

Bristol Hub Teen Center
Community Advisory Board Meeting
11.5.2020

Call to Order 6:02pm

Attendance: Taylor Welch, Chuck Richardson, Alex Mihavics, Darla Senecal, John Kromer, Liz Sayre

- Update on open hours:
 - The Hub has opened up for all students during open hours as opposed to the separate cohort model.
 - Co-mingling between cohorts was not observed to be an issue (already happens with sports practices)
 - In general October attendance numbers improved consistently. Lots of new faces and attendance by girls was up.
 - On Fridays, the Hub has been hosting a community group lead by Mary Simons. Teens in the group volunteer and do community service projects from making soup to building raised bed gardens (coordinating with Sally Burrell)
 - Teens have been good about following mask wearing protocols, staying distant and washing hands frequently
- Scooter Competition
 - On 11.1 (rescheduled from 10.24) had about 20 competitors enter and many more friends and family attend.
 - Two age groups had competitors sign up (6-9, 10-12)
 - Lots of Pictures and video, some posted already to social media. Taylor continues to sort through photos of each competitor.
 - One leftover 1st place scooter (meant for the 13-16 age group) will remain at the hub and be available for teens to use for free.
 - Donations by local businesses to sponsor kids to participate were much appreciated and with some extra donations from families, we were able to raise some money for the Hub/Skatepark.
 - In general the scooter competition also served to build a strong, positive connection between the Hub, Skatepark and families of kids (younger than teenage) The Hub staff believes that this will help parents see the Hub in a different, more positive light.
- Future Events / Activities
 - XC Skiing with Catamount Trail system. They have a traveling ski program that they plan to bring to the Hub once the snow flies. This will be a free program available to all.
 - Holiday Events: The Hub staff will help with some rec department events in December : Candy Cane Hunt, Memory Tree Lighting and Snowman making competition.
 - No Lock-Ins Planned for the near future. Although very popular with teens, a lock-in wouldn't be safe with COVID.

- PREP Course: 5 teens have signed up for the course. November 23, 24 (Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving Break) Taylor, Tayler, Alex will teach the class.
- Garden: Sally Burrell, Julie Clark, and Mary Simmons, and teen volunteers have all helped in building more raised beds. Plans are still in the works for a greenhouse. Plans have also been made to plant some blueberry bushes and / or some fruit trees.
 - An idea for Mt Abe to plant fruit trees was in the works several years ago but that didn't materialize so it might be worth it to check in with Justin Bouvier about collaborating with Mt Abe on Fruit trees.
 - Another group that might be able to help with garden / trees is UVM Extension
 - Another group to look into regarding food access is Addison County Hunger Council
- Town Meeting Day in March will likely look different from years past however the more Hub support the better. Last year the Hub raised more money than ever 3,800! While this still fell short of the goal (set by Brian the former director) of 5,000. In general the success of summer camps and increased skatepark use by families will lead to increased support for the Hub among the larger Bristol Community.

Round Table Discussion

Alex mentioned that the Hub sign-in system is still a work in progress. We are currently using the old system which is functional but hosted on the former directors personal server. Hub Staff have reached out to United Way of Addison County for help in developing a new system. It was also suggested to reach out to Middelbury IT to see if they could refer someone.

Some recent teen feedback on the Hub included a noticeable shift away from music since Brian left in February of 2019. They cited that it's hard to use the shared space for music and video games at the same time. They also suggested that art could be a bigger attraction to teens. Taylor discussed different art activities and programs that could be hosted at the hub: figure drawing, handbuilding pottery with Matlak, etc.

Taylor mentioned that maintaining a presence at Mt. Abe during COVID has been a challenge because we aren't allowed in to table during lunch periods or update our bulletin board. One suggestion to circumvent this would be to focus on posting a series of video tours of the Hub focused on new teens. For example, how to sign-in and check in for the first time, how to borrow a scooter/skateboard. How to play the VR, how to make yourself some food etc.

Darla mentioned A new organization "Five Town Partnership" has been forming with a focus on increasing access to resources for youth and families within the community. Some local groups are already involved and it wouldn't hurt for the Hub to get in early.

Taylor mentioned the need for teen voices to be heard at CAB meetings, however it has been hard to both convince teens to sit in on meetings and to have consistent input rather than just having teens show up once in a while. One possibility is a Teen only board that would eventually contribute to CAB. This model was used several years ago and might be worth looking into.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd at 6pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03pm