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The Greater Morgantown Area Youth Commission was established to acknowledge youth as an integral part of the community as well as give them representation in government. BOPARC has maintained oversight of this Commission as well as provided support through a youth liaison for several years.

GMAVC has come to a transition point for several reasons. The budget administered by BOPARC for the Commission is no longer being allocated, civic engagement is more readily available to youth through the school system and youth issues related to community have expanded beyond the tasks listed in Article I of the amended GMAVC Bylaws.

BOPARC is committed to serving our community's youth population and we find the current GMAVC structure to be a challenging one given the details above. We are, however, in a unique environment that provides the opportunity, as well as the administrative and organizational infrastructural means to expand youth involvement in our parks and community.

We are respectfully requesting the Greater Morgantown Area Youth Commission be suspended in order for a Greater Morgantown Area Youth Advisory Committee to be established by BOPARC. We believe this is our best opportunity to provide the flexibility needed for both youth participants and perspective adult advisors and to work with youth on a multitude of levels, including, but not limited to, civic engagement.

Thank you for the opportunity to encourage our youth residents to take part in government and their community.

Greater Morgantown Area Youth Commission

Bylaws

Article I. Introduction

- 1.1 Purpose and Mission of the Youth Commission:** To acknowledge youth as an integral part of the community and to give youth representation in government thus enabling them to have a voice and opportunities to shape the future of the Greater Morgantown area for the benefit of both youth and adults.
- 1.2 Work of the Commission:** The work of the Commission shall be 1) to become informed by studying issues, policies and budgets; 2) to make recommendations based on youth perspectives to councils, commissions and other government boards and authorities; 3) to facilitate communications between youth and adults; and 4) to promote a safer, supportive, tolerant, and effective public environment for youth.

Article II. Members

- 2.1 Membership:** Membership of the Commission shall consist of 22 youth members of high school age. No more than two members shall be residents of each of the seven wards of Morgantown. In the absence of qualified applicants from every ward, the selection of youth members will be left to the discretion of the selection committee, which will offer nominations to Morgantown City Council to consider appointment. The Commission shall work in partnership with a Youth Commission Coordinator and Youth Planner staff. The Coordinator and Youth Planner will be selected through an application and review process coordinated by representatives of the Youth Commission and The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners (BOPARC).
- 2.2 Selection of Membership:** Prospective members of the Youth Commission shall be selected by a five person committee of the current Youth Commission, the Youth Commission Coordinator and Youth Planner. Applications shall be solicited from non-senior students at each high school in the County during the spring semester according to a schedule which shall permit new members to be appointed by City Council before the third (3rd) Tuesday in May. As many as six alternate, prospective members may also be selected who may attend meetings but who will not serve as a member of the Youth Commission unless officially appointed by City Council to replace an inactive Youth Commission member.

- 2.3 Terms of Office:** Commission members shall be appointed for a one year term and may apply to be reappointed until graduation.
- 2.4 Member Participation:** Members of the Commission shall attend one mandatory meeting of the full Commission each month and committee meetings as determined by the Commission. If a member misses more than two mandatory meetings of the full commission, City Council will be asked to remove that person from the Commission and to replace him/her by appointing an alternate member to the Commission, whose name will be presented by the Commission to City Council for consideration.
- 2.5 Membership Training:** Membership training for members of the Commission shall be conducted by Youth Commission Coordinator, the Youth Planner and other Commission designated resources persons during the spring or summer months and at other times as necessary. Training sessions shall be scheduled no less than 30 days in advance to enable full attendance by members and alternate members.
- 2.6 Powers and Duties:** At every duly publicized meeting of Commission members, an affirmative majority vote of those members present shall be necessary for the adoption of a motion or resolution on all matters which shall come before the meeting. Each member shall have the right to one vote or to abstain from voting on any matter. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. No member shall purport to represent the Youth Commission unless authorized to do so by the Youth Commission.

Article III. Commission Meetings

- 3.1 Meetings:** Meetings are open to the general public, but only members of the Commission may have voice and voting privileges. Regular meetings shall be held at least monthly between the months of September and May on dates and times scheduled by vote of the commission. A special meeting to consider a specific topic may be scheduled by unanimous decision of all officers of the commission provided that each member of the commission and its staff have received written or electronic notice with information on the specific topic one week in advance. No business other than the subject of the special meeting shall be transacted at said meeting.
- 3.2 WV Open Governmental Proceedings Act:** As a public commission, the Commission is part of local government and subject to the provisions of the WV Open Governmental Proceedings Act. As such Commission meetings must be open to the public, publicized in advance for the public, and have written minutes which include measures proposed and the results of votes taken. Voting by secret or written ballot is prohibited.

3.3 Public Participation in Meetings: The Commission shall provide an opportunity for the public to speak at Commission meetings. The length of time for presentations in the public session of the meeting shall be determined by action of the Commission.

Article IV. Executive Committee

4.1 Composition: The Executive Committee shall consist of three officers, as described below in Article V, the chair(s) of any standing committee(s) of the Commission, and any elected organization representative. The Youth Commission Coordinator and Youth Planner shall attend each meeting of the Executive Committee.

4.2 Executive Committee Meetings: The Executive Committee shall meet at its own discretion. Each member present shall have one vote except for the chair who shall cast a vote only in the event of a tie.

4.3 Quorum: A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

4.4 Procedure: The Executive Committee may adopt its own rules of procedure that shall not be inconsistent with these By-Laws or any applicable law.

4.5 Powers of the Executive Committee: All of the business and affairs of the Commission shall be managed by the Executive Committee in a manner consistent with these By-Laws and other applicable law. The Executive Committee reserves the power to act for the Commission on any subject matter deemed urgent.

Article V. Officers

5.1 Officers: The officers of the Commission shall be a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, all of whom shall be elected from the voting membership. Officers elected shall hold term for one (1) year. The Chairperson shall have served as a member of the Commission for one year.

5.2 Appointment and Tenure: Nominations for election shall be made by a nominating committee or from the floor at the meeting so designated for elections. All nominees shall be inquired as to their willingness to serve if elected, prior to their name being placed on the ballot.

5.3 Resignation and Removal: Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chairperson or to the Secretary, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. Any