



COUNTY OF ERIE  
**MARK POLONCARZ**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**ERIE COUNTY YOUTH BOARD MEETING**

*Second Monday of each month from 4:30-5:30pm, unless otherwise specified  
810 East Ferry St.*

Present: LaShawn Davis, Jamien Eutsey, Wanda Hillman, Maria Marinucci, John Romanowski  
Absent: Ben Fox, Charity Lulas, Brian Rochford, Ashleigh Worthy

**Minutes- September 9, 2024**

**I. Welcome/Introductions**

**II. Youth Bureau Update-Wanda**

**i. Update regarding board members**

- a. Melissa stepped down from Youth Board. Wanda shared that as we have discussed, Melissa did not feel as though the change she hoped to make was being made and she was frustrated.
  - i. The Board needs to vote in a new Chair, but we need new members first as per the by-laws.
  - ii. Jamien shared that this is his second meeting as Vice Chair and is a bit concerned about what Melissa's resignation means for him and the Board and had further questions about when Melissa stepped down. Wanda noted it was a couple weeks ago.
  - iii. Wanda reminded the Board that this is the Board's meeting, and if changes need to be made, then the Board needs to discuss this and act. Wanda noted change takes time, but the Board does need to act for things to evolve.
  - iv. Wanda expressed that since new folks joined, especially those present, the meetings have been more engaging and productive, and Melissa agreed.



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- v. Jamien offered to step in and up as needed.
- vi. Wanda will be sitting back at the meetings, and the Board will run the meetings and discuss topics to be explored and changes to be made.
- vii. LaShawn expressed she does not know anything about the Governance Committee; Wanda thinks Brian is on it and that he may need to step in to explain and run the Committee.
- viii. Jamien also asked how we as a Board stay motivated and don't feel compelled to also step down. Wanda suggested the Board members reflect on why they joined the Board and keep that in mind, particularly the interest in advocating for youth of Erie County. She noted we may be frustrated, but change happens when we work together in the interest of the youth and stay positive and focused on that.
  - 1. LaShawn suggested the Board stay in touch via email to maintain communication. Wanda said it was okay to keep her off the emails and then discuss things together at the meeting.
- ix. Maria shared feeling a little unsure where to go from here; having been on the board just under a year, she does not really know what the Committees do or what the Board can do aside from reviewing proposals. Wanda offered to gather more information from Sue and share findings at the next meeting.
  - 1. John echoed these concerns as Melissa seemed to be the seasoned member leading us. As he does not live in Buffalo anymore, he does not know what concerns to bring. He isn't sure who we bring on to the Board that can be the Chair or that may know how things should or can go.



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- a. Wanda said we will vote according to the process outlined in our Bylaws.
- b. Need new members and need to continue recruiting; there are 3 people in the queue to join and they should be moved forward if they meet all qualifications.
- ii. **2024-25 YDP/YSEF/Team Sports update**
  - a. All will be renewed for this coming year, so no upcoming scoring. If the Board disagrees with just renewing, this could be a chance for the Board to prompt change, as well as giving us time to focus on internally getting the Board in order.
  - iii. **Youth Bureau Director will be reposted with some changes, and Coordinator will also be reposted. Still just Wanda for now.**

**III. Chair's/Vice Chair's Report:**

- I. Jamien is interested in stepping in to Chair position; John and Maria do not feel able to step in at this time.

**V. Committee Updates**

- i. Governance/Executive: no meetings have been held.

**VI. Closing: Adjourned at 5:10pm**

- I. Next meeting is scheduled for 10/14 but that is Indigenous People's Day. Board decided on **October 7<sup>th</sup>** as rescheduled date.