

**MINUTES
KENOSHA COUNTY
PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

Minutes of the Kenosha County Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee public hearing held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, Bristol, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Chairman Aaron Karow, Vice Chairman Daniel Gaschke, Supervisors Brian Bashaw, John Franco

Members Excused: Supervisor Ed Kubicki

Youth In Governance Representatives Present: Olivia Parish and Aqsa Saad Qadri

Staff in Attendance:

Andy M. Buehler, Director, Division of Planning and Development
Pamela Larson, Area Extension Director
Savannah Meyers, Community Development Educator
Camille Carlson, Positive Youth Development Coordinator
Vijai Pandian, Horticulture Educator
Atifa Robinson, Nutrition Education Administrator, Kenosha and Racine Counties
Carolyn Van Sloten, 4-H Educator
April A. Webb, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman pro tem Gaschke.

1. **Certification of Compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law:** The committee certified that all requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law had been met.
2. **2023 Program Highlights & 2024 Plans of Work/Goals:** Kenosha Racine Area Extension Director Pamela Larson began the presentation noting the office works directly with 59 partners; 790 participants utilized the plant health advising program in 2023, and more than 4,400 people participated in UW Extension programs. The FoodWise program reached 2,400 participants in 2023. The current 2024 4-H Program has a record 717 youth and adult volunteers.

Each of the educators then provided an update on their respective 2023 efforts and 2024 goals and plans for community development, 4-H program, health and well-being programs, horticulture program and events, youth development - YIG, YAR and NIA programs, and FoodWise. Additional specifics can be found in the attachment.

The Youth In Governance interview and selection process was discussed in anticipation of the March 25 and 27 interview meeting dates and the 2022-2023 YIG Annual Report was distributed (attached)

Chairman Karow arrived during the presentation.

Chairman pro tem Gaschke called for a brief recess prior to reconvening for the Public Hearing portion of this meeting.

After a brief recess, the Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room (Recording #2 of 2).

Chairman Karow called for introductions of committee members, youth in governance, and staff.

3. **Tabled Request - Review And Possible Action** – Ordinance amendments to the text of the Kenosha County General Zoning and Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning Ordinance. The proposed text changes will adopt the State/FEMA model floodplain zoning ordinance as a stand-alone subsection of Chapter 12 superseding existing floodplain language in Chapter 12 and authorizing such pertinent language to be removed. Such model ordinance is compliant with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 44, Chapter I, Section 60 and the Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 116 including the adoption of the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and the new Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

- Gaschke/Bashaw motion to **remove from the table** the proposed amendments to the Kenosha County Zoning Ordinance. Passed unanimously by those PDEEC members present, including YIG.

Planning Division Director Andy Buehler presented this information.

- Franco/Gaschke motion to **approve** and recommend to the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors the Zoning Ordinance text changes as presented. Passed unanimously by those PDEEC members present, including YIG.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - Bashaw/Gaschke motion to approve the minutes as presented of the February 14, 2024, Planning, Development and Extension Education Committee meeting. Passed unanimously by those PDEEC members present.

5. **Citizen Comments - None**

6. **Any Other Business Allowed By Law** – Planning Division Director Buehler noted the planning office had received several applications for the April and May meeting agendas. Supervisor Gaschke asked if information regarding the MJAC annual report would be scheduled for PDEEC review. Division Director Buehler replied that it is planned to be presented in the next couple of months.

7. **Adjournment**

- Bashaw/Gaschke motion to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously by those PDEEC members present. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

UW-Madison Extension

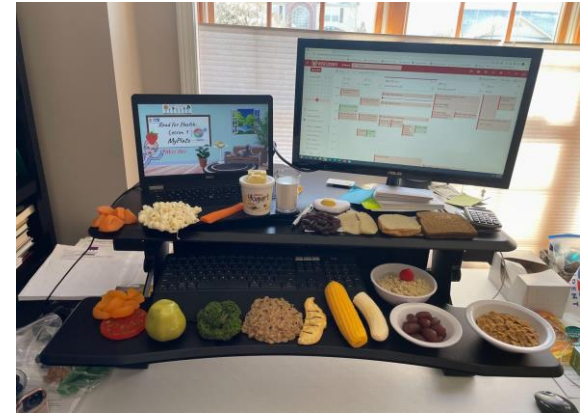


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Extension's Mission

Extension embodies the Wisconsin Idea by partnering to develop and connect the research and educational resources of UW-Madison and the UW System with residents and communities to address local, statewide, and national issues.



Extension Partnerships

- Partnership among Kenosha County, UW-System, and US Dept of Agriculture - 100+ years
- Educational resource to County departments/divisions, municipalities, and organizations throughout the county
- The county pays a portion of educators' salary/fringes, provide offices; UW-Madison, Division of Extension pays the remainder with state/federal funds, provides access to research, specialists, and statewide network resources



Program Highlights:

- **790** Residents in Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee county participated in the plant health advising program
- **4,416** people participated in Extension Programs
- 4-H currently has **717** youth and adult volunteers enrolled
- Educators have reported **88+** program outcomes
- Extension has worked directly with **59** partners
- Extension programming has reached **4,416+** educational contacts
- The FoodWise program has reached **2,404** participants



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of Kenosha County





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2023 Program Highlights & 2024 Plans of Work



Community Development - Savannah Meyers

2023 Program Highlights July-December 2023

- Reconnecting with Community Partners
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Attending Broadband Advisory Committee Meetings
- Engage in Affordable Housing Efforts
- Planning of “Homegrown: Entrepreneurship in Your Community” Program
- Creation of Economic Indicator Report



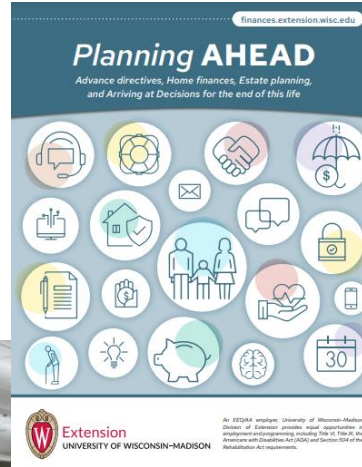
2024 Plan of Work

- Engage in Broadband Planning Process and Affordable Housing Initiatives
- Host Homegrown Program
- Share Economic Indicator Report and present findings to KABA board
- Continue to identify needs of the community and implement programming surrounding these areas
- Complete a formal plan of work

Health & Well-Being - Mary Metten

2023 Program Highlights

- Brought the end-of-life planning program Planning AHEAD to community audiences, offering the program four times and reaching over 60 adults
- Focus of youth mental health through programs such as, Youth Mental Health First Aid and Supporting Youth Mental Health - geared toward adults supporting youth in their lives
- Saw increased interest in financial education throughout community - requests for resources and information, group programming, and financial coaching



2024 Plan of Work

- Continuing to provide programming in line with community need
- Establishing new partnership with Community Impact Programs' foster care team - providing training to foster families in Kenosha County
- Working to connect Families Branching Out and Safe Kids Strong Family monthly events

Horticulture - Vijai Pandian

2023 Program Highlights

Research: Tree Diversity trial project, Anti-oxidant trial project, Woody Invasive Species Control trial, Tree of Heaven Assessment

Teaching: Gardening for Beginners, Plant Health Advising program, Spotted Lanternfly presentation for landscapers, Gardening with Inmates, Spongy Moth Field Day & Assessment, Teen Task Force Gardening Program, Arbor Day, WPR Garden Talk Show, Peer reviewed publication 'Alternatives to Lawn: Groundcovers'

Collaboration: Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course, Urban Forestry Training Program, Spring into Gardening Conference, WAA/Extension Urban Forestry Webinar, Arbor Day Celebration

Professional Services: Wisconsin Arborist Association Educational Advisor, Chair - Poster Presentation, Committee member - Demonstration Trial, Educational Program, Green Industry Outreach Specialist - Program Advisor

2024 Plan of Work

Collaboration: WNLA/Extension Webinar

Teaching: Peer reviewed publications, Gardening for Beginners (bilingual option), presentation at WAA state conference, Monthly Horticulture Talk Show

Research: Sweet potato trial, blueberry trial in trench, Wisconet Weather Station, Crabapple variety trial

Total Direct Contacts:

Green Industry Served: 377

Consumer Served: 1,004



Teen task force gardening program

4-H Youth Development - Carolyn Van Sloten

2023 Program Highlights

- 10 clubs and 18 countywide projects were reorganized and revitalized with a renewed sense of excitement and purpose
- Enrollment grew from 573 youth to 634 youth as of December 31, 2023
- Each youth was given an opportunity to participate in community service and learn the value of giving to others
- 1 overnight camp and 3 day camps were held
- Youth took on more responsibility in having a voice and leadership roles within their clubs and projects
- Youth showcased their learning and displayed core values such as good communication, mentorship, humility, and hard work at the Kenosha County Fair



2024 Plan of Work

- Recruit more volunteers
- Bring programming to youth who live east of Interstate 94
- Encourage youth to take advantage of state-wide 4-H opportunities
- Hold leadership training for middle school age youth who will need to take on greater leadership roles as they enter high school
- Increase enrollment by continuing to offer quality programming



Positive Youth Development

2023 Highlights

“Nia: Pathways and Purpose for the Future” Program

- One educational trip planned, in-school programming launched at Lincoln Middle School, Rest & Reset Event
- 27 youth participants

2022-2023 Youth In Governance Program

- Completed community service project focused on removing invasive species in the county
- All 16 youth completed full term

2023-2024 Youth In Governance sworn in and over halfway through their term

2022-2023 Youth as Resources Board

- Funded 12 Youth-led Service Projects
- \$4,400 awarded
- 4 projects funded so far this term



2024 Plan of Work

The new Positive Youth Development Educator began on January 22, 2024. She will initially focus on existing programs and connecting with community partners to learn more about perceived needs centered around youth development in the county. She will write a formal Plan of Work through the Positive Youth Development Institute.



Kenosha/Racine County FoodWise Program

2023 Program Highlights

- Reconnecting with past partners such as Hawthorne Hollow to participate in direct education during the summer program.
- The FoodWise participated in 67 SNAP-Ed program activities, and 5 indirect activities within the Kenosha Area according to PEARS.
- 17 adults received direct education from the EFNEP Program within the Kenosha Area according to WebNeers. (Educating Adults is a challenge for our program.)



2024 Plan of Work

- Work on School Nutrition Health Promotions within the Kenosha Unified School District
- Create a Work Plan for engaging Local Farmer Market Initiatives
- Increase Community Outreach Strategies to build new partnerships, i.e., identify more StrongBodies Partnerships within the Kenosha County area.
- The FoodWise team will be working on the FY25 Strategic Plan for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP





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Thank You

What Questions Can We Answer?





KENOSHA COUNTY YOUTH IN GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT (2022-2023)

BACKGROUND

Youth leadership development is critical in building civic capacity and long-term community sustainability in Kenosha County. Programs that teach useful skills and build the self-confidence of young people ensure capable, effective leaders for the next generation. Data from a 2006 Kenosha County *Search Institute* survey documented that only 23% of youth perceive that their community values youth and only 27% believe that youth are given useful roles in the community. These results were among the lowest of all the assets measured and were lower than similar assets measured at a national level. In direct response to these survey results, the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors created the Kenosha County Youth In Governance (YIG) program in 2007. The purpose of the Youth In Governance program is to create a model of youth empowerment within Kenosha County through direct participation in local government. The overall goal is to bring the youth voice to community issues and concerns while fostering the development of confident, independent, and motivated youth leaders.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Nomination forms for the 2022–2023 Youth in Governance program were distributed to all public and private high schools in Kenosha County. A total of 156 youth were nominated to participate in the program. Of the 156 nominees that were mailed an application, 27 completed the application and were invited to interview. One withdrew their application. Of the 26 interviewees, the names of 14 individuals were forwarded to Kenosha County Board Chair John O'Day for official appointment to a Kenosha County Board Committee. Shortly after, Kenosha County Board Chair Gabe Nudo took office and appointed the two youth selected as alternates to the Executive committee bringing the total number of youth serving on Kenosha County Board Committees to 16, plus one youth who served as an alternate to step in as needed. See TABLE A for specific nomination and selection statistics.

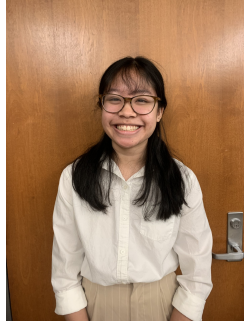
Name of High School	Nominations	Applications	Interviews	Selected
Bradford High School	46	2	1	1
Harborside Academy	20	2	2	1
Indian Trail High School and Academy	22	3	3	2
Lakeview Technology Academy	7	4	4	2
The Prairie School	4	3	3	1
St. Joseph Catholic Academy	2	1	1	1
Shoreland Lutheran High School	2	0	0	0
Tremper High School	3	3	3	3
Westosha Central High School	33	7	7	4
Wilmot Union High School	17	2	2	1
TOTAL	156	27	26	16

TABLE A

Kenosha County Youth in Governance Representatives 2022-23



Michael Babu
Joint Services



Erica J. Bando
Human Services



Rebecca Ceisel
PDEEC



Alexa Didinsky
Judiciary and Law



Aidan Hawkins
Finance & Admin



Sona Hawkins
Legislative



Kenzie Kuhagen
PDEEC



Eric La Mere
Human Services



Tyler Magnan
Public Works & Facilities



Abigail Nosalik
Legislative



Enze Price
Executive



Benjamin Rothove
Judiciary & Law



Leo Ruffolo
Joint Services



Alec Schires
Executive



Patrick Sterling
Alternate



Madi E. Tongco
Public Works & Facilities



Evan Vazquez
Finance & Admin

EVALUATION AND IMPACT

At the end of their term, all Youth In Governance members were given the opportunity to complete a retrospective evaluation. The results below, which probed for changes in the civic engagement and leadership skills of the youth, are based on a five-point Likert scale, which ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Quantitative information about civic engagement and leadership skill development are highlighted in TABLE B and TABLE C. Qualitative information is also shared through direct quotes from youth in response to three questions.

N = 10 of 16	# of Youth Reporting No Change	# of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Positive Change	# of Youth Reporting 2 or > Units of Positive Change
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT			
I am knowledgeable about Kenosha County Government.	2	5	2
I am aware of local issues that affect Kenosha County.	2	4	4
My opinion can make a difference in the community.	5	2	3
I am interested in politics.	5	2	2
I have a useful role in the community.	5	5	0
I feel a strong connection to Kenosha County.	3	4	3

TABLE B

N = 10 of 16	# of Youth Reporting No Change	# of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Positive Change	# of Youth Reporting 2 or > Units of Positive Change
LEADERSHIP SKILLS			
I can participate in group discussions with adults.	3	6	1
I can speak confidently before a group of adults.	3	5	2
I can see issues from multiple perspectives.	3	6	1
I can share new ideas with others.	0	8	2
I can talk knowledgeably with others about local issues.	2	3	5
I can be a resource to people in Kenosha County.	3	2	5

TABLE C

QUESTION #1

One goal of the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program is to create an environment that is conducive to the positive development of youth voice and youth engagement. Do you feel the Youth In Governance program accomplished this goal?

“Yes, I truly believe that YIG has greatly improved my confidence in speaking during discussions with adults.”

“I’m confident that this program provides a unique opportunity to engage youth in the inner workings of the government and serve as a platform to promote voice through civic processes.”

“Somewhat, I think more opportunities outside of just committee meetings would be helpful in contributing to this! I had a great mentor, though, and the other student in my committee really had a great impact on me.”

“I think it did. I felt that being able to cast a “vote” and to broadcast my opinions really made me feel a part of our local government.”

QUESTION #2

Another goal of the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program is that the program would provide youth with skills, knowledge, and experiences to prepare them for future leadership opportunities. Do you feel the Youth In Governance program accomplished this goal?

"Yes, being pushed into a new and unfamiliar environment helped me develop an ability to lead by example."

"YIG definitely accomplished this as I am much more confident speaking publicly and voicing my opinion. I am also much more confident in a professional environment."

"My gratitude for YIG goes beyond understanding as it enables young people across the state to recognize the functions of local government. This program is successful at building skills towards conversation in formal settings, as well as harboring experiences to expressing opinions from a youth perspective."

"Yes, I do. The experiences I gained through this program were once in a lifetime that I believe I can apply to a future career in politics."

"Yes, because the proceedings, while being orderly, showed the human side of these serious meetings where we could have fun and joke a little, preparing me for meetings in the future."

QUESTION #3

What has been the most important thing you have gained from participation in the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program?

"Learning about the government."

"Connections"

"I prize the YIG program for its ability to empower youth throughout the county. I treasure this program's recognition for youth voice in local government, and its provisions to network with professional and influential adults."

"Knowledge on how city/county government works."

"Gaining a greater understanding of local government."

"This program has taught me how to speak for myself and understand even the most complicated of issues."

"Communication skills and the ability to voice my opinion."

"The ability and drive to stay involved in local government and local issues."

"I think the best thing I learned this year was the local issues and how they're resolved."

For more information about Kenosha County Youth In Governance, please contact:

Extension Kenosha County | 19600 75th Street, Suite 2, Bristol, WI 53104

(262) 857-1945 | uwextension@kenoshacounty.org

kenosha.extension.wisc.edu/youth/yig



Kenosha County Youth In Governance is a program of Extension Kenosha County in partnership with the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors. University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.