Item 1 – Call to order
Vice Chairman Matthew Gotowala called the March 13th, 2019 Youth Commission meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Item 2 - Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Vice Chairman Gotowala at 6:22 pm

Item 3 – Attendance

Attendees: Deborah Ahl, Comm. Robin Klug, Rec. Secretary
Ryan Broderick, Comm. Eileen McNulty, Youth Services
Dir
Officer Matthew Gotowala, Comm. Scott Rosado, Liaison
Ethan Grabowski, Comm. Lance Washington, Comm.

Absent: Joy Harris, Comm.; Tanya Ledesma, Comm.

Item 4 – Approval of the minutes of the regular February 13, 2019 Youth Commission Meeting
Vice Chair Gotowala asked if there were any corrections that need be made before the vote was taken to approve the February Youth Commission meeting minutes; Comm. Nagle reported that his last name had been misspelled. On a MOTION by Comm. Broderick and SECONDED by Liaison Rosado it was so moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2019 meeting, with the proposed spelling correction. Following a voice vote, in which there was no opposition, Vice Chairman Gotowala declared the motion carried.

In Favor: 8  Abstention: 0  Opposed: 0

Item 5 – Public Participation
There was no public participation.

Item 6 – Announcements
Comm. Broderick reported that 5th annual, “Push-ups for Patriots” held March 2nd was a great success with over 600 participants and over $2,500.00 raised. He thanked the Commission for their support and announced there is discussion of making “Push-ups for Patriots” a districtwide effort next year. Discussion followed.

Item 7 – Program Reviews
All “Project Aware” programs are currently up and running. “Banana Splits” has very high attendance so far. “Peer Ed” will be attending the “True Colors” conference next week.

As we approach the last fiscal quarter the $3,074.81 in “Project Aware” funds that have yet to be allocated will need to be. It will be added to April Youth Commission Meeting agenda. Discussion followed.

Item 8 – Budget Review
The Bristol Youth Services budget is on target for what is expected to have been expended to date for this point in a fiscal year. No line items are currently over budget. The 2020 budget request was mostly for level funding or decrease to line items.
**Item 9 – Directors Report**

Director McNulty reported the Local Prevention Council on targeted approach to changing the perception of harm with the self-reported two most commonly used drugs by the local youths which are alcohol and marijuana. Marijuana has recently surpassed alcohol as the most abused drug by adolescents by less than half a percentage point. Bristol Youth Services has seen an increase in referrals to the office from adolescent males with depression and anxiety who are self-medicating with marijuana and those are the young people who are at higher risk for opioid overdoses. The Narcan training last month went well. The City of Bristol has a new grant to hire recovery coaches. The School Based Diversion and Juvenile Diversion programs are underway. Compliance checks will be held during the next month. Discussion followed.

**Item 10 – Unfinished Business**

The Outstanding Youth Volunteer Recognition Awards nominations are coming in and will be voted on in the April Youth Commission Meeting. Discussion followed.

**Item 11 – New Business**

Vice Chairman Gotowala requested that the Youth Commission approach the Mayor asking for a City ordinance to be enacted to raise the legal age for purchasing tobacco products from 18 to 21 years old. Bristol is becoming a recovery friendly community. Bristol Eastern High School is participating in a 60 day free trial with vape detectors. Discussion followed.

**Item 12 – Appointments**

Vice Chair Gotowala was nominated from the floor for the position of Chairman. There were no other nominations for Chairman. **On a MOTION by Comm. Broderick and SECONDED by Comm. Nagle it was so moved to make Vice Chairman Matthew Gotowala the Chairman of the Youth Commission.** Following a voice vote, in which there was no opposition, Chairman Gotowala declared the motion carried.

**In Favor: 8 Abstention: 0 Opposed: 0**

**On a MOTION by Chairman Gotowala and SECONDED by Comm. Nagle it was so moved to add nomination of a Vice Chairperson the March 13, 2019 meeting agenda and it was unanimously approved.**

Comm. Ahl was nominated from the floor for the position of Vice Chairman. **On a MOTION by Comm. Broderick and SECONDED by Comm. Nagle it was so moved to make Commissioner Deborah Ahl the Vice Chairwoman the Youth Commission.** Following a voice vote, in which there was no opposition, Chairman Gotowala declared the motion carried.

**In Favor: 8 Abstention: 0 Opposed: 0**

Commissioners Nagle and City Council Liaison Rosado accepted appoints from Mayor Zoppo-Sassu and have been sworn in.

**Item 13 – Resignations**

Commissioner Joy Harris has been removed due to not meeting attendance requirements.

**Item 14 – Adjournment**

**On a MOTION by Comm. Broderick and SECONDED by Comm. Ahl it was so moved to adjourn the Youth Commission meeting at 7:10 p.m. and it was unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Klug
Recording Secretary Youth Commission

cc: City Clerk