



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Youth Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

5:45 PM

United Way of Dane County, 2059 Atwood Avenue,
Madison

Evjue Board Room A, 3rd floor

United Way of Dane County, 2059 Atwood Avenue, Madison, Evjue Board Room A, 3rd
floor

A. Call To Order

Present 6 - Chair MEGHAN BENSON, KEMA WILLIAMS, FRANCESCA MASCIOPINTO,
KELLY DANNER, ANALIESE EICHER, and Chair KHADDY JARJOU

Absent 2 - Chair MARCIA MORALES, and Chair ADAM FEARING

Others Present: Jess Guffey Calkins (UW Extension staff), Ariel Peña (MSW Intern),
Whitney Johnson (MSW Intern)

BYFY students: Joyi Law, Josie Ronk, Sofia Johansson and Yanci Almonte

Youth Governance Program students: Lauren Dahler and Caden Delabarre

B. Consideration of Minutes

1. [2018](#) 2019_0320 Youth Commission Minutes
[MIN-537](#)

Attachments: [2019_0320 YC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by WILLIAMS, that the Minutes be
approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - BENSON, WILLIAMS, MASCIOPINTO, DANNER, EICHER and JARJOU

Absent: 2 - MORALES and FEARING

C. Action Items

1. [2019](#) BYFY Funding Overview & Recommendations for 2019
[PRES-001](#)

Attachments: [BYFY Funding Overview DCYC 2018-19](#)
[BYFY Funding Recs for DCYC 2019 final](#)

BYFY committee student representatives presented the recommendations for the 2019 By Youth For Youth grants on behalf of the committee and provided a summary of the grant-making process (see BYFY Overview attachment). Twenty-five applications were received totaling \$60,190. Sixteen grants are being recommended for funding totaling \$21,000 that will directly impact youth. This year, the total award amount is \$10,000 less than last year due to a replacement funder not being found for Oscar Mayer despite ongoing efforts to replace.

The BYFY representatives reviewed the priorities, application format, scoring process and consensus decision-making used by the committee to reach funding recommendations. BYFY considered Youth Assessment data, input from speakers, and their own experiences and observations in selecting priorities. It was noted that food insecurity was a prominent application issue again in 2019. Funding decisions were based on how well applicants addressed the priorities, the quality of the application, the number of youth to be served, the delivery location (needed to be in or for Dane county youth), the impact on youth, the budget, and how effectively dollars would be used. Some programs received less funding than requested, particularly if other funding was available to the program. Youth representatives were contacted with follow-up questions as a part of the decision-making process. Those programs not receiving funding will receive feedback as to how they could improve their applications. The representatives responded to several questions about BYFY funding decisions and how to best advertise the BYFY opportunity during fall recruitment. The students suggested asking schools to announce during morning announcements, post on digital screens in hallways, and send in e-mail and text blasts through school districts. When asked what they learned from the process, they identified an increase in confidence, teamwork, how to compromise, a better understanding of community issues and an opportunity to interact with students who have differing views from their own. The Commission thanked BYFY for their thorough, thoughtful and diligent service to the community. The BYFY Award presentation ceremony is on April 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the United Way of Dane County, 2059 Atwood Avenue, Madison.

a. By Youth For Youth grant recommendations (BYFY committee)

Benson called for a motion to approve the 2019 BYFY recommendations noting that Jarjou has a conflict with the Madison Lafollette award recommendation.

A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by DANNER, that the full slate of BYFY recommendations except the \$2000 award going to the Madison Lafollette Black Student Union be recommended for approval. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - BENSON, WILLIAMS, MASCIOPINTO, DANNER, EICHER and JARJOU

Absent: 2 - MORALES and FEARING

b. By Youth For Youth grant recommendations (BYFY committee)

A motion was made by DANNER, seconded by EICHER, to approve the \$2000 award to Madison Lafollette Black student Union. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - BENSON, WILLIAMS, MASCIOPINTO, DANNER and EICHER

Absent: 2 - MORALES and FEARING

Abstain: 1 - JARJOU

D. Presentations

1. Overview of Youth Governance Program by YGP youth

Student representatives shared an overview of YGP, their experiences with YGP on their respective committees and what they have learned to date. Key takeaways include a greater understanding about the complexities of governing, that things move slowly when taking into consideration public input, and that local governance is very important. Both felt they had gained confidence and that this experience would impact their future civic engagement.

2. Listening session with BYFY and YGP youth participants

Benson shared an overview of the Youth Commission, the purpose of the listening sessions and ground rules for confidentiality and respecting differences of opinion. Youth had received the listening session outline prior to the meeting to allow youth time to prepare their thoughts and answers—which they had done. The session was conversational with Commissioners asking follow-up questions and youth sharing their thoughts and experiences related to their BYFY and YGP experiences, their community and school. The youth identified many benefits to participating in BYFY and YGP developing leadership and group facilitation skills, networking with youth around the county, having a voice in program decisions, and learning about local government. They identified positive things happening in their schools and neighborhoods including an equity-based student center at one high school, being a student representative on a superintendent led board, being active in student activities and having a voice. Most felt they have or know how to “have a voice” in school decisions. They agreed that having a voice does not always lead to change—which is frustrating.

They raised the following concerns:

- Safety, attendance and home life are the three things most impacting student experiences
- Racial equity—see students of color treated differently and many buildings are diverse, but segregated (rarely see students of color in AP classes)
- Teach about consent in relationships to reduce risk of sexual assault
- Mental health of peers and needed support for students (not enough counselors in buildings)
- Need for staff diversity (being culturally competent is important, but not enough)
- There’s not enough conversation about real issues—it’s maybe addressed momentarily, but we want more of an opportunity to talk about issues that impact our lives
- Supports in school need to be accessible

[2018](#)
[PRES-095](#)

Youth Commission Guidance to Listening Sessions

Attachments: [YC Guidance to Listening Sessions](#)

E. Reports to Committee

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

May 15, 5:30 p.m., at the City County Building, Room 354. Agenda: Debrief youth listening sessions and begin to formulate recommendations. Incoming DCDHS Director, Shawn Tessmann will be in attendance.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

7:15 p.m.

Recorded by Connie Bettin 242-6422 (WI Relay 711)