



Committee Representing Our Young Adults

## CROYA “Special” Board Meeting MEETING MINUTES 01-23-2024

**Attendance:** Todd Nahigian, Rick Day, Leslie Bruning, Christine Carr, Alexandra Mower, Julie Crouch, Lulu Flavin, Kristen Lee, Stephanie Mannarino, Sally Swarthout, Joe Mobile and Susan Simms.

**Motion to Open:** Chris Carr welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to open the meeting at 8:15am. Kristen Lee motioned to open the meeting. Stephanie seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Kristen motioned to approve the November meeting minutes. Stephanie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Chairman Report:** Chris thanked everyone for coming and asked how they have spoken about CROYA since the last meeting. Todd reported about a two-part article with video, highlighting CROYA in the Lake Forest Love Blog. Kristen spoke about how everyone was raving about Mike the Magician, who performed at a recent High School meeting. Susan spoke about CROYA at a community event encouraging Lake Forest Country Day School students to attend after school drop-in hours. Lulu talked with other students studying at the library during finals about the fun events at CROYA, especially Yoguitar.

Chris acknowledged Sally’s impending retirement and thanked her for her commitment to CROYA. Sally announced her retirement from the City of Lake Forest, is Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Todd added that he has enjoyed having Sally as his boss and so appreciates her support of CROYA. Sally touted CROYA as “the gold standard”. Joe Mobile has been appointed as the Interim Director of Lake Forest Parks and Recreation. A retirement coffee for Sally is planned for Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm at CROYA.

**Manager Report:** Todd shared that lots of groups have been renting the facility! We love to have the school groups at CROYA so parents and staff can see the facility. Citadel Theater is hosting rehearsals for their children’s program at CROYA, and NSSRA is hosting a weekly program for adults with special needs here. Todd also shared that Activator Music Academy currently has 5 teachers, 2 virtual and 3 in person. There is a drum scholarship available from the Pierson Dapier Foundation.

**Youth Report:** **Alexandra Mower** feels that things at CROYA are going really well. Retreat Leader meetings start in February. Peer Training at Woodlands Academy starts next week. **Lulu Flavin** shared that Tyler Klein was chosen to “wear the pants” for Mike’s Pocket Change at Gorton’s “Kids Only” Holiday Shop program. CROYA provided a lot of volunteers for the event. The fall retreat was a huge success with 94 youth attendees. There were 60 recent graduates of Peer Training. Recent high school meetings include Dodgeball, Silent Library and the Holiday Party with a gingerbread house contest. So far in January we have had Yoguitar and a finals de-stress meeting, where there was a scream room, a drum circle and slime making. The Trivia meeting was very successful as was Mike the Magician. Family Feud is happening next week at Woodlands Academy. Also coming up at CROYA are Laser Tag and the Dating Game. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 16 CROYA youth volunteered at Fill A Heart 4 Kids. A group from Lydia Home in Chicago came with Fill A Heart 4 Kids to CROYA on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and recorded music in the music studio. They had a great time!

### **Program Reports:**

**Leslie** shared the Middle School had a fun holiday party including a gingerbread making activity with 30 middle school youth participating. Leslie shared that middle school meetings are up and running with lots of 8<sup>th</sup> graders in attendance. 7<sup>th</sup> graders tend to be timid but are attracted by the “big” meetings. Very popular “Crumb Club” happens one Friday a month. Cooking Club continues to be very popular, happening on Thursday’s 4-5pm. The middle school 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade ski trip to Wilmot is coming up February 16<sup>th</sup>. Laser Tag will be held for Lake Bluff Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders (who have a day off school) on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1-3pm, and for the remainder of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grad students during regular drop-in hours 3:30-5:30pm. Leslie shared that CROYA is teaching a Peer Pressure class to the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Lake Forest Country Day School and a class on “Being Genuine” to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Leslie will also be teaching a peer pressure lesson during Deerpath Middle School Health classes. There are plans to attend the Lake Forest College basketball game on this Saturday at 1:00pm.

**Catherine** was not in attendance.

**Rick** shared that he attended the Lake Forest High School Scout Experience, a program for incoming Freshmen and their parents. Rick said it was great connecting with parents. CROYA hosted Friendsgiving on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving with approximately 75 youth and alum in attendance. CROYA Student Union was open over winter break with activities including board game day and Friday fry-day. The annual sweatshirt sale is happening soon and the student store has been organized to allow for storage and sale of CROYA merchandise. Rick shared that Square can now be used for payment. Rick also shared that he will again be partnering with the Lake Forest High School Talent Show.

**Foundation:** Todd shared that he and one of the members of The CROYA Foundation will be attending the City of Lake Forest Audit Committee meeting. The CROYA Foundation Treasurer is looking to transition off of the Foundation Board.

**Adjourn Meeting:** Kristin Lee motioned to close the meeting at 9:06am. Julie seconded the motion and the motion passed. The next meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00am at CROYA.