



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Positive Youth Development Subcommittee

MINUTES

OF

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE

February 27, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Positive Youth Development

Subcommittee

February 27, 2008

8:00 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Positive Youth Development Subcommittee taken on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Positive Youth Development Subcommittee

Audrey McKibbin Moran, Chair

Joseph Bastian, Member

Betty Burney, Member

James Crooks, Member

Ellis Curry, Member

Bobby Deal, Member

Eddie Diamond, Member

Carolyn Floyd, Member

Maryam Ghyabi, Member

Warren Grymes, Member

Chris Hazelip, Member

Timmy Johnson, Member

Bill Mason, Member

Rashean Mathis, Member

Edgar Mathis, Member

Mac McGehee, Member

LaWanda Ravoira, Member

Shelton Tarver, Member

Claudette Williams, Member

Wyman Winbush, Member

Chris Wood, Member

George Young, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

CHRIS HAZELIP, (filling in as Chair)
JAMES CROOKS, Member
EDDIE DIAMOND, Member
CAROLYN FLOYD, Member
BILL MASON, Member
MARYAM GHYABI, Member
WARREN GRYMES, Member
TIMMY JOHNSON, Member
EDGAR MATHIS, Member
CHRIS WOOD, Member
MAC MCGEHEE, Member
CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS, Member
GEORGE YOUNG, Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

JOSEPH BASTIAN, Member
BETTY BURNEY, Member
ELLIS CURRY, Member
MARYAM GHYABI, Member
RASHEAN MATHIS, Member
LAWANDA RAVORIA, Member
SHELTON TARVER, Member
BOBBY DEAL, Member

EXCUSED:

AUDREY MCKIBBIN MORAN, Chair

STAFF:

ROSLYN PHILLIPS
LINDA LANIER
KRISTEN KEY BEACH
STEPHANIE BARNETT
DANIELLE CORNUET

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tyisha Gould Edward Waters College
Anthony Clark, Edward Waters College
Bianca Tatum, Edward Waters College
James Anding, Edward Waters College
Lucy Milice, Edward Waters College
Karon Illey, Child Guidance Center
Laura Kline, Public Library
Neill Vining, PR Subcommittee
Jack Sears, Boy Scouts of America
W. Earl Kitchings, EKG Sports
F. Fredericks, PAL
Cindy Harpman, Kesler Mentoring Connection
Anna Bradley, City of Jacksonville
Doug Murr, Character First

PROCEEDINGS

February 27, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

Positive Youth Development Subcommittee Meeting

Call to Order and Comments. Chris Hazelip, Member standing in for Chair Moran, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Develop action items for the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Positive Youth Development Subcommittee.

Chris Hazelip welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to be in attendance. The minutes to the February 13th meeting were discussed and it was decided that the minutes would be approved with corrections in spelling errors and additional information regarding the candid comments from the Youth Voice Council.

At this time, Chris Hazelip introduced Bob Arnold from United Way 2-1-1 to give his presentation. Mr. Arnold thanked the committee for allowing him to give a better understanding of what 2-1-1 is for. United Way 2-1-1 is a 24-hour a day hotline which serves nine counties. The program handles calls ranging from suicide to help with electric bills. Currently, each JEA bill has the 2-1-1 hotline number on the back of each bill for those in need of financial assistance paying their electric bill. Mr. Arnold went through a PowerPoint Presentation which can be found on www.coj.net and click on the Jacksonville Journey logo. Some of

the highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- 30 - 40% of calls are for emergency assistance.
- The live referral software - Service Point which reduces the duplication of services
- Real Sense for Prosperity which assists the public with tax preparation

Some of the questions the Subcommittee asked of Mr. Arnold are as follows:

Q: How can 2-1-1 help our youth?

A: There is a teen link hotline

Q: Are there ways to identify the ages of callers?

A: Not at this time

Q: Can the calls be tracked by zip code?

A: Yes. There is a monthly report on the 2-1-1 Web site

At the end of the Q & A session, Chris Hazelip thanked Mr. Arnold for his presentation and then introduced Ben Frazier, PR Subcommittee Member. Mr. Frazier addressed the subcommittee regarding an idea of a rap contest for area students with a timeline to begin at the fall of the 2008/2009 school year. This would give the students a way to use their talents in a constructive way, give young people a "voice" and instill a sense of hope and community ownership. Funding is needed for promotion/advertising and contest logistics. Some of the questions the subcommittee asked are as follows:

Q: Could one or more prizes be scholarships?

A: That would be a great idea. It would give students something to gain.

Q: Will the program be in the schools?

A: That is how Mr. Frazier envisions it.

Q: Will the contest be limited to just rap or will other genres of music be considered?

A: This type of genre targets a certain demographical segment we are trying to reach. Perhaps additional genres could be added in future contests.

At this time, various subcommittee members commented on the rap contest. Some of the comments are as follows:

- Genres other than rap should also be included.
- Rap/hip-hop does appeal to most young people regardless of demographics.
- A lot of rappers are educated. Most college students are into rap and hip hop music.
- Adults need to be more educated on rap music. This is what a majority of our youth are listening to.

In Mr. Frazier's conclusion, he quoted Betty Holzendorf: "Whatever steps we take in the areas of prevention, intervention and enforcement will determine whether this Jacksonville Journey is great journey or whether we all just took a trip."

The idea of a rap contest will be discussed during the action item segment of the meeting.

Chris Hazelip then asked Linda Lanier to introduce the next guest speaker, Sisteria Mixon. Ms. Mixon is student at Edward Waters College and spoke on her experience in the Police Athletic League (PAL) and how it helped to build on her character in order for her to graduate at the top of her class from Ribault High School. Ms. Mixon grew up in a high crime area of East Jacksonville. She did not have much family support. She joined PAL through a double dutch program in elementary school. She feels PAL is wonderful outlet for Jacksonville's youth. While going to PAL, she felt safe and had someone to talk to. A lasting comment from Ms. Mixon was, "It's not where you are from, it's where you're going that makes the difference." The subcommittee asked questions at this time.

These questions are as follows:

Q: Tell us about your peers. Where they successful in the program?

A: No. I had a group of five close friends. Some got pregnant and some did not finish school. I did not want to be a statistic.

Q: To what would you attribute negative influence on kids in these high crime neighborhoods?

A: Peer pressure, not wanting to be an outcast, working parents don't have time to be there for their kids, no mother or father-figures and leaning towards the wrong crowd for guidance.

Q: You are in a unique position to help youth. If you had the opportunity to reach back, what age groups would you try to impact?

A: I currently volunteer at PAL or Longbranch. The most important age group that needs to be reached is 9-12 years of age.

Q: How do we get youth to turn away from the junk; the trash and

not wanting to do anything with their lives?

A: The age group of 15-19 is a critical time. Focus on these age groups by going into the schools and asking the youth what they like and what they like doing and turn that into something positive for them. Athletic events and programs are also key.

At this time Chris Hazelip thanked Ms. Mixon for sharing her insight and personal history with the Police Athletic League.

Committee Comments (development of action items):

Edgar Mathis - Presentation needed by Recreation and Community Services Department. Jax Rap is a good catalyst but more is needed to engage today's youth.

Warren Grymes - Need to discuss getting Chamber of Commerce as a partner in mentoring. Mr. Grymes agrees with Mr. Mathis. The last meeting was a turning point for him while listening to the students who spoke.

Carolyn Floyd - Engage School of the Arts in the rap contest proposal

Eddie Diamond - Suggests teen summit for all Jacksonville zip codes and/or a youth talent theatre just for youth to show their talents.

Chris Hazelip to Chris Wood - How does the council have dialog with at risk students?

Answer - Going to schools to encourage students to join Duval's Youth Voice Council and go to the group meetings.

Carolyn Floyd - We need to find a way to encourage those have hopelessness and continue to address those who need to be encouraged to get back into school in addition to the positive

youth. (PR subcommittee to address this)

2. Action Items

- Research youth councils in other cities across America.
Boston Mayor's Youth Council recruits high school juniors and seniors from all over the city. Regular meetings are held with the Mayor of Boston, Superintendent of Schools and Police Chief. Boston holds a summer youth conference and trip to DC to lobby. Seattle, Washington has a youth advisory group to the Mayor to input ideas on youth programs. Oakland has "Youth Together." Atlanta, Georgia has cadet, internship, IT, arts and college writing prep programs. San Francisco, California has "Youth Noise" which is similar to MySpace. It is more of a virtual council.
- Research summer youth programs
- Conduct surveys
- Edgar Mathis charged with the responsibility to start steps for off-site meetings with youth in the judicial system.
- Carolyn Williams - Immediate results are needed. Develop an action plan. Speak with people regarding gang activity
- Endorse a youth summit in the immediate future and bring youth from all over Jacksonville

Votes Taken:

- Committee voted on moving forward with the Jax Rap contest. (Passed unanimously.)

- o Run bulletin through Duval County Public Schools to be sent home with the youth to get the Jax Rap information out.
 - o PR Subcommittee to work with Youth Council on a way to get Jax Rap out into the community.
 - o Jax Rap - Include variety, allow Youth Council to take ownership, PR to meet with Duval Youth Voice Council to plan it.
 - o FCCJ: Bill Mason and Mac McGehee to work on securing scholarships.
- Incorporate youth into the City of Jacksonville decision making processes on a regular basis. (Passed unanimously.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Troy McNair - "The Source"

June 14, 2008 Rap and Hip Hop Summit

The summit will provide insight into the many different careers and role models in the rap and hip hop industry.

Kirk Farber - F.A.C.E (Fitness and Character Education Program)

- Has been a motivational speaker to jailed youth for 12 years.
- 16 and 17-year-olds have no male role model to look up to.
- Has gone into the schools and asked principals to select up to 15 students for FACE program.
- Fitness is essential. Character and education is priceless.
- Students graduate from the program.
- To help with youth crime, it is essential to "catch them while they are young."

Stephen Anderson - Athlete and Student at Edward Waters College

- Qualities and ethics learned in athletics can be applied to family life.
- Parents put children in athletics to keep them off of the streets.
- Teach youth more than just athletics as well.

Lucy Malise - Student Body President of Edward Waters College

- Jax Rap is a great way to reach youth.
- To Mr. Ben Frazier in regards to Jax Rap Contest - "I am a rapper myself and I offer my assistance to you in any way you need."
- Anti-Violence March scheduled for April 12, 2008. Will also feature EWC students going into local high schools as motivation speakers.

Laura Kline - Public Library Supervisor

- There are art programs for youth at the Public Library.
- The Public Library displays art work from area schools.
- Ms. Kline lends her support of the Jax Rap Contest
- Teens are one of the hardest groups to get into the Library.
- Ms. Kline supports the F.A.C.E program

Jack Sears - CEO of Boy Scouts of America

- Boys Scouts offers positive youth development activities for youth and families.

- Mr. Sears offers his services to the Committee for children they want to reach.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.