

2024 Committee Members

**DeAnna
Harris-
McKoy**

**Katrina
Kreider**

Amy Dyer

**Dan
Kenney**

**Lorri
Thrower**

**Nancy
Bradlo***

The meeting was **Called to Order** by Supervisor Hess at 5:01 PM in the DeKalb Township Board Room. **Roll Call** was taken by acting secretary, Kimberly Barrios: *Supervisor Hess: Present; DeAnna Harris-McKoy: Not Present (arrived later); Katrina Kreider: Present; Amy Dyer: Present; Dan Kenney: Present; Lorri Thrower: Present; Trustee Nancy Bradlo: Present.* Also Present was Kimberly Barrios, acting secretary & acting co-chair.

At 5:03 PM Supervisor Hess explained that before proceeding, an amendment to the Agenda was needed, as she unintentionally omitted Public Comment when preparing the Agenda. She explained that Public comment would immediately follow the Approval of Agenda and asked if any other changes were warranted to the agenda. No suggestions were made. A voice vote was taken to amend the Agenda. **Approval of Amended Agenda** passed unanimously at 5:04.

Public Comments: None

The **Introduction of Members** began at 5:05 PM. Katrina Kreider explained that she works for Resource Bank, she looks forward to giving back to the community & she is a novice gardener. Amy Dyer shared that she is a Head Start Teacher and former "Food Banker." She wants to be a part of change and has "lived experience" with overcoming disadvantages. She helped build a school in Africa. Dan Kenney shared that he is the former Exec. Director of DeKalb County Community Gardens and a retired teacher. He wants

to be a part of positive change and he once scored 50 points in a high school basketball game. Lorri Thrower shared that she is a recently retired high school teacher, but currently in a long-term sub position at Huntley Middle School which is coming to an end. She wants to engage with local youth in a new way. She is a certified Doula. Nancy Braldo shared that she has been

*Board Liaison, non-voting member

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an in-home daycare provider in the community for 20+ years. She sees issues in the community and wants to give back. She is an avid reader. DeAnna Harris-McKoy shared that she is an Associate Professor and a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist Program Director at Northern Illinois University. She very passionately declared her love for working with youth and shared that she... Acting Co-chairs, Supervisor Hess & Kimberly Barrios also participated in introductions. Supervisor Hess shared that she believes the community is better when kids are healthy and her opinion that the health of our kids speak to our values. In the town she grew up in, there was an annual baseball tournament and local boys were able to participate as "ball boys." She explained she was the first girl to approach the organizers about wanting to fill the role and became the first "ball girl" they had. Kimberly Barrios stated that she works as the Administrative & Communications Lead for the DeKalb Township. She has three children and serves local youth in a variety of ways in the community. She looks forward to supporting the Committee on Youth as the staff Liaison and shared that she once stopped an armed robbery.

At 5:13 Supervisor Hess Initiated Discussion regarding the **Review of by-laws**. She pointed out the terms that were laid out for each member and asked if there were any questions or concerns about those. She explained that terms can be renewed. Supervisor Hess also spoke to the importance of attendance and pointed out that 3 consecutive absences would constitute removal from the Committee. She discussed the importance of meeting attendance and reviewed that a quorum presently constitutes 3 or more voting members. Amy Dyer asked about whether additional people would be joining the committee. Kimberly Barrios explained that currently, the only committee members were those present in the room. She explained that 10 applications were received, including 1 from a minor. She went on to explain that while additional members can be added and/or subcommittees formed, there was an intentional decision made to keep the committee small to start with. Lorri Thrower asked when additional committee members could be added. Supervisor Hess expressed that they could be added at-will, with Board Approval. Kimberly Barrios asked if everyone had a chance to review the by-laws and all present indicated that they had. Supervisor Hess asked if there were any questions. Trustee Bradlo requested confirmation of her understanding that she would not be able to vote on topics discussed at Committee on Youth meetings, but would be able to vote on Committee on Youth matters brought before the Board of Trustees. Supervisor Hess affirmed her understanding. Kimberly Barrios asked Supervisor Hess if she would like to touch on the Open Meetings Act. Supervisor Hess explained that each committee member would need to complete training pertaining to the Open Meetings Act. She directed them to the second-to-last page of their meeting packet which contained information about the training. DeAnna Harris-McKoy asked how soon this needed to be completed. Supervisor Hess stated that a certificate was needed from each committee member with-in 90 days, but encouraged people to bring their

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certificate with them to the next meeting. Kimberly Barrios explained that there are a couple important things each of them should know about the open meetings Act: 1) The Public must be given proper notice regarding the date, time and location of any meeting; 2) Under the Open Meetings Act, anytime a quorum of committee members gathers to discuss Committee on Youth business, whether in-person, by phone, via e-mail, or any other method, it is considered a meeting. She stated that for this reason, it is important that committee members limit their discussion about Committee on Youth matters to Committee on Youth meetings.

At 5:32 Kimberly Barrios began a **Discussion on scope and goals of the committee**. She explained that before she opened the floor for discussion, she would like to share some history about the Committee on Youth, and that after that, a short video would be played about the 40 Developmental Assets. Kimberly also pointed out that all 40 Developmental Assets were included on the last page of the meeting packet and that these assets have been at the heart of the Committee on youth's funding application since its inception. She shared that the purpose of the committee is to advise the Township Board on the provision of programs and services to combat and prevent juvenile delinquency and provide for the well-being of underserved and underprivileged youth and their families who reside in DeKalb Township through partnerships, or the creation of funding and youth activities. She explained that the committee was founded in 2012 with 7 members and that membership fluctuated between 6 and 9 members until 2020 when the committee last met. She continued that the committee does not have authority to grant funds independently, but rather, they make recommendations to the Township Board regarding the applications they receive. Kimberly explained that initially, applicants were asked to give a presentation to the Committee on Youth regarding the funding request, though this was not a requirement; however, they were required to provide a presentation or report after funding was received. Ms. Barrios explained that over the years, the committee offered a maximum grant amount ranging between \$500 and \$1000, though discussion about increasing the amount as high as \$2,500 were had at one point; the funding limit is \$750 per organization per fiscal year. Kimberly stated that in 2013, 14 grants were issues, totaling \$6,556 and that in 2015, 19 grants were issues, totaling \$13,645.96; the latter was the highest volume of grants issued, to the best of her knowledge. After Kimberly concluded, the following video was played: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5SinY8jrgA>. At the conclusion of the video, Kimberly shared how much time members indicated they could contribute to the committee on youth outside regular monthly meetings. The results were as follows: 3 People indicated they could spend an additional 1-2 hours per month, 4 People indicated they could spend an additional 3-4 hours per month, 1 person indicated they could spend more than an additional 4 hours per month, 1 person said they could commit additional time, but not on a regular basis. Some respondents selected more than 1 answer. Kimberly expressed this information was being

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shared so that as the Committee began to discuss their vision, they had a reasonable idea of how much time those serving could reasonably contribute. Supervisor Hess asked the committee members what ideas they had and what challenges they perceive the Youth to be facing. This discussion went on at length. What follows is a summary of the idea that were discussed:

Children need guidance – Trustee Bradlo stated she believed kids need more guidance, as many children have parents who aren't involved. Kimberly Barrios requested that she elaborate and Nancy explained that she felt kids needed more interaction with adults who could guide them. She suggested that the committee member could recruit adults to spend time with local kids. This sprouted conversation about coordinating a simple event where kids and adults could interact (i.e. game night). The group discussed this and felt that the most at-risk kids would be unlikely to attend this type of an event.

Intergenerational & Interspecies Relationships– Lorri Thrower shared that she has a vision of a “Trifecta” facility that would include a daycare, a senior center and an animal shelter. She spoke about the crossover benefits for all three groups. She recognized that was probably a bigger project than what could be done by the Committee on Youth, but she hopes that someone would do that. This did trigger additional conversations about the possibility of setting up a game night at which seniors and youth could engage with one-another. Discussions were also had coordinating a field trip for kids to a senior center, or vice-versa. One major upside to the field trip idea is that all children of a particular grade level or classroom would get to participate.

Workforce Readiness – Kimberly expressed that at the interest meetings, one thing that was heard frequently was the kids were not ready for the workforce. Mary share about a conversation she had this week with a local employer and some of the undesirable behaviors they are seeing from applicants. Discussion ensued about instruction that high school senior receive as part of an interview assignment. Dan Kenney mentioned that once upon a time the Jr. Achievement program existed to help kids prepare for business. Supervisor Shared about her experience with a “speed-dating” style of Q&A with high school students. Kimberly Barrios suggested the possibility of creating a program for youth that might resonate with them more. For example, business skills for the social influencer or streamer. Supervisor Hess mentioned the possibility of an interview fair for youth. She also suggested a teen entrepreneur fair where kids could promote their own “businesses.”

Workshop Series re: Life Skills: Kimberly shared that once of her kids has communicated feeling stressed. Trustee Bradlo said the same was true of her child. She said she thought kids needing more coping skills. Amy Dyer proposed a series of workshops kids could attend to give them the

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tools to cope with their circumstances. Topics she and others suggested included how to administer Narcan, How to identify and manage a mental health crisis, creating a fire escape plan, how to get food from a food pantry without an adult, how to deal with conflict, how to manage stress, personal safety, etc. It was suggested that something like this could be accomplished through collaboration with other agencies.

Data – Much discussion was had about Data. The data provided through the Search Institute about the Developmental Assets was last updated in 2010. Much has changes since then. Supervisor Hess shared a little about her involvement in the KEYS program, which existed many years ago. She explained at that time, there was a push to increase the number of Developmental assets amongst youth in our community. She explained that there were multiple surveys done that gave a view at the number of assets youth had locally. It was her belief that in 2009, youth in DeKalb & Sycamore averaged 18.9 Assets and that in 2013, the average had increased to 20 Assets. She explained the data had been lost/destroyed to the best of her knowledge. Supervisor Hess also explained that some communities have added additional assets, for example, 1 community added “grit” to their list of assets. The group as a whole, had a lot of discussion about the need for updated data, where to get that data from and then what to do with it. Possible sources of collaboration the group identified to obtain or collect data included the School District, 4-C, Barb Food Mart, YMCA, and the DeKalb County Community Gardens, amongst others. DeAnna Harris-McCoy expressed she thought that the committee should continue with the original goal of reviewing grants, as they are received, while researching current needs in the community. She suggested that once that information is gathered, then the committee could look tweaking the types of projects they are funding to better align with the needs of the community.

Hearing from youth – All parties seemed to agree that serving youth well required knowledge of what youth are thinking, feeling, lacking, desiring, etc. It was stated that observations from teachers, parents, and/or adults are not sufficient. The best insight will come from Township youth. Discussion were had about how to solicit their opinion on such topics and series challenges to getting a comprehensive view on this exist.

To conclude this portion of the conversation, Supervisor Hess requested that all committee members make a list of 3-5 things each believe the committee should be focusing on.

At 6:10 PM Kimberly Barrios opened a discussion re: the **Establishment of a regular meeting time**. Kimberly presented the results of the poll each committee member participated in, explaining that there no single time at which all committee members were available. She explained that all but 1 person was available on Tuesdays from 5-6, and that all but 2 people

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were available on Tuesdays from 6-7. Kimberly asked if there was any flexibility in anyone's schedules. Amy explained that she teaches until 6, but if it was just 1 night a month, she could switch schedules with someone. Supervisor Hess thanked her and proposed a date of March 19th for the next meeting. All parties agreed.

At 6:13 PM Dan Kenney excused himself from the meeting due to a conflict. At the same time, Supervisor Hess opened the discussion on **Nomination of Officers**. She explained that no nominations would be taking place at "this" meeting, however, she requested that all members of the committee review the role and give consideration to which role they could serve in. Supervisor Hess went on to explain that nominations would be made at the next meeting. She explained that if only one person was nominated for a specific role, a vote could be held in the same meeting to appoint said person to office, however, if multiple people are nominated for a role, then the vote would be deferred until the subsequent meeting. Kimberly Barrios stated that nominates take place in the following order: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary.

At 6:22 PM DeAnna Harris-McKoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Dyer seconded that motion. Supervisor Hess declared **Adjournment** at 6:22 PM.