



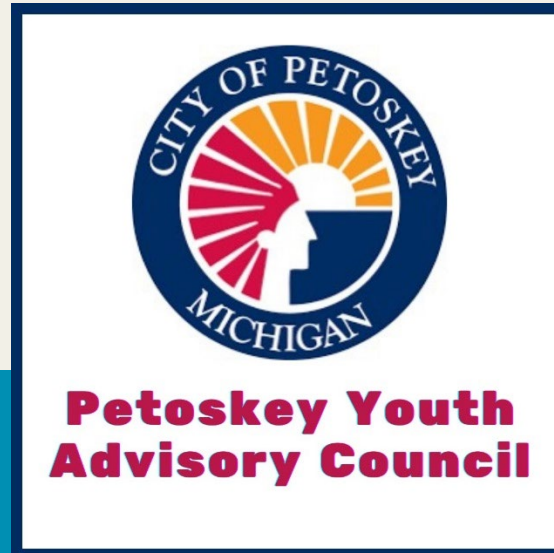
CCAP CON 2026

Getting Students Engaged in Local Government

Petoskey Youth Advisory Council

Tina DeMoore
Petoskey City Councilmember & Mayor Pro Tem

Anya Peck • Eliza Rogier
Petoskey Youth Advisory Councilmembers



Petoskey Youth Advisory Council (PYAC) 2025-





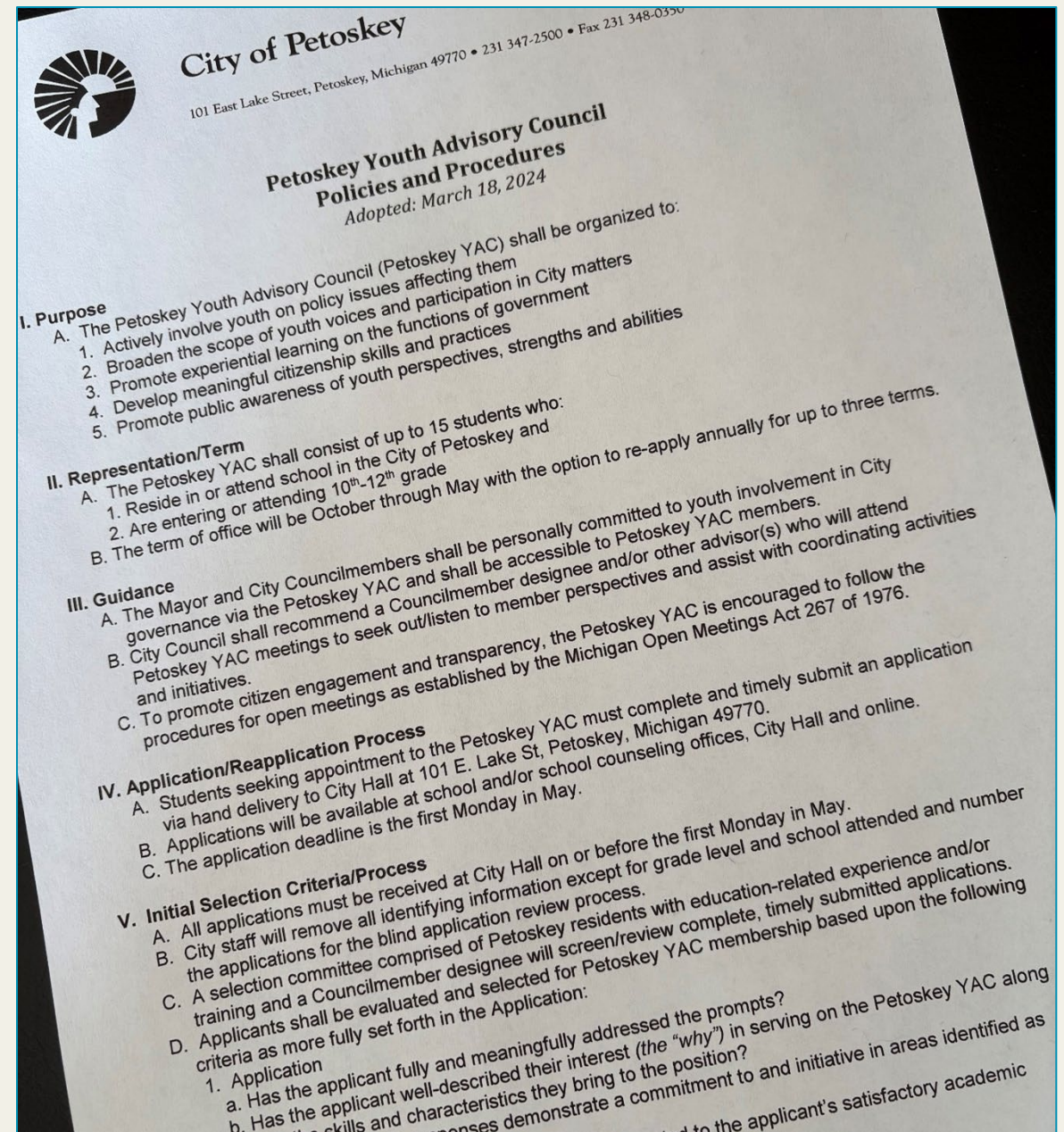
Background & Pre-Policy

- Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, 2005-2006
- Project Oriented...?
- Lessons Learned
- Listening Session
- Wisdom Gained:
 - “We don't know enough about the City to identify/undertake a project...”
- Next Steps

PYAC Policy

Drafted a new policy drawn from earlier policy with changes:

- Grades 10-12 instead of 8-12 (based upon student input/listening session)
- Reside OR attend school in Petoskey (based upon student input/listening session)
- Once monthly meetings, second Monday
- Blind application reviews except school and grade level to enhance diverse representation
- Meet September through May/school year
- Application and Re-Application (up to 3 years) available online but returned in person



PYAC Purpose

A. The Petoskey Youth Advisory Council shall be organized to:

1. Actively involve youth on policy issues affecting them
2. Broaden the scope of the youth voices and participation in City matters
3. Promote experiential learning on the functions of government
4. Develop meaningful citizenship skills and practices
5. Promote public awareness of youth perspectives, strengths and abilities





**DUE
May 4**

WE WANT YOU!

Petoskey Youth Advisory Council

Application available at



[https://tinyurl.com/
petoskeyyouthapplication](https://tinyurl.com/petoskeyyouthapplication)

PYAC Recruiting

- PYAC member driven
- Paper application outreach
- Home school network
- Push-in presentations to school clubs/organizations
- City social media outreach
- Emails/outreach to targeted teachers with application
- PYAC-made video presentations
- School announcements
- School Resource Officer

PYAC Application “Asks”

1. QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions in a Word document attached to and submitted with your application using no more than 200 words for each response.

- a. What personal skills and characteristics do you bring to service on the Petoskey YAC and what life skills do you hope to develop or enhance as a part of this opportunity?
- b. What is an area of passion for you and how have you taken action on that passion, to date?
- c. College applications typically include a “Why (This College)” – so, Why the Petoskey Youth Advisory Council...?
- d. Optional: Is there any other information that you would like us to consider in connection with your application?

2. RESUME

Please attach a copy of your Resume including academics, other activities and employment, to date.

3. RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Include a letter of recommendation from a non-relative adult who knows you well and has worked with you in school or non-school-related activities. The reference should speak to your demonstrated leadership or leadership potential, participation level in existing commitments, follow-through and collaborative skills along with the ability to manage the demands of both school and the Petoskey YAC.

PYAC Selection Committee

“A selection committee comprised of Petoskey residents with education-related experience and/or training and a Council member designee will screen/review complete, timely submitted applications.”

- Retired teacher/mentor to original Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council
- Retired Principal
- Former School Board President/high school basketball coach
- City Councilmember PYAC Liaison



PYAC Selection Criteria/Framework

1. APPLICATION

- a. Has the applicant fully and meaningfully addressed the prompts?
- b. Has the applicant well-described their interest (*the “why”*) in serving on the Petoskey YAC along with the skills and characteristics they bring to the position?
- c. Do the applicant’s responses demonstrate a commitment to and initiative in areas identified as passions?
- d. Has the applicant’s Principal or Counselor attested to the applicant’s satisfactory academic performance and attendance?

2. ADULT REFERENCE

- a. Does the reference speak to the applicant’s demonstrated leadership and/or significant leadership potential?
- b. Does the reference affirm the applicant’s ability to concurrently manage the demands of school and service on the Petoskey YAC?
- c. Does the reference identify the applicant as an active participant capable of collaboration and consistent follow-through on commitments?

3. REPRESENTATION

- a. The selection committee shall seek representation from the 10th-12th grade levels and schools among all applicants, as the applicant pool permits.

PYAC Functions & Duties

- A. Regularly attend scheduled PYAC meetings
- B. Participate fully in opportunities/events to learn about the functions of City departments, boards, commissions and City Council along with meeting at other times, as needed
- C. Annually select Co-Chairs and a Secretary by a simple majority vote of YAC members
- D. Outreach information to and seek input from City of Petoskey youth constituents
- E. Collaborate to identify goals and establish proposed work plan(s) to address youth issues/concerns
- F. As opportunities present, coordinate and communicate with other local and national youth councils
- G. Provide reports to the City Council on current activities, projects, and issues bi-annually and upon request of the City Council
- H. Attend City Council meetings when issues of interest to the PYAC are discussed and/or upon the request of City Council
- I. Upon request, offer input to the City Council on policy issues affecting youth in the City
- J. Any other matters assigned to the PYAC by the City Council



City of Petoskey

Petoskey Youth Advisory Council January 12, 2026

A regular meeting of the Petoskey Youth Advisory Council was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, Petoskey, Michigan on Monday, January 12, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. A roll call vote determined that the following were:

Present: Ida Dwan
Aarav Gandhi
Sam Ingalls
Amelie Janssens (arrived at 6:44 p.m.)
Eloise Jones
Chris Keiswetter
Taylor Keiswetter
Charlie Olson
Anya Peck
Elizabeth Rogier
Ayla Shiels (arrived at 6:44 p.m.)
Amelia Shuman
Brian Tang
Liam Washington
Semilla Yopez (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)

Absent: Monee Lesky

Approve Consent Agenda

Councilmember Tang, seconded by Councilmember Washington, moved that the December 8, 2025 meeting minutes be approved.

Said motion was carried and approved by the following vote.

AYES: Dwan, Gandhi, Ingalls, Jones, C. Keiswetter, T. Keiswetter, Olson, Peck, Rogier, Shuman, Tang, Washington (12)

NAYS: None (0)

Hear Public Comment

Ward 2 Councilmember Charlie Willmott introduced himself to PYAC members and explained briefly about proposed poverty exemption guidelines in the City, which have recently been discussed at City Council meetings.

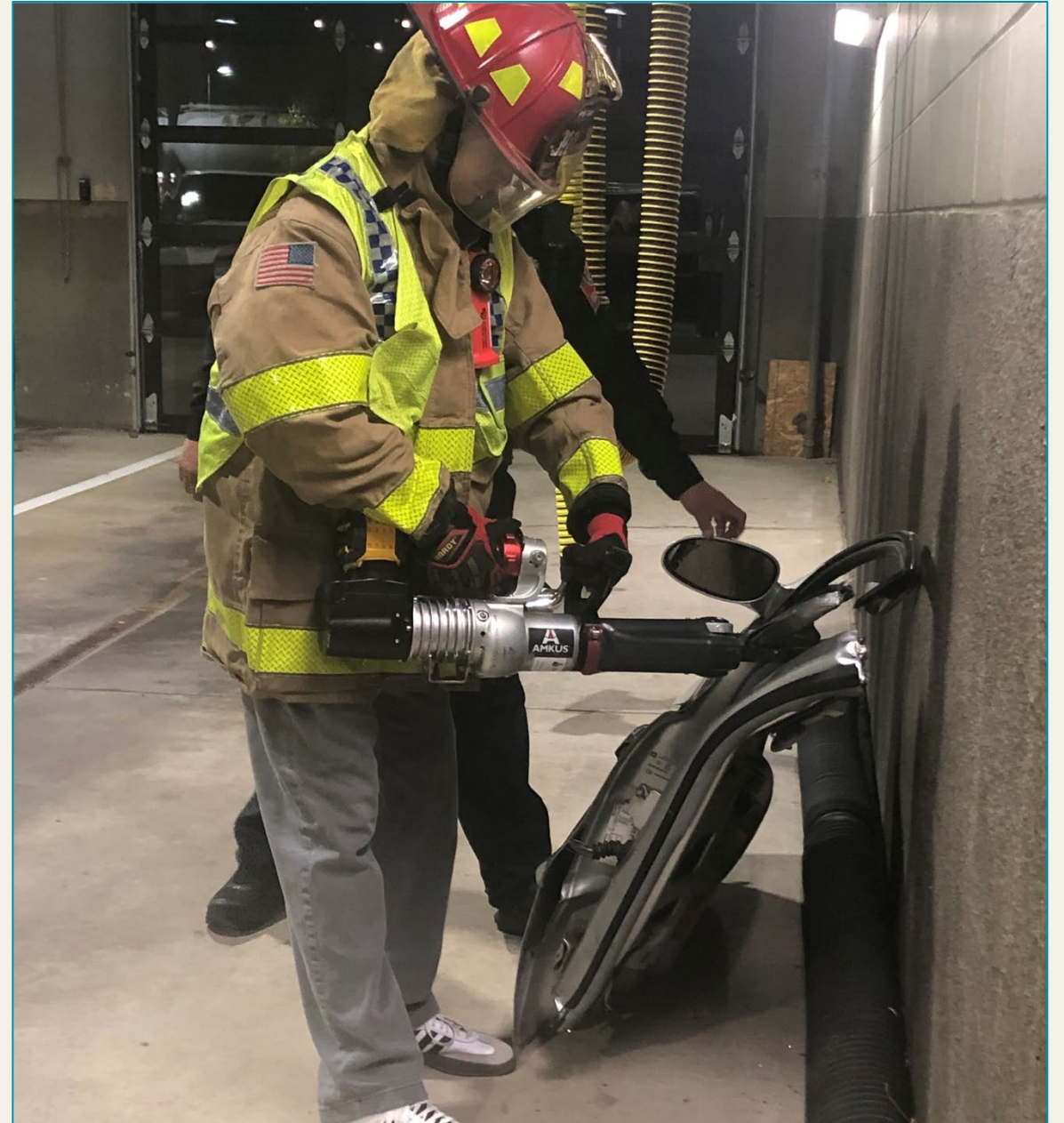
PYAC Meeting Practices

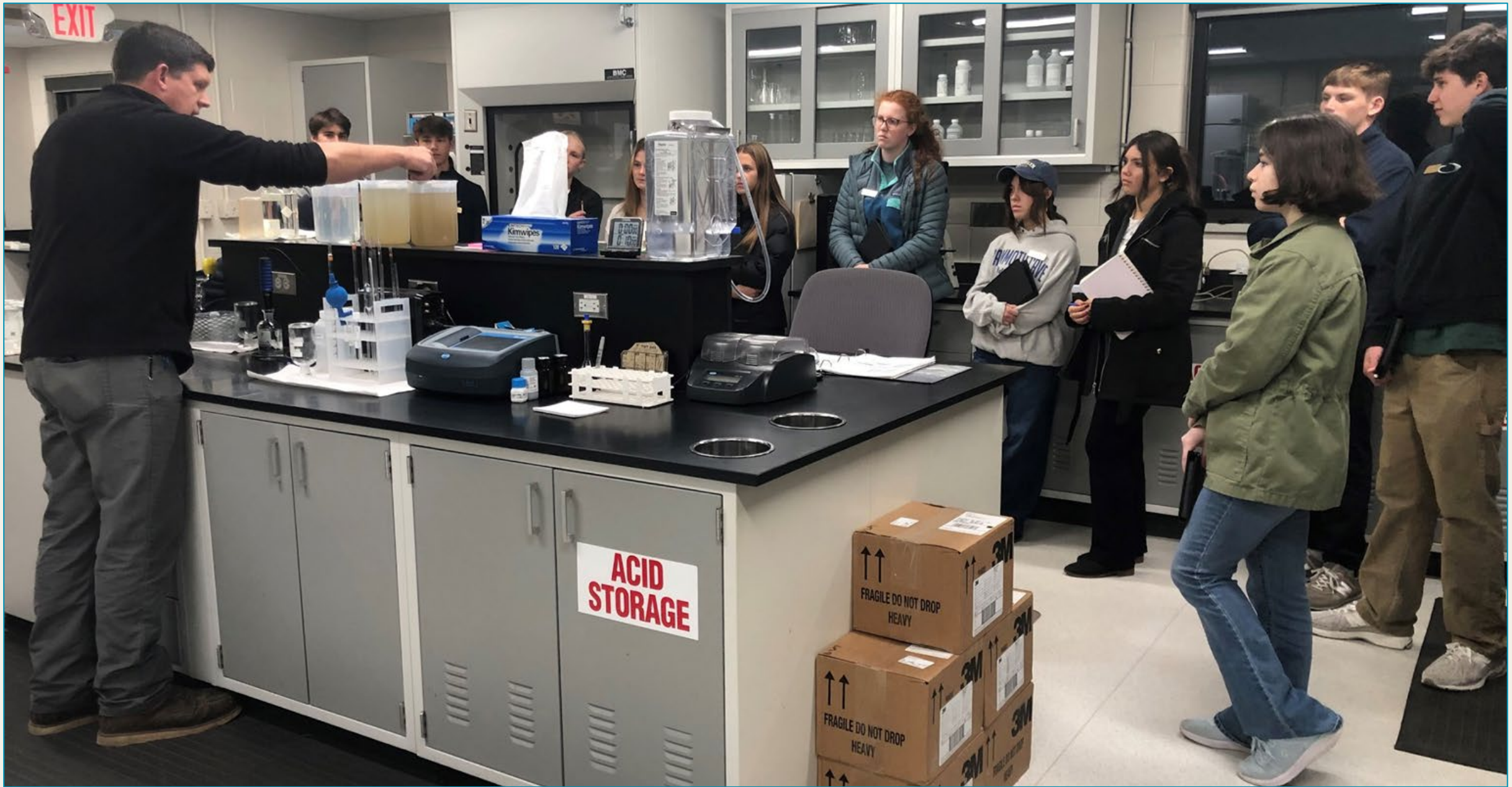
- Mirror OMA and City Council practices, as possible
- Meeting Agendas
- Meeting Minutes
- Public Comment
- Publication of meeting dates/times on City website
- PYAC webpages with Agendas and signed Minutes
- Annual end of year PYAC presentation to City Council



PYAC City Deep Dives

- Parks & Rec Trolley Tour
- Public Works
- Public Safety
- City Clerk
- City Manager
- Mayor
- Councilmember areas of expertise
- 1-2 PYAC members attend every City Council meeting and report back to full membership











PYAC Beyond Petoskey...

- Cultural experiences with Eric Hemenway, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB)
- Takashima Japan Sister City Delegation Visit
- Michigan State Legislature
- MML CAP CON
- Meeting with 37th Senator Damoose
- Meeting with 107th Representative Fairbairn
- MML OMA & Parliamentary Procedure Training

We love where we live.



Ida
CAP 2023
Legislative Assistant
Table #102

Jill
CAP 2023
Legislative Assistant
Table #102

Jill
CAP 2023
Legislative Assistant
Table #102

Brynn
CAP 2023
STUDENT





Leadership Quadrant

- Per policy, annual election: Co-Chairs and Secretary
- Election in January so existing officers can mentor incoming leadership for following year
- Extra monthly meeting for Agenda preparation/review
- Co-Chairs rotate Agenda prep and Agenda/Minutes member outreach
- Secretary prepares Minutes for PYAC member review/approval
- Leadership exercises





LEADERSHIP ←

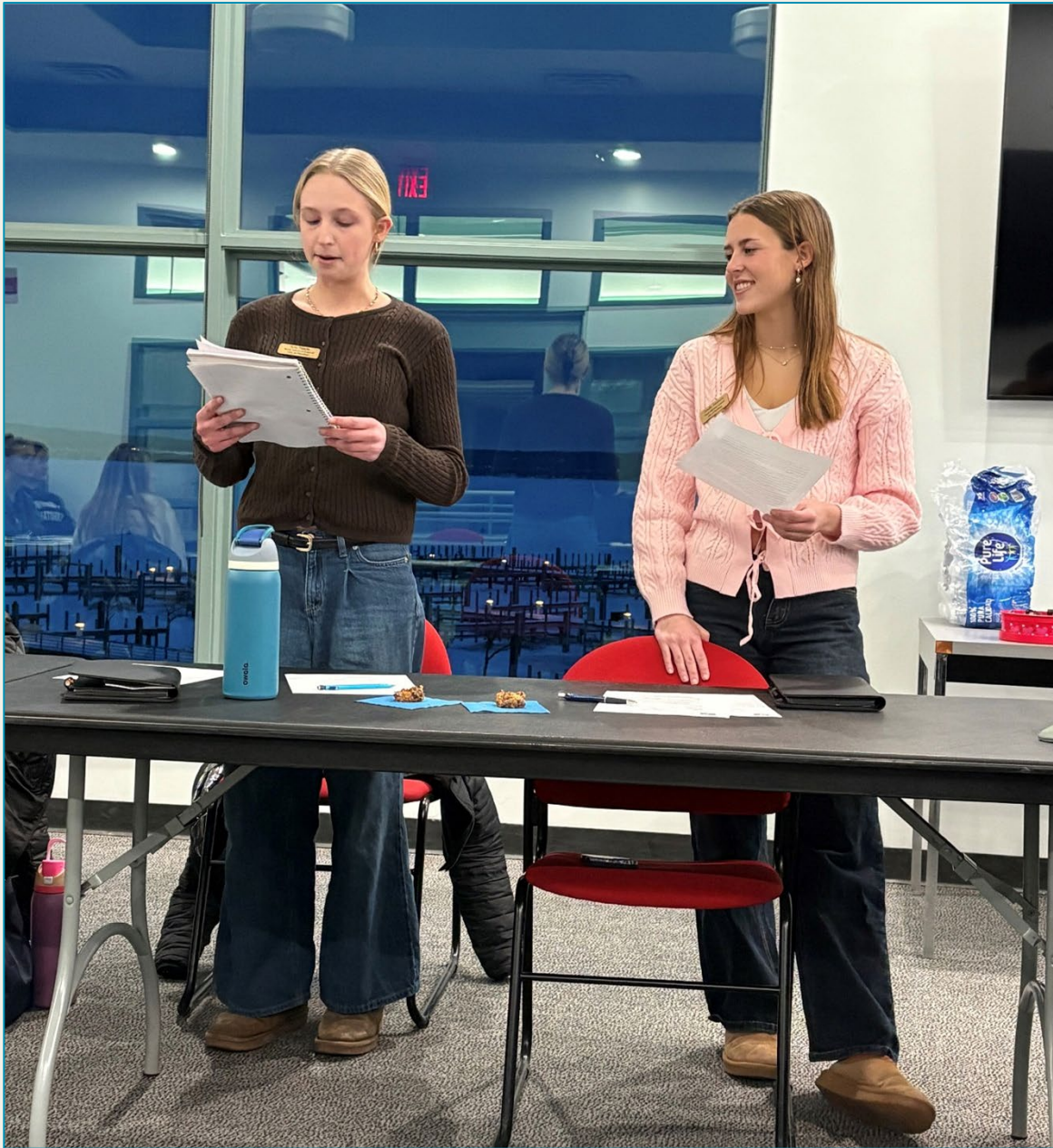
- Collaborative
- integrity
- Confidence
- Respectful
- honesty
- awareness
- hard working
- enthusiastic
- Open-minded
- Good Listener
- Communication
- determined
- Inclusive
- honoring all opinions, even those that you disagree with.
- Problem-solving
- advocacy



Volunteerism Quadrant

- Partnering with non-profit, Flowers for Friends, made and delivered 400+ flower arrangements on Veterans Day to Veterans at the Annual Breakfast hosted by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB)
- Created and carried out craft stations at the annual Petoskey Winter Carnival
- Provided children's games at Petoskey Summer Ward Picnics





Communication Quadrant

- Press releases
- PYAC City webpages
- PYAC T-shirt design/name tags
- Outreach info to other youth
- Access input from other youth
- Example: Skateboard Park Workshop
- Brainstorm and execute annual recruiting strategies to identify youth interested to serve on the Petoskey Youth Advisory Council.
- MML Review Summer 2025



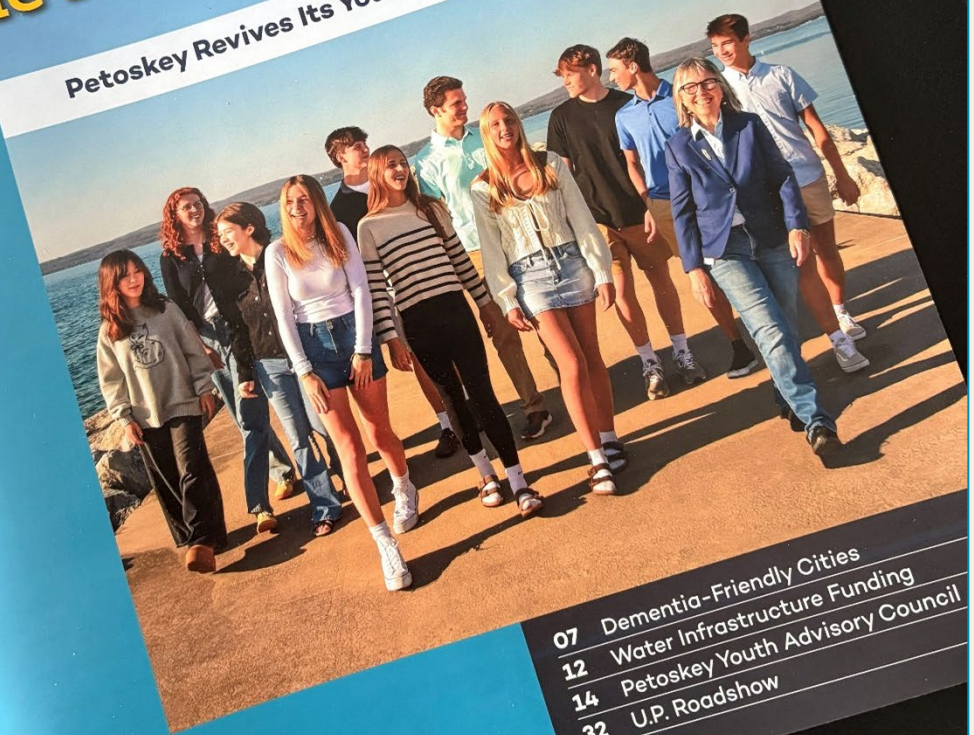
Petoskey Youth Advisory
COUNCIL

The Review

The official magazine of the  michigan municipal league
Summer 2025

The Kids Are All Right

Petoskey Revives Its Youth Advisory Council



- 07 Dementia-Friendly Cities
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Issues Quadrant

- Unhoused Persons Voucher Project

In coordination with other local non-profits, PYAC members are currently investigating how they might assist in problem solving/brainstorming a system to access lodging for individuals in the community facing a short term lack of housing

- Veterans Outreach

On Veterans Day, engaging in one to one in person outreach to veterans attending the LTBB-sponsored Veteran's Day Event





Voice of PYAC Members

Brynn Jonker – PYAC Secretary, 2024-2025

“Youth are the future of any level of government so it is of utmost importance that youth are made privy to government workings and decisions. Being a member of PYAC has inspired me to educate myself more on political, social, and economic principles that not only affect our city but also the state and country as a whole and to continue to seek involvement and engagement where possible as I have learned that I have a voice and it matters.”

Amelie Janssens – PYAC 2024-present, 2026-2027 Co-Chair-Elect

“Serving on PYAC, I’ve learned about how much actually goes into keeping our city running smoothly. It truly does ‘take a village’ and I’m grateful to be a part of making our community a better place.”

Petoskey Youth Advisory Council City Website

www.petoskey.us/youthadvisorycouncil

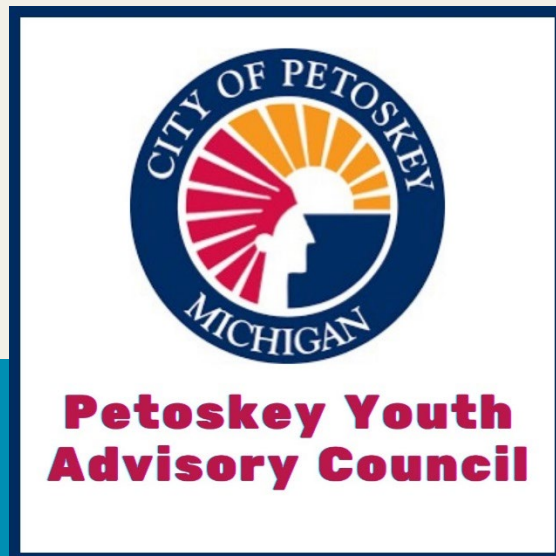


Photo Credits

Slides 4, 6, 9, 13, 31, 32: Mary Paquette, Photography by Paquette

Slide 19: Taylor Pine, Digital Media Developer, The Michigan Municipal League





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City Council