

# The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg

## Youth Advisory Council Meeting

### AGENDA



Wednesday, April 3, 2024

4:30 PM

The Upper Deck Youth Centre

19 Queen Street

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**1. Call to Order**

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

THAT the agenda as prepared for the Youth Advisory Council Meeting of April 3, 2024 be approved.

**3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

**4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

THAT the minutes of the March 6, 2024 Youth Advisory Council be approved.

**5. Presentation**

**5.1 Communities Building Youth Futures**

Jodie Konior will present to the Youth Advisory Council on behalf of the Communities Building Youth Futures Oxford County.

**6. General Business and Reports**

**6.1 Youth Questionnaire, CS-24-042**

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. THAT report CS 24-042 titled Youth Questionnaire be received as information; and
- B. THAT the Youth Advisory Council create additional questions for their next meeting.

**7. Next Meeting**

**8. Adjournment**

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

THAT the Youth Advisory Council meeting be adjourned at PM.

# **The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg**

## **Youth Advisory Council Meeting**

### **MINUTES**



Wednesday, March 6, 2024

4:30 PM

The Upper Deck Youth Centre  
19 Queen Street

ATTENDANCE:        Scott Gooding  
                             Liam Spencer-Enright  
                             Sorraya Buchanan-St.Gelais  
                             Sophie Hicks  
                             Chris Parker  
                             Kelly Spencer  
                             Jaxon Gundry  
                             Tyla Thiessen  
                             Adam Thiessen  
                             Naima Sandoval

Regrets:                Scarlet Robson  
                             Dakshneel Singh  
                             Deb Gilvesy  
                             Mya Williams

Staff:                    Randi Crawford  
                             Hillary Miller

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#### **1.     Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.

The Chair introduced Constable Randi Crawford to the Youth Advisory Council.

**2. Adoption of Agenda****Resolution # 1****Moved By:** Sophie Hicks**Seconded By:** Jaxon Gundry

THAT the agenda as prepared for the Youth Advisory Council Meeting of March 6, 2024 be approved.

**Carried**

**3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

None

**4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting****Resolution # 2****Moved By:** Tyla Thiessen**Seconded By:** Adam Thiessen

THAT the minutes of the February 7, 2024 Youth Advisory Council be approved.

**Carried**

**5. General Business and Reports****5.1 Youth Advisory Council Project**

The Youth Advisory Council brainstormed some project ideas to complete before the end of their term.

Some of the ideas included:

- A study space, outside of the library, for students to get together and study together.
- Community engagement. Activities that engage youth such as youth dances.
- A questionnaire to present to high school age youth to determine youth needs in the community.

The Youth Advisory Council decided on drafting a questionnaire. Offering an incentive, such as cookies, could be a way to get students to want to fill out a survey.

Members will provide their ideas to the Secretary for the next meeting.

The Chair suggested drafting a priority list to leave behind for the next youth advisory council to work on during their term.

Members also expressed a desire to bring back the Recreation, Culture and Parks Department to a future meeting to help create youth events.

### **Resolution # 3**

**Moved By:** Jaxon Gundry

**Seconded By:** Sorraya Buchanan-St.Gelais

THAT the Youth Advisory Council members provide written ideas via email for a questionnaire to the Secretary before the next meeting;

AND THAT the Secretary prepare a report for the next meeting with a summary of the questions for the Youth Advisory Council to review.

**Carried**

## **6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on April 3, 2024.

## **7. Adjournment**

### **Resolution # 4**

**Moved By:** Chris Parker

**Seconded By:** Sophie Hicks

THAT the Youth Advisory Council be adjourned at 5:30 pm.

**Carried**



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# Tillsonburg Youth Social Space

A Youth-Led Pilot Project



# What is CBYF?

- A Canada-wide initiative funded by the Government of Canada and the Tamarack Institute focused on:
  - **Increasing high school graduation rates**
  - **Improving youth (age 15-30) outcomes after high school**
- Aims to reach students who may face greater barriers to education, including but not limited to:
  - Indigenous students
  - Visible minority and racialized students
  - Students living with disabilities
  - Students living in a low-income household
  - Students identifying as 2SLGBTQ+
- Youth-led initiative
  - “Nothing about us without us”

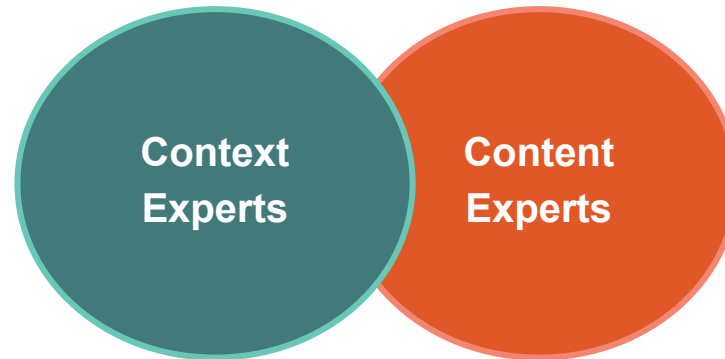


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# Who makes up CBYF?

## YOUTH COUNCIL

- 20 local youth (volunteers and interns)
- Either live or work in Oxford County
- Diverse backgrounds, life experiences, and perspectives
- Members from 6 of 8 municipalities
  - including 4 youth from Tillsonburg
- Select priority areas and guide creation and implementation of CBYF efforts



## LEADERSHIP TABLE

- Representatives from 15 local youth-serving organizations
- 4 representatives from the Youth Council
- Organizations from multiple sectors
- Support the implementation of Youth Council-identified priority areas, projects, etc. through sharing of resources
- Provide guidance around legislative and liability considerations





# Partner Organizations





# Why?

## Why do a youth social space in Oxford County?

- ▶ Heard that youth want spaces where they can
  - ▶ connect with other youth
  - ▶ feel like they belong
  - ▶ show up without fear of judgement
  - ▶ have fun
- ▶ A lack of free, neutral social spaces was also noted as a gap area in a grey literature review
- ▶ These spaces are often either missing entirely in Oxford's rural communities, or if they do exist are typically church-based, sports-related, or high-cost, all of which have been identified as barriers



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# Why?

## Why do a youth social space in Tillsonburg?

- ▶ Many strengths in the community that could be utilized to help make the space successful
  - ▶ Community-minded businesses
  - ▶ Town Recreation, Culture and Parks staff
  - ▶ Tillsonburg Branch of Oxford County Library
- ▶ Aligns with strategic direction from Town of Tillsonburg's Strategic Plan: "Maintain and enhance programs and facilities to support an active, engaged youth population"
- ▶ Glendale's high school graduation rates ranked amongst the lowest in Oxford County public high schools (all of which fall below the provincial average)
- ▶ Accessibility (Glendale H.S. being in community)
- ▶ Youth from neighbouring communities regularly come into Tillsonburg for a variety of other services
- ▶ Youth are interested!



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# Introducing: VIBE

- ▶ Launched May, 2023
  - ▶ Breaks for summer and December holiday break
  - ▶ Total visits: 159
- ▶ Thursdays from 3:30-5:30PM
- ▶ Tillsonburg Public Library
- ▶ Run a variety of optional programming
- ▶ Have food & drinks available
- ▶ Have hygiene supplies available
- ▶ Have resources available

# VIBE





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# Weekly Staff Observations

- ▶ Youth regularly have accessed food available
  - ▶ including more youth openly taking food home from program when needed
- ▶ Regularly accessing hygiene supplies being available
- ▶ Youth opened up to staff and each other about challenges at home with family, with friends, in-school related to issues like bullying, school stress, and navigating post-secondary options, and general mental health challenges they were experiences
- ▶ Youth and staff often had open conversations about sociopolitical issues such as being 2SLGBTQIA+ in the community, class issues, and homelessness
- ▶ Youth really connected with each other, forging strong friendships that translate outside of VIBE
  - ▶ A story to share...



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# Impact

100% of youth who completed the Impact Survey either completely or somewhat agreed with the following statements that VIBE:

- ▶ Helped them build relationships with other youth
- ▶ helped them build relationships with caring staff
- ▶ Made them feel more connected to their community
- ▶ Introduced them to new friends
- ▶ Made them feel like they belong
- ▶ Was good for their mental health
- ▶ Gave them space to have fun after school



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# Impact

Youth who completed the Impact Survey identified that since participating in VIBE, they have experienced the following impacts on risk factors:

- Physical health has improved
- Mental health has improved
- Reached out for support during a tough time
- Have better nutrition after school
- Have more structured after school time
- Have a better outlook on life
- Feel better about their future

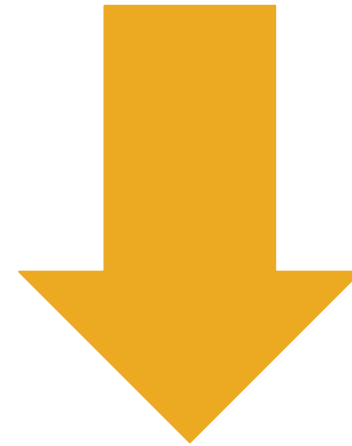


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**Impact**



**Increased  
protective factors**



**Decreased  
risk factors**





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# Impact

- ▶ “Vibe has given me a place to go after school with friends and just sit without having an expectation to be doing school work or doing something. It's nice to have a place to go and be yourself and it's nice knowing that if I want to, I have the option to join in games, do art or just sit and relax”
- ▶ “It's a good space to get away from stress from home, and a good way to talk to people. And I love this space to keep going”
- ▶ “Created a excellent space and I’ve enjoyed every session more connecting with other people from school etc, it’s unique”
- ▶ “I feel more free than ever!”
- ▶ “It gives me something to do after school and it’s good for my seasonal depression”



**Subject:** Youth Questionnaire

**Report Number:** CS -24-042

Department: Corporate Services Department

Submitted by: Hillary Miller, Records and Legislative Coordinator

Meeting Type: Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT report CS 24-042 titled Youth Questionnaire be received as information;  
and
- B. THAT the Youth Advisory Council create additional questions for their next meeting.

## **BACKGROUND**

At their last meeting on March 3, 2024, the Youth Advisory Council desired the creation of a Youth Questionnaire to provide to area high schools. The following resolution was passed:

### **Resolution # 3**

**Moved By:** Jaxon Gundry

**Seconded By:** Sorraya Buchanan-St. Gelais

THAT the Youth Advisory Council members provide written ideas via email for a questionnaire to the Secretary before the next meeting;

AND THAT the Secretary prepare a report for the next meeting with a summary of the questions for the Youth Advisory Council to review.

### **Carried**

This report will provide the summary of questions.

## **DISCUSSION**

The ideas received by the deadline are provided in Appendix A. Only one response was received to the email prompt for questions for the questionnaire. More ideas and questions will need to be provided to create a questionnaire that can be circulated.

Choose an item.

CS-24-042 Youth Questionnaire

**CONSULTATION**

Youth Advisory Council Members

**FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A – Draft Questionnaire Ideas

## Hillary Miller

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**From:** Kelly Spencer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 1:53 PM  
**To:** Clerks  
**Cc:** Liam Spencer Enright  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Questionnaire - Ideas

My suggestions are to complete a questions and implement at the high school and perhaps also finding a way to reach high school kids from the Catholic High school that live in Tillsonburg.

I think it would be helpful to break the questionnaire into simple categories with simple questions.

Suggested categories:

1. Shopping
2. Downtown events for youth
3. Parks, Culture and Rec
4. Future in town/ out of town
5. Concerns with current social issues: inflation, cost of rent, housing, drugs and opioid crisis, homelessness
6. Education
7. overall needs for youth in the town

Suggested simply questions

1. Shopping: what stores do you like in town?

What stores do you wish to see in town?

are you needs regarding retail met?

2. Downtown:

Did you attend turtle fest? What did you like? What do wish different?

Did you attend the downtown Halloween Haunted House? Was it good? Would you change? How so?

What events downtown would you like to see for highschool youth?

3. Parks, Culture, Rec:

Do you play sports? Is there any sports you wish the town offered that they don't?

What do you think is lacking for recreation for youth that don't play sports?

What would you like to see offered?

Would you attend youth dances?

4. Do you see yourself living in Tillsonburg as an adult?

5. What are you concerns about ....

and so on. I offer this as suggestion and would like to hear from the youth council for relevant questions.