

Somersworth Youth Connection (SYC) Task Force*

Date: February 4, 2021

Time: 5:30 PM

Chairman Dumont announced the legal authority to meet remotely* according to the Governor's State of Emergency declaration. He called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call Attendance:

School Board

Tom McCallion – Yes

Coty Donohue – Yes

Steve Potter – Yes

City Council

Marty Pepin - Yes

Marty Dumont - Yes

Don Austin – Yes

Ex-officio Members

Superintendent Bob Gadomski – Yes

Asst Superintendent Lori Lane – Yes

SYC Director Maureen Jackman – Yes

Mayor Dana Hilliard – Yes

City Manager Bob Belmore – Yes

City Manager Belmore noted for the record that Deputy City Manager Scott Smith is not an ex-officio member of the SYC Task Force.

A motion to accept the minutes from the December 17, 2020 SYC Task Force meeting was made by McCallion. Seconded by Austin. ROLL CALL VOTE: McCallion – Yes; Pepin – Yes; Austin – Yes; Dumont – Yes; Donohue – Yes; Potter – Yes. Motion passed, unanimously.

Mayor Hilliard suggested that the agenda for tonight's meeting be adjusted to focus on the draft Resolution and not on the SYC budget as originally posted, citing that it would be premature to discuss funding for SYC before the Resolution is approved.

The Mayor reviewed the draft language for the Resolution - "A Vote to Affirm the City of Somersworth's Commitment to the Sustainability of the Somersworth Youth Connection Program." He said that the City Council has seen a draft already and is hoping to gain support tonight from the Task Force to sponsor this Resolution. The Resolution would then go to the School Board for their endorsement.

The Mayor read the draft Resolution language to the Committee. He suggested that this be a joint Resolution between the two bodies. Belmore said that typically Resolutions are only approved by the City Council. However, he suggested that language could be added stating that the Somersworth School Board and the SYC Task Force have endorsed the Resolution. Belmore will add this language to the draft.

Austin said that the Resolution was a great place to start, as it formalizes the opinions and support of both bodies.

Donohue said that he was in full support of the Resolution. He did suggest adding the language "civic engagement and volunteerism" to paragraph 2 as both are integral parts of the SYC program. The

Mayor agreed. Potter felt that Donohue's language strengthened the Resolution and offered his full support.

Gadomski stated how impressed he was with the SYC program and agreed with others that the Resolution was a good place to continue to show City's support of the program. He asked if the Resolution should be included on the agenda for the upcoming school board meeting on February 9, 2021. Potter, Donohue and McCallion agreed that the Resolution should be included. Belmore will send the revised draft to Gadomski tomorrow so it can be included.

Pepin and Dumont also expressed their support of the Resolution.

Austin asked if a formal vote was needed for the SYC Task Force to endorse the Resolution as edited. The Mayor said yes so that each member's name could be added as sponsors.

A motion for the SYC Task Force to endorse the Resolution as edited was made by Austin. Seconded by Pepin. ROLL CALL VOTE: McCallion – Yes; Pepin – Yes; Potter – Yes; Dumont – Yes; Donohue – Yes; Austin - Yes. Motion passed, unanimously.

Under "Miscellaneous", The Mayor stated that this year is the first time in the last several years that they are not hearing that the federal grant the school district receives for the SYC program is not on the chopping block. This is wonderful news.

Jackman thanked everyone for their support.

The next meeting will be scheduled in early March, after the Resolution is passed by both bodies. The agenda will include:

Next Steps – discussion for the future of the SYC program

Potential future funding sources

Adjournment: A motion was made by Austin, seconded by Pepin to adjourn. ROLL CALL VOTE: McCallion – Yes, Donohue – Yes, Pepin – Yes, Dumont – Yes, Potter – Yes, Austin – Yes, Motion passed, unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lori Lane
Assistant Superintendent of Schools*