



Kids' Council Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2014

5:15 p.m. – 6:53 p.m.

344 Broadway, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Summary

Summary of Conversation Topics

- Presentation of the work of the Cambridge Youth Council
- Discussion of the Door-to-Door and Code for Boston projects and next steps
- Presentation and Discussion of the Book Bike Program

Key Agreements

- Agreement to support the Book Bike Program, Summer 2015

Next Steps

The group identified the following next steps (or commitments) during the meeting:

What	Who	By When
Save the proposed meeting schedule for 2014-15 (3 rd Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 15, 2015 ▪ March 19, 2015 ▪ April 16, 2015 ▪ May 21, 2015 ▪ June 18, 2015 *Possible Retreat or CET Training (5:15 – 9:15 p.m.)	All KC members and affiliates	
Solicit donations of new books from book stores for Book Bike Program	Matt Nelson	



Kids' Council Meeting Minutes November 20, 2014

5:15 pm – 6:53 pm

344 Broadway, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Detailed Notes

Present:

Griffin Andres, Naia Aubourg, Charlotte Avant, Jen Bailey, Sally Benbasset, Lace Campbell, Jessica Daniels, Nadia Davila, Susan Flannery, Mary Gashaw, Michelle Godfrey, Robert C. Haas, George Halfkenny, Jacob Kyrik, Lori Likis, John Lindamood, Alanna Mallon, Neal Michaels, Linda Mindaye, Matt Nelson, Michael O'Brien, Mike Payack, Liz Phipps-Soeiro, Jamarcus Purley, Ellen Semonoff, Sumbul Siddiqui, Nancy Tauber

Chair: Neal Michaels

Executive Director: Nancy Tauber

Content Manager: Mike Payack

Desired Outcomes:

- Agreement to support the Book Bike Program, Summer 2015
- Shared understanding of the work of the Cambridge Youth Council
- Shared understanding of the Door-to-Door and Code for Boston projects and next steps
-

Socialize, Network and Eat:

5:15 pm – 5:29 pm

Call to Order:

5:29 pm – 5:32 pm

- Nancy Tauber announced that Neal Michaels will be chairing tonight's meeting because Mayor Maher is at the National League of Cities conference in Austin, Texas
- Welcome & Introductions (Neal Michaels)
- Agenda Overview
 - Neal announced a reordering of the agenda
 - The Book Bike presentation will take place before the Youth Council update
- Adoption of Minutes (October 16th, 2014 meeting)
 - Minutes adopted

Book Bike Presentations and Discussion:

5:32 pm – 6:18 pm

- Review of 2014 Book Bike Program (Liz Phipps-Soeiro and Jen Baily)
 - The Book Bike was Liz Phipps-Soeiro's idea and was brought to fruition by Jen Bailey and the Agenda for Children
 - Liz started with the question: "Are kids able to access a variety of high quality books in the summer?"
 - There are obstacles that keep children from accessing libraries
 - If children aren't going to libraries, the books should go to where the children are: the playgrounds
 - Mobile lending libraries have existed for many years
 - Biblioburro, a travelling library based in Columbia that distributes books from shelving systems attached to the backs of two donkeys
 - And a local example, which no longer exists: the Cambridge Bookmobile
 - But the Book Bike was to be a GIVING library (rather than LENDING library)
 - Needed to raise funds
 - Raised \$2,000 in a successful kickstarter campaign
 - Bought bike with raised funds; Liz's husband built shelving system, reminiscent of library shelves
 - Wanted the experience to mimic going to a library
 - One goal was to get more children to attend DHSP's Summer Food Program
 - Co-promoted with Summer Food
 - Summer Food Program numbers improved—at Greene-Rose Heritage Park, it went from 300 meals served in the summer of 2013 to over 800 in the summer of 2014
- 2015 Book Bike Program Planning
 - North Cambridge was not served by the 2014 Book Bike Program
 - We are here asking you for a second bike to serve North Cambridge
 - Center for Families knows North Cambridge best
 - Book Bike would be left with Center for Families
 - In planning for next summer, we want to continue to focus on parks where the Summer Food Program serves meals
 - We want it to be a special summer event (like ice cream trucks) rather than year-round program
 - Next summer, the plan is to keep existing sites and add two sites in North Cambridge
 - Danehy Park and Russell Field (near Rindge Towers)
 - Always open to more collaborations (with Cambridge Police Dept. for example)
 - There has been a lot of talk about info hubs...maybe Book Bike could be a mobile info hub
 - We want to pilot the Book Bike as a mobile info hub, outfitted with a tablet that could access the info hub website to help connect citizens to resources
- Neal Michaels provided some context
 - Thanks to Liz, Alanna, and Jen—great concept
 - Work with Code for Boston underway to design a website/info hub

- How to get info to people in ways other than internet that are both intelligible and accessible
 - Ideas:
 - Phone number
 - Physical locations
 - Taking info mobile
 - Utilize this opportunity to spread info about resources in two ways
 - The Book Bike staffer's personal knowledge
 - Info Hub/Website (via tablet on Book Bike)
- Friends of the Kids' Council
 - Neal was first ED of the Kids' Council
 - Established Friends of the Kids' Council, a private non-profit that could engage in fundraising activities, because many private funders were unlikely to fund a City program
 - Friends of the Kids' Council has not raised funds since 1992
 - Still have some money in that bank account (about \$3,000)
 - Looking to dissolve the non-profit
 - But first need to find a use for the remaining funds
 - Pay for a second Book Bike and tablets
 - Jen presents the 2015 Book Bike Program budget (see Attachment B)
- Question & Answer
 - Charlotte Avant: Who built the bike?
 - Liz: The bike was purchased and my husband built the shelving system
 - Charlotte Avant: Should we let people know that they can donate books to the Book Bike?
 - Liz: The idea was originally to be run on donations. But a secondhand book sends a message. Liz is also passionate that every child has equal access to quality literature. Important that these are new, exciting books
 - Jen: It is challenging to have some new and some used books
 - Sally Benbasset: Are there ways to get donations of books? Bookstores have promotions where customers have the option of buying a book to donate
 - Liz: I approached local bookstores and publishers, but without data it was a hard sell for donations
 - Jen: We do buy books at a library rate. Significant discount, still substantial costs
 - Ellen Semonoff:
 - Acknowledge the phenomenal amount of work this took
 - Budget is an entirely reasonable budget
 - Kids' Council is about collaboration of the various partners at the table and this is a wonderful example of that collaboration
 - Even before addition of Book Bike, Summer Food Program benefited greatly from collaboration with the Department of Public Health
 - Summer Food Program has become a wonderful collaborative vehicle for a number of great things

- Nancy Tauber asked if anyone would like to volunteer to solicit donations from book stores
 - Matt Nelson volunteered
- Neal Michaels suggested a vote be taken
- Sally Benbasset made a motion that the Kids' Council adopt a recommendation to support a second Book Bike and tablets using money from the Friends of the Kids' Council and to ask for additional City funds to support operations of the second Book Bike
 - Alanna Mallon seconded motion
 - Recommendation unanimously adopted

Youth Council Update:

6:18 pm – 6:28 pm

- Review of Cambridge Youth Council's current initiatives (Lace Campbell)
 - Nancy introduced Naia Aubourg (freshman at CRLS) and Jacob "Jack" Kyrik (sophomore at CRLS), two new members of the Cambridge Youth Council
- Naia and Jack reviewed current Cambridge Youth Council Initiatives
 - For the Past month, the Cambridge Youth Council has been working together to decide on how we would help meet the needs of youth in Cambridge. We are excited to announce that we have created Y2Y or Youth to Youth, which is a program with two main elements that we will implement this year
 - The first element is our Y2Y mentoring program
 - Our goal is to mentor about 20 students starting in January
 - We will talk with deans, guidance councilors, and teachers to identify students who may need or want mentoring
 - We will also advertise these services in the high school and middle schools
 - Through an application process, interested students will be paired with a mentor based on their areas of interest
 - The mentors will be members of the CYC along with a few other leaders at the high school. We are in the process of developing our training process now
 - Mentors and their mentees will meet twice a month.
 - One of these monthly meetings will be a workshop, including:
 - Signing up for tests and classes
 - Life mapping and goals
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Teacher students relationships
 - And resources and opportunities in Cambridge
 - The other monthly meeting will have the purpose of checking on goals, general support, and connecting the mentees to resources

- The other part of our program is a series of gatherings, three open discussions regarding race, and two community-bonding events
 - Race and Media: A group discussion between youth after being presented images of race in the media in order to raise awareness about how media impacts our feelings about race
 - Race and Education: World café-style table discussions about the achievement gap, self-segregation, and diverse classrooms in order to hear from youth about what actions could take place to address these issues
 - Youth and Police: A discussion between youth, hopefully followed by discussion with members of the police department to raise awareness about youth connection or disconnection to the police, hopefully breaking down some barriers
 - Basketball game between City officials and youth in order to break down barriers and have fun
 - International dinner at the high school: Connect families and raise cultural awareness
- We are very excited about our program and welcome any feedback, ideas, thoughts, or questions
- We hope we can call upon the members of the Kids Council as we start to implement these new programs
- Question & Answer
 - Ellen Semonoff: How would mentor relationship work?
 - Jack: We are not planning on mentoring direct-peers
 - Naia: We want the mentors to be older than the mentees
 - Griffin Andres: 11th and 12th graders will be mentoring 9th and 10th graders; 10th (and potentially 9th) graders will be mentoring 8th graders
 - Charlotte Avant: Have you thought about a mentorship club?
 - Jack: Part of the idea of this project is that we want to reach out to students who wouldn't join a club on their own

Code For Boston Project Update:

6:28 pm – 6:43 pm

- Status update on the Code For Boston project (Nancy Tauber)
 - Thanks to everyone who helped spread word on survey
 - CET
 - CLC
 - Library
 - CPSD
 - DHSP Facebook Page
 - Based on the results from the 1,273 surveys, work with Code For Boston volunteers to:
 1. Build a mobile-responsive website (multilingual preferable*)
 - Responsive website means it's accessible from phone, tablet, and computer
 - Native app not necessary at first, maybe wrap website later

- Information for services should include:
 - Contact Info
 - Cost
 - Deadlines
 - Operating Hours
 - Registration Requirements
 - Summary of Service
 - Web Link
- 2. Include a phone system with voice-assist or live-assist for calls (multilingual preferable*)
 - *Languages prioritized based on language feedback from the survey and census data
- 3. Market the website and phone system through flyers/newsletters, email, phone, text, social media
 - Survey-takers top two favorite ways to receive info were websites and flyers
- 4. Include a system for rating services
- 5. Need a full-time position to maintain system and work as community touch point
- Next steps:
 - Continue to get feedback from various stakeholders (Agenda for Children Symposium, Cambridge Youth Council, Early Childhood Task Force)
 - Nancy and Lace held workshop at Symposium to get feedback
 - Nancy and Lace will do the same thing with Cambridge Youth Council this Saturday
 - Working with Code for Boston on a prototype, with the goal of presenting a tested prototype at the March 19th meeting
- Neal: It's one thing to have a website, but we need to think about other opportunities to share info
 - Book Bike
 - Hotline
 - Not just a website
 - We need to be thoughtful about how info from website gets to people...in some cases that needs to be through a personal relationship
- Nancy Tauber: Two years ago, Kids' Council recommended City-wide curriculum for people doing outreach and engagement
 - 7 modules, 28-hour training
 - Kids' Council recommended that City support Community Outreach Training Program pilot

- The pilot is happening this year, every Friday for 7 weeks, 9 am-1pm (28 hours total)
- Nancy announced that, at the January Kids' Council meeting, Community Engagement Team will share their strategic plan and Community Outreach Training Program
- Nancy introduced George Halfkenny, a participant in the Community Outreach Training Program
 - George described the training program
 - Very worthwhile experience
 - Since it's a pilot, participants are also providing feedback on program
 - Very diverse group of people

Cambridge Connects (Door-to-Door) Update:

6:43 pm – 6:46 pm

- Status update on Door-to-Door (Matt Nelson)
 - Developed Door-to-Door survey tool
 - Agenda for Children literacy workers, Cambridge Housing, and Public Health Department all helped tailor and edit survey
 - It still is an evolving tool
 - We have decided to pilot the project during the scheduled spring Door-to-Door campaign in May 2015
 - The NTW/WE Door-to-Door expansion is scheduled for the week of May 4, 2015
 - The timing lines up well with the release of the prototype for the website/info hub that the Kids Council is having developed
 - Check in on almost all of the service providers and nonprofits in Area IV
 - Exciting that everyone we have talked to has expressed an interest in wanting to help with this project
 - Goal is to keep momentum going throughout the winter months by attending and/or co-hosting indoor meetings/meet-ups/meals
 - At these events we will continue to test out and perfect the survey (and start to gather data), as well as build on the collaborations that have continued to strengthen among the Area IV community
 - Advertised Book Bike and Summer Food at Greene-Rose Park at last Door-to-Door at Newtowne Court and Washington Elms

Public Comment and Announcements:

6:46 pm – 6:50 pm

- Ellen announced that Agenda for Children Out of School Time Initiative held a Symposium
 - This week was 2nd annual Symposium
 - A week of workshops delivered by staff of City's Out of School Time programs

- Our programs are much more collaborative now than 10 years ago
- Our program staff are the experts leading seminars
 - Family Engagement seminars
 - Cultural Awareness seminars
- Kids' Council has been a supporter of Agenda for Children for many years and you would have been proud of our presenters

Evaluation and Next Steps:

6:50 pm – 6:53 pm

Pluses	Deltas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Neal is a great chair * Impressive presentations (both Book Bike and Cambridge Youth Council) *Hearing about George's experiences participating in the CET training *Hearing about good stuff at Kids' Council is wonderful when there is so much terrible stuff happening in the world *Happy that Cambridge Youth Council is open to tackling issues of race *Good to get feedback on our work here 	

- Nancy announced that the next Kids' Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th, 2015 (5:15 pm -7:15 pm) at 344 Broadway, 2nd Floor conference room.

Adjourn:

6:53 pm

Book Bike



An idea...

Are kids able to access a
variety of high quality books
in the summer?

What we know...

According to a 20 year study published in Science Daily:
Whether rich or poor, residents of the United States or China, illiterate or college graduates, *parents who have books in the home increase the level of education their children will attain.*

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100520213116.htm>

BOOKS BEAT SUMMER SLIDE

Children who are given access to books over the summer perform 35-40% better on reading achievement tests than those without access to books.



SOURCE: Kingston, Robert L., Anne McGuffee-Francis, Gregory Cerrito, Loretta Williams, Jennifer Goff, Jacqueline Zieg, Courtney Ziegler, and Elizabeth Hovell. "Addressing Summer Reading Losses Among Low-income Underserved Elementary Students." *Reading Psychology* 31 (2010): 401-27. Web.

Where are kids in the summer?

As a librarian, I LOVE LIBRARIES...but there are obstacles that keep children and their families from fully utilizing our amazing public library system.

The evidence is overwhelming that owning books changes lives.

Where are kids in the summer?

At the playground. Books should go where the kids are!



Where are the kids in the summer?

DHSP's Summer Food Program goes to 5 parks in the city. This would be a perfect audience for the Book Bike.



Mobile Libraries...

Mobile libraries have been in existence for quite sometime in many forms all over the world. . . . <http://interactive.worl.org/highlights/2011/06/bilibumbo-donkey-library>



Mobile Libraries...

Cambridge had the Bookmobile for many years, here it is circa 1970.

thecambridgeroom.wordpress.com



Mobile GIVING Libraries...

When nurturing the idea of the Book Bike, there were no well publicized mobile GIVING libraries, strictly lending libraries. This was about to change.

Where are the books?...

After incubating the idea, it was time to take action. A strategic call to an organization that has a mission to give away new, *free, quality books* propelled the Book Bike forward.

THE
for Agenda
Children

Where is the bike?...

We needed a bike that made sense on the city streets, and we needed funding.

After researching options as well as completing a successful Kickstarter campaign, enough funds were raised to purchase...

Where is the bike?...



Where is the bike?...

We also needed the bike to carry books. We had a custom shelf built.



Getting ready...

Meetings started happening more regularly between Liz, Agenda for Children, Center for Families and DHSP.

Decisions about where the bike would visit were cemented.



Getting ready...



Decisions about managing volunteers, staffing, book purchasing and activities were made and put to action.

Getting ready...

Books had arrived and the Book Bike was ready.



Getting ready...

The Book Bike would visit 3 parks throughout the city that hosted summer food:

Greene Rose: Mid-Cambridge

Gold Star Mother's Park: East Cambridge

Hoyt Field: Riverside

Getting ready...

With the inclusion of the Book Bike, we called this program,

“Let’s Move, Let’s Eat, Let’s Read!”

Roll out...

The Book Bike visited the 3 parks a total of 15 times with wonderful results...







Impact...

Not only did we hand out books, had families reading together, perform read alouds and do craft projects, but Agenda for Children's Literacy Ambassadors made appointments for home visits at the Book Bike sites.

2014 Book Bike Tracking Sheet																									
Green Rose								Hoyt								Gore Street								Overall	
Type of Book	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Total	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Total	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Total	Total	Avg. Per Day (18 times)		
Board English	8	3	9	11	0	27	58	8	14	0	16	17	17	72	12	15	4	8	18	20	78	268	13		
Board Biling.	2	0	2	2	0	0	6	3	4	0	3	2	0	12	1	0	1	3	6	2	12	30	2		
Picture Books	12	11	10	35	0	20	88	8	13	0	18	19	18	72	9	17	7	5	7	48	98	253	10		
Early Reader	10	9	12	8	0	13	52	2	1	0	8	15	13	39	13	5	2	9	12	14	56	146	9		
Chapter 2-9th	3	9	3	4	0	14	33	3	7	0	7	7	15	42	3	7	1	3	4	6	24	89	6		
Chapter 6-12th	3	4	4	8	0	1	18	1	5	0	4	1	4	15	3	7	3	2	1	4	20	53	3		
Total Books	38	36	40	66	0	75	235	25	44	0	54	61	68	252	41	51	18	30	48	94	282	789	49		
rained 0 times								rained eat 0 times								holiday extra-Week 5 Thurs also visit 6 times									

Impact...

At Greene Rose Park alone, lunch consumption went up by **300%** since the introduction of the Book Bike!

Further impact?

In a few short months we took a project from an idea to fruition in a highly successful manner.

We want to continue with the success with a second bike.

Further impact?

With a second bike, we could reach North Cambridge, an area we did not hit this past summer, via Center for Families.

Further impact?

Introduction and testing as an “**Information Hub**”.

Possible Summer 2015 Budget

Book Bike Budget - Summer 2015

Updated: 11/12/2014

2nd Bkr

Book Bike				
	#	cost	Total Cost	Funds Needed
Bike	1	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 1,610.00
Stands, bell, etc.	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Materials for Shells	1	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Labor for Shells	7	\$ 50.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
			\$ 2,210.00	\$ 2,210.00

Operations

Book Bike							
	#	# of parks	# of visits	rate	# of hours	Total Cost	Funds Needed
Books (1,750)	50	5	7	\$ 4.30		\$ 7,875.00	\$ 7,875.00
Activities (30 sets)	1	5	7	\$ 50.00	1	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
Staff - Site Coordinators/prop	1	5	7	\$ 50.00	4	\$ 4,200.00	in-kind
Staff - Outreach Ambassadors/CPP	2	5	7	\$ 14.71	1.5	\$ 1,544.55	\$ 1,544.55
MSVEP students	2	0	8	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	in-kind
Book Bike staff - La Plazita-Sanito	1	1	7	\$ 30.00	11.9	\$ 2,508.00	\$ 2,508.00
CPP/APC planning	1	5	1	\$ 30.00	20	\$ 3,000.00	in-kind
Outreach materials	1000	1	5	\$ 0.06	2	\$ 120.00	in-kind
					5	\$ 20,999.55	\$ 15,899.55

Assumptions:

5 pairs

50 books/line (average last summer)

7 weeks (one more than last summer)

activities cost \$50/line

Site Coordinators at each site working 4 hours (2 hours prop/2 hours there)

CPP/APC staff: 2 people at each site working 1.5 hours each

2 MSVEP students - 1 at CPP, 1 at APC

2 people at site - coordinator, 2 staff, outreach student

Yay!



Attachment B:

Book Bike Budget - Summer 2015

Updated: 11/12/2014

2nd Bike

Book Bike				
	#	cost	Total Cost	Funds Needed
Bike	1	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 1,610.00
Stand, bell, etc.	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Materials for Shelves	1	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Labor for Shelves	7	\$ 50.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
			\$ 2,210.00	\$ 2,210.00

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Activities (35 sets)	1	5	7	\$ 50.00	1	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
Staff - Site Coordinators/prep	1	5	7	\$ 30.00	4	\$ 4,200.00	inkind
Staff - Literacy Ambassadors/CFF	2	5	7	\$ 14.71	1.5	\$ 1,544.55	\$ 1,544.55
MSYEP students	2	0	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	inkind
Book Bike staff - Liz Phipps-Soeiro	1	1	7	\$ 30.00	11.9	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
CFF/AFC planning	1	5	1	\$ 30.00	20	\$ 3,000.00	inkind
Outreach materials	1000	1	1	\$ 0.06	2	\$ 120.00	inkind
						\$ 20,989.55	\$ 13,669.55

Assumptions:

5 parks

50 books/time (average last summer)

7 weeks (one more than last summer)

activities cost \$50/time

Site Coordinators at each site working 4 hours (2 hours prep/2 hours there)

CFF/AFC staff- 2 people at each site working 1.5 hours each

2 MSYEP students - 1 at CFF, 1 at AFC

4 people at site - coordinator, 2 staff, mysep student