

**Des Plaines Youth Commission Minutes- March 31, 2025 - 6:00 pm.
Prairie Lakes CC- 515 Thacker, Des Plaines, Il.**

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Burton, M. Cullotta, R.Cullotta, Doerr, Dankowski, Neil, & Sebastian.

Absent: Al-Naemy, Ludwig

Also Present : Dr. M Amadei, E. Cupuro, C. Mazzone, B. Goodman,

Public Comment - E.Cupuro - Fun Fair was a great success.

Previous Minutes of February 24, 2025, - M. Cullotta, Secretary - Minutes were distributed. Motions made by Neil/Doerr to approve minutes. Motion was carried

Review of:

Middle School Bingo - Doerr/Sebastian - March 7th, 2025 5:15PM - Great turnout at Prairie Lakes. 40 kids, including middle school and High School kids. We had an incredible turnout of student leaders who showed up on time and were eager to help. They had prizes for the winners. They also had pizza. The 6th and 7th graders did a great job introducing themselves and representing their grades.

A big thank you to S. Samuelson for lending us the bingo game—it was a hit!

Maine West Fair - April 12th - Neil/Dankowski - Local businesses offering summer jobs and volunteer opportunities, which attracted a lot of interest from students. Co-rec softball team members were there to share how much fun the league is. While we usually have plenty of boys signing up, it's often a challenge to find enough girls to join the teams.

Intergenerational - Trivia- March 17th - Dankowski/Neil- St. Paddy's Day trivia event with Steve Samuelson at the Frisbee Center was a blast. The categories included destinations in Ireland, Irish trivia, and even one based on things from last month. It was a lot of fun watching both senior citizens and high school seniors trying to answer the tough questions. The event drew in a lot of kids and brought great energy.

Fun Fair - March 15th - Dankowski, Burton, M. Cullotta, R.Cullotta, Doerr, Ludwig Neil, & Sebastian - District 62 really promoted the Fun Fair, and it showed—there were a ton of people! We estimated at least 500 attendees, judging by the number of bags handed out. Face painting and button-making were huge hits. Kids enjoyed the puppet making station too. The football net, donated by John Hock, was a standout—Maine West boys helped set it up and showed kids how to throw. Burton got Maine West wrestlers involved too, bringing out a mat and doing fun demos. The high schoolers were all over the button table, super positive and great with the younger kids. The princesses walking around were a big highlight—they knelt down to meet kids at their level, which was such a nice touch. Huge thanks to the district schools for all the publicity. Cumberland School even won the banner contest! Huge success.

Upcoming Events:

Co-Rec Softball - Neil/Dankowski/Cullotta, R - June through August- Sat. nights at Rand Park - During softball season, the mother of a former team member who passed away would generously donate water for the players. A memorial cooler was created in his honor, and she continued to support the team with her thoughtful donations. A heartfelt thank you to her for keeping his memory alive in such a meaningful way. Neil and M. Cullotta made a motion,\$100 which was carried, to create a memorial plaque for this former Maine West student, with the plaque being presented to his mother.

A member from the Elk Club will throw out the first pitch. Starting June 7th.

July 4th Parade - Burton - We don't know the theme yet, but we'll definitely need to order extra items this year. Last time, we ran out about three blocks before the end—candy is always a hit, but some kids were a little heavy-handed. The budget is \$1,200.

Taste of Des Plaines - Saturday Only - R.Cullotta/ M.Cullotta - 12:00 - 3:00 - We're checking on the magician's availability to see if he can perform while kids wait for buttons to be made. We'll also have banners set up with QR codes for easy access to more info. Have \$400 allocated. Motion carried for \$300 more for Magician Cobb and button supplies by Burton/R.Cullotta. Neil will contact the Magician.

Budget- T-shirts did not come in time. Arrived after the event. Goodman needs an invoice for t-shirts. \$700 for taste that was allocated
\$225 ELS Prom
Fun Fair - Total \$2,766.07

Clarifications - Availability of city photographer - Since Derrek only works 8.75 hours a week, DPYC needs to email Goodman ahead of time. Requesting to have Derrek take photos at Co-Rec Softball.

Pictures by DPYC Commissioners- Creative on how to shoot photos - setting up room or shots of the magician's face and the kids watching him. Avoid taking pictures of the kids' faces.

Liaison - Had hired a liaison and will get on board soon.

Commissioners (individual) Ordering of items /delivery times- Depends on where we order from.

Fingerprinting - Make an appt. With DPPD- Kozlowski - Appointments are improving, with some commissioners already having completed theirs. No expiration dates on fingerprints.

Website - Publicity/ QR Code= Have been completed.

Events/Activities for 2025- Chair Requests/Confirmations - Were completed at the meeting.

Other Business - B. Goodman has scheduled a proclamation for the Youth Commission to be included on the agenda for the City of Des Plaines meeting on April 21st at 7 PM. Please note, Youth Commission shirts should not be worn for this meeting.

District 62 is still interested in booking a speaker and plans to use the \$2,200 allocated from the fall budget. Speaker will be contacted to check availability.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm

Next meeting is Monday, April 28th, 2025- PLCC- 6:00 p.m. - Please email Dankowski if unable to attend.

“ There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up “