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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
750 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER BC V7V 3T3

COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	April 9, 2021
From:	Alison Gelz, Youth Services & Community Recreation Manager
Subject:	Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on Youth Week
File:	2100-01

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report dated April 9, 2021 titled “Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on Youth Week” be received for information.

1.0 Purpose

To inform Council about the four youth leadership committees in the District of West Vancouver and the outstanding work that three of the committees were able to achieve during the past year; and update Council on the activities planned for BC Youth Week in early May.

2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy

There is no current applicable legislation.

3.0 Council Strategic Objective(s)/Official Community Plan

The District of West Vancouver’s (District) Official Community Plan’s policies support the social well-being and the demographic and cultural diversity of youth in the District through the following policies:

Policy 2.8.3: Improve access to services and resources for youth, seniors and persons with disabilities, including consideration for improved walking, cycling and transit connections and shuttle services.

Policy 2.8.5: Provide services, programs and facilities to support children youth and families in meeting their diverse needs and foster their sense of belonging.

Policy 2.8.11: Support the continual provision of community hubs (e.g., Child and Family Hub and Youth Services Hub) and explore the potential for neighbourhood hubs based on community partnerships.

4.0 Financial Implications

No additional financial resources are requested or required.

5.0 Background

Municipal recreation services for youth have been delivered out of the District's various community centres and facilities through the Parks, Culture & Community Services Division for decades. The Youth Services team works with and supports youth leadership committees that are the voice for youth and that continue to advocate for youth programs and services in the community.

5.1 History

The Youth Services team currently supports four committees and each one is responsible for different aspects of work in the community.

1. Preteen Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC is for Grades 6–7 students and was formed in 2016. This committee aims to teach preteen youth valuable leadership skills and to assist with the development of programs and events for preteens in West Vancouver.

2. Whatever Youth Committee (Whatever)

Whatever is for students in Grades 8–12 and was formed in 2014. This committee creates an inclusive and safe space for LGBTQIA2S+ youth and their allies, plans and promotes activities and events, and helps raise community awareness.

3. Student Work & Advisory Team (SWAT)

SWAT is for students in Grades 8–12 and was formed in 2009. This committee focuses on leadership skills, communication strategies, civic responsibility, cultural awareness, and policing methods in conjunction with the West Vancouver Police Department (WVPD).

4. Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

YAC is for students in Grades 8–12 and was formed in 1995. This committee focuses on municipal youth issues and initiatives, and assists with policy and program development as it relates to youth.

6.0 Analysis

6.1 Discussion

Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees

The main goal of these youth committees is to build a community of young people who are connected, aware, and informed. Any youth who is interested in leadership opportunities in the community is eligible to apply and become a committee member.

Each of the four committees typically meet twice a month to discuss ideas and then develop plans to initiate youth involvement in programs, community events, or related topic areas of importance to each committee. Members of each committee work closely together to execute those plans over the committees' term which aligns with the school calendar year of September to June.

For the 2020/2021 school year, three of the four committees were able to make the transition to online meetings and programming to be able to continue their work uninterrupted. Unfortunately, the PTAC was unable to meet in the 2020/2021 school year due to COVID-19.

Synopsis of Achievements

Whatever:

- participated in the July opening and decorated the new Youth Hub space at Park Royal
- participated and provided valuable feedback on a healthy relationships workshop series from McCreary Centre Society
- planned and executed a variety of free and fun movie nights, game nights, group activities, and more for LGBTQIA2S+ youth over the year
- participated and provided input in the Proud2Be Virtual Event Series. Proud2Be is a Family Services of the North Shore program, connecting parents, youth, and children around gender identity and sexual orientation

SWAT:

- engaged in training exercises and information sessions on policing and policing methods including:
 - traffic control/speed control;
 - female-identifying SWAT members participated in online self-defense training session with female-identifying police officers from the Vancouver Police Department;
 - learning how fingerprinting works and how to collect them at a crime scene;
 - K9 training and handling; and more
- created food, clothing, and small household item hampers for seniors at the Seniors' Activity Centre during the holiday season
- participated in a park clean-up at Ambleside Park
- participated in a training with North Shore Bear Society
- began work with 365give to facilitate the involvement of youth and community members in Do1Give Day on April 21 at the WVPD

YAC:

- participated in a park clean-up at John Lawson Park
- created comfort kits for the Lookout Housing & Health Society during the holiday season
- worked with Youth Services staff to develop a social media presence (Instagram) for communicating with their peers regarding municipal issues and to bring a youth perspective to advertising and promoting recreation and community services
- created a work plan to guide the social media work and to assist in the maintenance of Youth Services social media accounts, and worked on developing and executing weekly social media posts
- provided leadership skill development by being actively involved in planning and idea generation for youth programs and community services
- began work on developing and planning all aspects of the virtual Youth Council meeting and Youth Appreciation Awards Certificate Pick-Up
- began working with 365give to develop West Vancouver-specific promotional videos to encourage other youth, children, and families to participate in this day of action

Update on Youth Week, May 1–7

Youth Week is an international celebration of youth held annually during the first week of May. It is a week of fun, interaction, and celebration intended to build a strong connection between young people and their communities, and to profile the accomplishments and diversity of youth.

Confirmed Events:

- **Preteen Rec Night**

May 1, 2021 | 5–8:30 p.m. | West Vancouver Community Centre

Abiding by strict COVID-19 safety guidelines, Youth Services staff will host an after-hours Preteen Rec Night for Grades 6–7 at the West Vancouver Community Centre. There will be leisure swimming at the Aquatic Centre, drop-in gymnastics in the Dynamic Movement studio, pizza, and time to hang out and play games in the Youth Lounge. If there are any changes to the current Provincial Health Order, this event may have to be cancelled.

- **Virtual Youth Council Meeting**

May 5, 2021 | 6–7 p.m.

YAC, Mayor and Council, interested family and friends, and staff will be invited to a virtual Youth Council Meeting. YAC will prepare and deliver a mock council meeting in which they will discuss something of importance to West Vancouver youth. This is a great opportunity for

youth to share their own thoughts and opinions on a topic that is important to them and then Mayor and Council will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback/comments at the end of the mock meeting. Staff have sent out a hold the date invite to Mayor and Council.

- **Whatever Rec Night**

May 8, 2021 | 5–8:30 p.m. | West Vancouver Community Centre

Abiding by strict COVID-19 safety guidelines, the Whatever Committee and staff will host an after-hours all bodies swim and drop-in gymnastics for LGBTQIA2S+ youth and their allies at the West Vancouver Community Centre and Aquatic Centre. Prizes, food, and fun in the Youth Lounge will ensure a great time will be had by all! If there are any changes to the current Provincial Health Order, this event may have to be cancelled.

Tentative Event:

- **“Walk-thru” Youth Appreciation Awards Certificate Pick-Up**

May 8, 2021 | 1–4 p.m. | West Vancouver Community Centre

This event cannot proceed under the current Provincial Health Order; If restrictions ease, the Provincial Health Order is adjusted, and staff receive approval from Vancouver Coastal Health, this event will take place abiding by strict COVID-19 safety guidelines.

If approved, members of council, staff and YAC will be onsite at the West Vancouver Community Centre to hand out Youth Appreciation Awards and a small gift to all youth recipients through a safely distanced walk-thru event. If the event cannot take place then the youth awards will be mailed to award winners.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 Recommended Options

It is recommended that Council receive the report dated April 9, 2021 titled “Annual Report from Youth-Driven Committees and Update on Youth Week” for information.

7.2 Considered Options

Council may request further information in addition to receiving this report.

8.0 Conclusion

The report is being provided to Council in order to share the achievements of the youth committees in the District of West Vancouver, the positive impacts and outcomes they provide for youth in the community; and also to provide an update on the activities planned for BC Youth Week in early May.



Author:

Alison Gelz
Youth Services & Community Recreation Manager



Concurrence:

Sue Ketler
Senior Manager of Community Services