Hub Teen Center Community Advisory Board Meeting 10.1.2020

In attendance: Taylor Welch, Chuck Richardson, Liz Sayre, Alex Mihavics, Ashka Whitney (Teen)

Meeting Called to order 6:01pm (meeting also recorded on Zoom)

Agenda Items:

Summary of Open Hours: Taylor reported that over the past two weeks of operation the Hub has seen between 4-8 teens on Monday and Tuesday and about 8-10 teens on Thursday and Friday. These figures are more or less in line with what we saw last year when school was in session normally (average of 12-14 teens per day). In general we’ve had a more even split between gender identities than in years past (~90% male). Taylor also reported that the old log in system went down for a few weeks, but just recently came back online. During the down time, Taylor and the Hub staff decided to pursue alternative sign-in systems. The old system is web based and the domain name is hosted on a former director’s personal server. Furthermore, the Hub staff can’t update the code on the old system, making it difficult to adapt it from its initial design.

Open hours plan going forward: Staff are encouraged that k-6 schools in the district will be returning to Monday – Friday schooling next week and hope that the high school will follow shortly. The Hub will still plan to follow the hybrid schedule until Mt. Abe switches back. No changes in health screening or distancing or mask wearing protocol are expected. Chuck mentioned that before the weather gets too cold, the Hub should contact Jackmans about having the furnace checked and cleaned before temps drop.

Rec Club Meeting update: Alex attended the most recent Rec Club meeting, held at the Hub last week. The Rec Club members in attendance complimented the Hub staff on their upkeep of the building and mentioned that it looked great! The Rec Club and Rec Department will be working together to install a water bottle filling station to the Rec Field, possibly as soon as next spring. The proposed location would be somewhere between the tennis court skate park and the Hub. This will greatly benefit skaters since, for years, the closest place to refill their water has been the Hub kitchen sink.

New Programs/Offerings/Partnerships: The Rec. Department and Rec Club are organizing a pickup street hockey group on Monday nights at the skating rink starting soon. Taylor has reached out to Logan Price about resuming ‘Money Talks’ series either remotely or in-person. He has responded and it seems like a remote or perhaps outdoor option would work best for him. The pilot program (back in February) was well received by teens. The Hub has received permission from the Rec. Club to use a portable outdoor fire pit. The idea would be to have a fire going (supervised by hub staff) to give teens an outdoor activity that also keeps them warm in the colder months. Several community members have already expressed interest in donating some firewood for this new program. Chuck advised that the hub staff reach out to the Fire station when we know which dates will be fire pit days. Taylor has reached out to Bob Recupero about guitar lessons at the hub. Bob’s schedule might not allow him to teach lessons at this time but he did give another contact who may be available. Taylor will continue to explore. The Burton Chill program starts on October 6th during after school hours. Due to the change in school schedule, the early afternoon class was cancelled. However the afternoon class is full and this program and partnership with Chill continues to build momentum within the community!

Scooter Competition: The Rec. Department and the Hub are working to put on a Scootering competition on October 24th at the Skate park. The ages will be 6-16 (separated by age group: 6-8, 9-12, 13-16) entry fee will be $10 per competitor with all proceeds going toward the skatepark maintenance fund.

Tutoring Program: The tutoring program is still on to start soon, however with some school schedule changes potentially on the way, the program may end up being cut short.

PREP update: The Hub staff are planning to run an in person PREP (Personal Responsibility Education Program) on November 24th-25th. The COVID-19 protocols will be applied to participants in the program and some aspects of the course may be altered to accommodate physical distancing but the content will be able to remain the same. Teens who complete the course will still receive a $100 stipend.

MAUSD Town Hall meeting plug: The Hub staff encourage CAB members to also attend one of two upcoming virtual town hall meetings (10.14 at 9am or 10.20 at 6pm) regarding the MAUSD future plans. The Hub has always been closely tied to Mt. Abe and will be affected by any major decisions MAUSD school board makes.

Ideas, discussion, feedback:

Ashka mentioned that doing movie nights at the hub could be a good way to bring teens together, especially those that don’t get to see each other as often because of the current hybrid system. She also mentioned doing some outdoor activities in addition to the fire pit. Smores or outdoor games were suggested as possibilities. Chuck mentioned that he knows of several local trades businesses that would be willing to donate $50 to the Scooter competition project. Folks to add to the email list include Bob Best and Tony (Chuck has their contact info). Chuck also mentioned that sending out the minutes from the CAB meetings to the email list would help bring more people to the monthly meetings. Alex suggested including a link to last months minutes on the email with the agenda. Liz suggested that the Hub write up something to be included in the Mt. Abe newsletter and to remind parents of how many teens are allowed in the Hub and what the health protocols are.

Alex mentioned that the Rec. Club also is currently planning for their 100th anniversary celebration (sometime next summer) and that the Hub should start to brainstorm ideas of how the Teen Center can be a part of the festivities. Troy mentioned running a bingo game at the meeting since the Hub used to be the old bingo hall. In general the rec club would prefer the hub to plan something and present it to them rather than have to develop it slowly along with all the other aspects of the celebration.

Next meeting will be November 5th at 6pm at the hub (inside)

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm