



# Hamilton

## **HAMILTON YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

Tuesday November 13, 2007

Hamilton Public Library – Central Branch

Dundas Room

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** James Buffett, Cassie Bian, Nicholas Kimchuk, Ben Konyi, Chengbo Qian, Chauntell Dietrich, Jonathon Creary, Lauren Rebelo, Anna Nguyen, Kristen Holubeshen, Alexandra Mindorff, Evan Gravely, Leo Johnson, Amber Giosi, Mark Weingartner

**Absent**

**With Regrets:** Megan Meredith, Shevon Clarke

**Also Present:** Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Marjorie Walker, Corey Beaudoin

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#### **1. Welcome**

#### **2. Greetings and Introduction by Mayor Eisenberger**

#### **3. Introduction of Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members**

- Mark and Amber introduced themselves as Advisors to committee
- Youth stated their name, grade, school, and personal interests

#### **4. Orientation to the City of Hamilton**

- Presentation on:
  - The role of municipal government
  - City Council Structure and Responsibilities
  - The role of City of Hamilton's Advisory Committees

**5. YAC Terms of Reference**

- Briefly discussed YAC Structure (See TOR p.2), Meeting and Group Conduct (See TOR p.2), Operating Procedures for meetings
- Committee Mission statement, Vision, objectives and goals will be addressed throughout the next few meetings

**6. Youth Priorities**

Placemat Activity

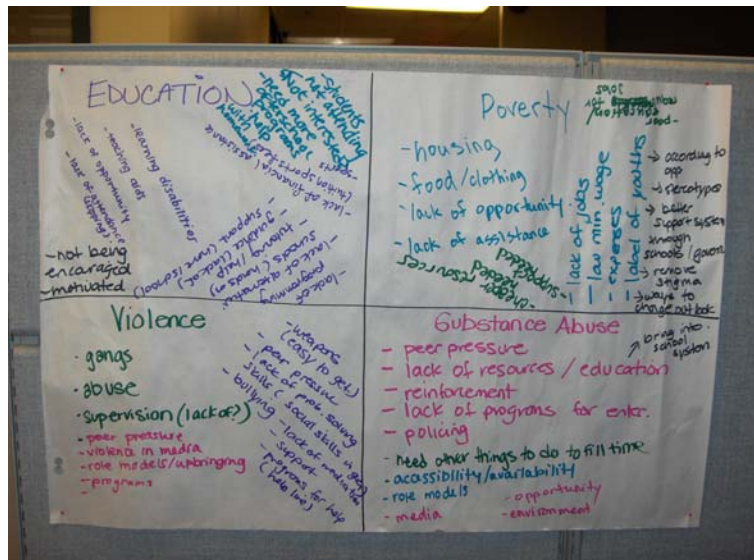
- During the application process, committee members identified 24 issues facing youth in Hamilton.
- The committee then separated into groups and were asked to choose four issues they believe were the most important issues facing youth in the City of Hamilton. They brainstormed individually and then as a group.
- The following were the results of their brainstorming activity:

**Group 1**

**Major Themes are bolded**

<p><b><u>Education</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- learning disabilities</li> <li>- teaching aids</li> <li>- lack of opportunity</li> <li>- students not attending– not interested</li> <li>- need more after school programs</li> <li>- help with homework</li> <li>- lack of financial assistance (tuition, sport fees)</li> <li>- lack of programming</li> <li>- lack of alternative schools (hands on)</li> <li>- tutoring/help</li> <li>- lack of guidance</li> <li>- Support</li> <li>- <b>not being encouraged or motivated</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Poverty</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- housing</li> <li>- food/clothing</li> <li>- lack of opportunity</li> <li>- lack of assistance</li> <li>- lack of jobs</li> <li>- low minimum wage</li> <li>- expenses</li> <li>- label of youth</li> <li>- <b>according to opportunities</b></li> <li>- <b>stereotypes</b></li> <li>- <b>better support system through school and government</b></li> <li>- <b>remove stigma</b></li> <li>- <b>ways to change outlook</b></li> </ul>
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<p><b><u>Violence</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- gangs</li> <li>- abuse</li> <li>- lack of supervision</li> <li>- peer pressure</li> <li>- violence in the media</li> <li>- role models/ up-bringing</li> <li>- programs</li> <li>- weapons (easy to get)</li> <li>- Lack of problem solving skills (social skills in general)</li> <li>- bullying – lack of mediation – support – programs for help (help line)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Substance Abuse</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- peer pressure</li> <li>- lack of resources/education</li> <li>- reinforcement</li> <li>- lack of programs for entertainment</li> <li>-policing</li> <li>- need other things to do to fill time</li> <li>-accessibility/availability</li> <li>- role models</li> <li>- opportunity</li> <li>- environment</li> <li>- media</li> <li>- <b>Bring into the school system</b></li> </ul>
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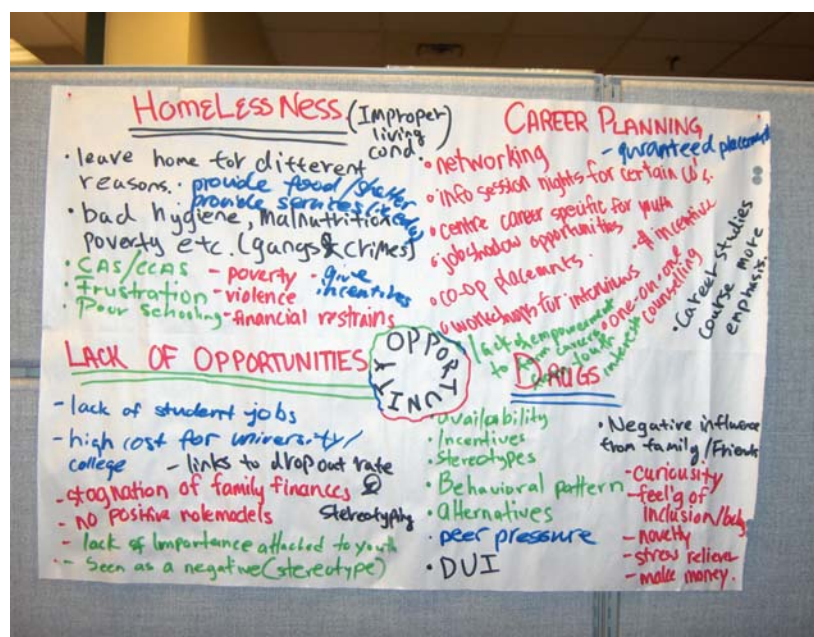


**Group 2**

**Major linking theme: Opportunity**

<p><b><u>Homelessness</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- leave home for different reasons</li> <li>- provide food/shelter</li> <li>- provide services (i.e. Education)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Career Planning</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- networking</li> <li>- info session nights for certain CO's</li> <li>- guaranteed placements</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bad hygiene, malnutrition, poverty, etc.</li> <li>- gangs, crime</li> <li>- CAS/CCAS</li> <li>- frustration</li> <li>- poor schooling</li> <li>- violence</li> <li>- financial restrains</li> <li>- give incentives</li> <li>- improper living conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- centre career specific for youth</li> <li>- job shadow opportunities</li> <li>- co-op placements</li> <li>- money incentive</li> <li>- workshops for interviews</li> <li>- one-on-one counseling</li> <li>- lack of empowerment to form careers from youth interests</li> <li>- career studies course more emphasis</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Lack of Opportunities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of student jobs</li> <li>- high cost for university/college</li> <li>- links to drop out rate</li> <li>- stagnation of family finances</li> <li>- no positive role models</li> <li>- lack of importance attached to youth</li> <li>- seen as a negative (Stereotype)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Drugs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- availability</li> <li>- incentives</li> <li>- stereotypes</li> <li>- behavioural pattern</li> <li>- alternatives</li> <li>- peer pressure</li> <li>- DUI</li> <li>- Negative influences from family/friends</li> <li>- curiosity</li> <li>- feelings of inclusion/belonging</li> <li>- novelty</li> <li>- stress reliever</li> <li>- make money</li> </ul>



**Group 3**

**Major linking theme: Self-Absorbed, Overwhelmed**

<p><b><u>Opportunity</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- youth may be too overwhelmed by numerous opportunities</li> <li>- lack there of – not enough advertisements – for youth opportunities – no awareness of need for youth involvement</li> <li>- no a lack of, but rather a lack of exposure to certain opportunities</li> <li>- lack of motivation</li> <li>- many opportunities are not available to many youths for various reasons, location, wealth, etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Apathy</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Self –absorbed</li> <li>- individuality</li> <li>- Youth voter turn out is declining</li> <li>- materialism – most materialistic generation</li> <li>- “What I don’t know doesn’t hurt me”</li> <li>- youth don’t care to find out consequences</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Drinking</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer Pressure</li> <li>- believe they can’t have a good time without it</li> <li>- underage</li> <li>- bad influences</li> <li>- media influence is a large factor</li> <li>- failure to inform of health and safety issues</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Career Planning</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- faced with numerous options for future, overwhelming</li> <li>- pressure to decide whole lives at a young age</li> <li>- unaware of many options (only see doctor, lawyer, etc.)</li> <li>- need for additional information and guidance</li> <li>- exposure to variety such as college, apprenticeships</li> <li>- there is a negative outlook in education paths ex college vs. university</li> <li>-forced paths at very young ages</li> <li>- lack of focus generated toward college</li> </ul>



- After the activity, the committee were given the **Task** to choose an issue, research that issues and create a 2 minute presentation for the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

Name	Topic
James Buffett	Violence
Cassie Bian	Education
Nicholas Kimchuk	Opportunities
Ben Konyi	Peer Pressure
Chengbo Qian	Under age drinking
Chauntell Dietrich	Recreation Centres
Jonathon Creary	Drug Use
Lauren Rebelo	Negative Influences
Anna Nguyen	Career Planning
Kristen Holubeshen	After School Programs
Leo Johnson	Drop-out Rate
Evan Gravely	Poverty

- Those that still need to choose an issue are Alex, Megan and Shevon

**7. Youth Interests Post-its Activity**

- The youth explored areas of interest to them and other youth.
- The committee was asked to brainstorm at least six ideas individually and to narrow those ideas down to three common ideas within groups of 4.
- The result of their collaboration was the following list of interests in which they may want to pursue in the future:

**Top Youth Interests**

<p><b>1 Exploring the responsibilities of financial planning</b> - Career planning, workshop/fair</p>	<p><b>2 Active interest in the prevention of deviant behaviour</b> - Exposing youth to the idea that these years affect your entire life Alcohol/Drug Free Activity Nights, education</p>	<p><b>3 Offer incentives for attendance/achievement</b> - Promote youth After School Programs (get them off the streets) - More free Programs - More youth based committees/clubs in the city</p>
<p><b>4 Volunteering/Taking Action</b></p>	<p><b>5 Creating Better Resources</b></p>	<p><b>6 Programs/fundraising for youth (that benefit youth)</b> <b>Being a voice</b></p>
<p><b>7 Creating a forum for youth connection with the committee, an interactive web community</b></p>	<p><b>8 Information sessions/after school Programs</b> <b>Educating families and youth</b></p>	<p><b>9 Making CCAS/CAS a community engaging group by establishing a youth committee</b></p>

**Other interests addressed (as reported by committee members):**

- Fundraising
- Drug/Substance abuse campaign
- More Education about Dangerous Substances
- More transportation routes (bikes lanes, trails, etc.)
- Education about Post-Secondary Education

- More Public Programming
- Safety – nothing you can do about it - educate them how to be safe
- Help, assisting ... – promotion – facilitation
- Presentations at schools about youth facts in Hamilton – raise awareness
- Statistics – let youth know the facts about things
- Drug abuse – more education about drugs
- Drop out rate – tutoring programs, etc.
- Creating a day of events for youth that provides possible career info, tutoring, etc.
- Create inclusion & solidarity amongst many and all schools – public and catholic
- Decrease dependency on cigarettes and alcohol
- Inspire youth to CARE about others
- Planning activities – assistance, volunteering
- Action, not just words
- Begin separate programs in schools
- Media – better role models
- Organize functions that help youth fit in with the city i.e. Breakfast club, ensure youth are involved
- Underage drinking
- Violence
- Ask Youth how we can create & Facilitate opportunities for them
- Volunteering – as a group for a cause - show that youth can and want to get involved with Hamilton
- Making a difference – talking to canals about future ideas
- Ways to assist youth with issues
- Create better Role Models
- Make members more available to the youth they work with (Like student Council)
- Increase the high school graduation rate & youth community involvement
- Honesty to Council and others
- Come together as a team to promote positive youth interactions Connect with other Youth Councils/organizations
- Positive Media Relations
- Fundraising - for Programs that benefit youth



- Homelessness
- Speaking to Youth - about ideas/issues they feel are prominent according to certain areas – being a voice for youth – more opportunities
- More programs for teens
- Youth Education about their city
- Knowledge – about future and careers – interaction w/people in those careers
- Career Planning – specific for youth, what do they intend to do after they graduate? – facilitate this
- Be a voice
- Programs – discuss future programs that can benefit youth – stat programs at the YMCA on recreational centers
- Opportunities Campaign – promoting and making more available and accessible the many venues youth can participate
- Become and Active voice in recognizing what could be improved /enhanced in our schools/communities for youth
- Better Programming in schools
- Poverty Campaigns with schools
- Field Trip – could be to a governmental institution – something to do with a youth issue
- YAC Members become champions in their various communities by Strategically identifying and providing support for a youth initiative
- Positive role models – things to fill youths time
- Affordable recreation
- Communication – with other members of committee - express own opinions
- Identify and discuss issues facing youth
- Identifying specific youth initiatives/groups and provide support and guidance
- After school programs helping students with homework
- Community involvement for youth (helping others)
- Budget deliberations
- Culture and Recreation master plan
- Implementation of Collective interests as opposed to individuality
- Tenants rights in regards to student housing

- Active participation within schools with regards with careers and career paths

**8. Other Business**

- Potential training Opportunities for future meetings includes: leadership, teamwork, advocacy, anti-racism, etc.
- Youth were asked to think of anything they would like more training on and were asked to report back to the committee next meeting or email ideas to either Mark or Amber.

**9. Next Meeting**

- December 18th, 2007 at the Hamilton Public Library, 5 to 7:00 p.m. in the Dundas Room

**10. Adjournment**