

## YOUTH ROOTS – MAY 6, 2020

Minutes by Mandi

Meeting held in Microsoft Teams

Present: Melri Wright (BVO and Ledge), Jason Weppeler (Grey Bruce Public Health), Sarah Milne (Grey Bruce Public Health), Emily Barker (Blue Mountains Public Library), Mary Dodge (Blue Mountains Public Library), Ryan Gibbons (Town of The Blue Mountains), Mandi Lambe (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce), Joanne Clement (Meaford Rotary), Andrea Matrosovs (Town of The Blue Mountains)

### 1. RBC Grant:

- a. Jason discussed where we are at with the grant
- b. In discussion with school board officials – even if schools open in September, big assemblies may not be an option.
- c. Grant has been extended until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 instead of October 2020
- d. Learning towards spring 2021, but maybe late November/early December
- e. Worst case scenario – we could look at a virtual event
- f. Maybe a class presentation format
- g. Jason advised that RBC has asked for the youth rep to fill out the survey and he has not heard from Madison at all. Jason and Melri will connect next week and determine if they need to approach another youth (perhaps Becca). End of May deadline.

### 2. Meaford Bursary:

- a. We received the next installment of \$2000 – Jason has the cheque and he will get it to Melri for deposit
- b. The Municipality is confident that recipients will continue their projects when able to proceed due to Covid
- c. Focus of this 4 year grant is youth events, and vocational/educational training
- d. GBCS is doing food pick up for families once every two weeks curbside – discussion of us using some of this money to assist with this effort
- e. Discussion about Jason reaching out to the Municipality to see if they would ‘accept’ that as a use for the money
- f. Discussion about some barriers that have been found around this program – Sarah M suggested we speak to social services
- g. Spring deputation for this grant has been pushed back to spring 2021
- h. We have \$1424 left in bank of the last installment

### 3. Conversation surrounding our communities’ needs:

- a. Youth are still gathering together – can we support them in some way that is safe and responsible
- b. Mary discussed the teen advisory groups that she has been able to continue through the library virtually – they are struggling with missing big life events (ie. prom, grad, etc...) and being expected to participate in adult conversations (ie. no jobs, lack of money, etc...). They want events that are light and fun. Library is looking at weekly challenges. Virtual meet and greet (hang out). Looking at starting a youth podcast.
- c. Melri discussed OSAID and the difficulty of getting the youth connected virtually. Feeling pressured to get school work done and some are still working as well

- d. Kathy and Danielle at GBCS are able to post things on the school FB page
  - e. Community Gardens are opening up (5 people at a time). Could we create a supervised area where youth could hang out with safety in mind (physical distancing, handwashing stations, etc...)
  - f. Melri and Mary will ask their teens if a space like that would be of interest
  - g. Mandi will send out a copy of the application for Bigs and some information about the program as still has youth waiting for a Big in Meaford
  - h. If Rotary can help with specific funding – let Joanne know
  - i. Let Melri know if BVO can help with anything in the Thornbury area
4. Continued discussion on how to use funds:
- a. Motion by Melri: Jason to approach Municipality of Meaford about allowing Youth Roots to use up to \$1000 of grant money for food support through GBCS/social services program. In 2 x \$500 chunks of money if required. Our suggestion would be to encourage Good Food Box but will explore what needs are. Seconded by Ryan. Carried unanimously.
  - b. Timeline: Jason will approach the Municipality. Melri will reach out to Kathy at GBCS and Amy at social services.
  - c. Will also look into our ability to help deliver if necessary/helpful
5. Final Thoughts:
- a. Next meeting at beginning of June. Doodle poll will be sent
  - b. Mary will be taking over for Emma Barker's maternity leave – will ensure to keep Youth Roots FB page going. Welcome to the team Mary!! 😊
  - c. CONGRATS to Emma!! 😊