on illegal graffiti, graffiti clean-up and management. Though illegal graffiti if part of the fabric of urban society, it results in a high-cost to Hamilton tax-payers. Phil provided insights on the American ‘Broken Window Theory’ and how it applies to urban areas in particular. Phil would value HYAC’s leadership, participation an input on the Graffiti Master Plan/Task Force. HYAC is also invited to set an example and challenge other community youth during the Tim Horton’s Team-up to Clean-up campaign. Participants, either individually or in groups, choose an area of the City to clean-up and register on-line. Participants will receive gloves, orange-coloured trash bags, clear bags for items that can be recycled and specially designed ‘Graffiti Wipes’ with which to tackle the trash. HYAC will discuss their involvement with this initiative.

5.  PRESENTATION

5.1 Youth Poverty & Homelessness Project (Goce & Katie)

Fan and Katie shared the Youth Poverty and Homelessness presentation with the group. Comments overall were positive, though the group stressed the need to ensure those presenting are thoroughly knowledgeable about the content and the need for more practice.

5.2 René presented the UnfilteredFacts video. Response by those in attendance was very favourable.

6.  DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 HYAC Website and Logo status update

René updated the group about the meeting she and Mark had with Sue from Fpm3 and the minor revisions that are being made to the website concepts based on youth feedback. Once the final concepts are received, René will send it out to the group via email for further comment.
6.2 Meeting and workgroup times and locations *(Goce)*

Regular and sustained attendance of HYAC members has been a challenge. A discussion took place about the usefulness of the monthly calendars scheduled work group nights and low meeting attendance etc. Ultimately, the group agreed they find the calendars useful and want to continue to meet on Tuesday evenings to work on HYAC-related tasks. It was also highlighted communication among group members needs to occur more frequently and in a timely manner. Goce stressed the need to check emails daily!

6.3 HYAC’s plans for 2010 *(Goce)*

A discussion took place regarding HYAC’s plans for 2010. The highlights of this discussion include:

- Michelle put forward that we work on the Tim Horton’s Team-up to Clean-up event and beautification initiatives. This motion was seconded by Katie. All members voted in favour *(carried)*.
- Goce motioned HYAC host a Mayoral Candidates debate for youth. Katie seconded the motion and all members voted in favour *(carried)*.

Other discussion items included:

- Exploring various collaborative opportunities,
- Goce presented various ideas and findings from McMaster blog, and the ‘Pop-the-McMaster-Bubble’ initiative.
- Recreational access for youth (Corey & Paula talked about fee structures and the availability of subsidies),
- Input on recreational needs for specific neighbourhoods (Eddie Lee provided info about the Public Consultation meetings that are advertised, though not necessarily targeted to youth to get their input), perhaps this is a report HYAC could take forward?
- Goce talked about the need to provide info about the Public Consults to youth in the community
- Goce suggested having an info night, when key player are invited to address various community issues
- Eddie Lee suggested taking that idea further by considering HYAC’s sponsoring of a Mayoral Candidates debate/Q&A night by youth for youth.
- As we had quorum of HYAC members at this meeting, René encouraged the group to vote on their goals for the year at this time rather than wait until next month.

7. **EVENT/WORKSHOP/COLLABORATION UPDATES**

7.1 Leadership Quest 2010 *(René & Katie)*
René and Katie are the only ones from HYAC now attending Leadership Quest. Planning for this collaborative event with HCAAT is almost complete.
7.2 Influencing Public Policy Training *(René)*
René updated the group on the HYAC-hosted training, ‘Influencing Public Policy’, taking place Saturday, February 20th at this location. Currently, there are 4 of 9 HYAC members (Goce, Fan, Katie and Tahiya) who have registered and another 8 youth from the community.

7.3 HYAC at Soupfest VIII *(Goce, René, and Katie)*
Goce and Katie shared their experience and impressions of SoupFest 8. The youth agreed it was a simple way to help support community initiatives that aid youth who are experiencing poverty and or homelessness.

7.4 Successful Solutions for Healthy and Child-Friendly Communities Exhibit *(Eddie)*
– deferred.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Approval of minutes of previous meeting *(Fan)*
Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated Tuesday January 19, 2009, were approved as presented. *(Dimitrioski /Yang)*

8.2 Meeting evaluation and feedback *(René)*

9. ADJOURNMENT

*(Yang/Schotsman)*
- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

CARRIED