



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee

MINUTES

OF

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE

March 21, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Positive Youth Development

Subcommittee

March 21, 2008

8 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Positive Youth Development Subcommittee taken on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Positive Youth Development Committee

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

Edgar Mathis, Member

Mac McGehee, Member

Shelton Tarver, Member

Claudette Williams, Member

Wyman Winbush, Member

Chris Wood, Member

George Young, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

Audrey Moran, Chair
Chris Wood, Member
Timmy Johnson, Member
Wyman Winbush, Member
Chris Hazlip, Member
Claudette Williams, Member
Jim Crooks, Member
Bobby Deal, Member
Betty Burney, Member
George Young, Member
Shelton Tarver, Member
Joseph Bastian, Member
Eddie Diamond, Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Maryann Ghyabi, Member
Bill Mason, Member
Mac McGehee, Member
Ellis Curry, Member
Warren Grymes, Member

EXCUSED:

Carolyn Floyd, Member
Edgar Mathis, Member

STAFF:

ROSLYN PHILLIPS
LINDA LANIER
KRISTEN KEY BEACH
STEPHANIE BARNETT

OTHERS PRESENT:

Reylius Thompson, Chief of Staff, EWC
David Edwards, Bridge of NE Florida
Diane Brunet, PR Subcommittee
Kelly Boree, Recreational & Community Services
Gretchen Mitchell, Jacksonville Public Library
Anna Bradley, COJ

PROCEEDINGS

March 21, 2008

Positive Youth Development Subcommittee

8 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Audrey McKibbin Moran, called meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Positive Youth Development Subcommittee and to develop action items for charges III (*Undertake major push to support afterschool and out-of-school programs*) and IV (*Expand the Seeds of Change Summer Jobs program*).

Ms. Moran welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to be in attendance. The minutes to the March 12 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Moran called Roslyn Phillips to discuss the JaxParks Intramural Sports Program. Ms. Phillips started her presentation by stating that the JaxParks Intramural Sports Program will target youth ages 13-17 located within or nearby high crime areas. The objective of the JaxParks Intramural Sports Program is to provide a safe environment for teens age 13 to 17 to participate in free organized sports activities that result in skills development, sense of purpose, and team work. JaxParks hopes to serve approximately 300 youth the first year. The program will offer flag football, wiffle ball and basketball. Neighborhood-based teams will be formed to practice skill development, fundamental development, and to compete against other intramural league teams. Ms. Phillips explained the process of creating the JaxParks Intramural Sports Program:

- Identify appropriate sports activities (Completed)
- Identify park locations (Completed)
- Solicit sponsor(s) to cover initial one-year operating costs
- Identify and hire appropriate staff
- Identify transportation provider
- Develop and implement marketing plan
- Develop three-season (four-month) program per sport
- Culminate the season with tournament-level play

JaxParks identified eight parks in the Jacksonville Journey/Jacksonville Sheriff's Office-designated "hot spots." The eight parks are:

- Barney Browning
- Forestview Park
- Hollybrook Park
- J. Gardner Nip Sams
- Julius Guinyard Park
- Henry L. Brown Kooker Park
- Terrace Park
- Tallulah Park

Ms. Phillips went on to explain the three chosen sports activities, staffing, equipment and marketing awareness campaign.

The success measures discussed were as follows:

- Crimes committed by targeted age groups in targeted areas (Reduction shows success).
- Individual participant attendance

- Occurrences of misconduct during specific program operating hours. (Reduction shows success)
- Season-to-season retention percentage.

Ms. Phillips went over the proposed budget (annual cost) with security being the highest cost. She concluded her presentation by going over the 120-day timeline for implementation of the program. To hear the complete audio presentation, log onto www.coj.net and click on the "Jacksonville Journey" link.

Chairwoman Moran thanked Ms. Phillips for her presentation and invited the committee members to ask questions:

Q: Has the program been in the works for a while?

A: Not in recent years but we have been leading up to it.

Q: Are you aware of Jacksonville Housing Authorities' programs and are you intending to partner with them?

A: Yes, I am aware of the JHA programs but there are currently no plans to partner with them. That is something we could look into.

Q: Are the parks identified going to be the only parks participating in the program?

A: Initially, yes. As funding becomes available, we will be able to extend the program to other areas.

Q: Will there be any academics to the program?

A: We would like to partner with businesses to assist with mentoring but at this point, the program will be strictly sports related.

Q: Are the facilities adequate? Will any renovations need to be made?

A: Yes. The facilities are adequate and no renovations will be needed.

Q: Will the program be offered afterschool and on weekends?

A: The program will be evenings and on weekends.

Q: Will the facilities be able to support academic programs?

A: Not at this time.

Q: Are the costs currently budgeted (in the 2008-2009 budget)?

A: Not at this time. This will be proposed as part of the Jacksonville Journey initiative.

Q: There doesn't seem to be any events geared toward young ladies. Can there be any sports geared towards them such as tennis?

A: There is a lot of interest in these current sports but we will implement others later on as funding permits. The sports we have selected are open to both genders.

Q: Can we use PAL or JCC to help reduce the price per child?

A: The highest cost is security. We can look towards utilizing PAL and our relationship with JSO to bring that cost down.

At this time, the subcommittee engaged in candid comments and ideas regarding the youth in our city.

Eddie Diamond: There will be other kids utilizing the parks who aren't participating in the JaxParks Intramural Sports Program. Can we provide them with games to play such as chess in order to integrate these other kids? Kids need and want a safe place to play.

Carolyn Floyd: Perhaps more than sports can be added, such as Karate.

Claudette Williams: I know I have spoken about this before, but

there will be no significant changes until we address parenting issues and what these kids have to go home to after the programs.

George Young: We need to address young parents. How is a 17-year-old going to know how to be a good father and role model?

Betty Burney: The music kids listen too affects how they want to be. Kids from all walks of life listen to rap music which makes the "hood" look appealing to them.

Eddie Diamond: Agrees with Betty Burney. Rappers make the "hood" look so glamorous to kids. Hip hop is a part of society. Even college students with 3.0 grade averages listen to hip hop, wear gold teeth, etc., but there is a line between fantasy and reality.

Linda Lanier: We need to focus on Zone 1 as a critical area.

Betty Burney: Zone 1 has several schools which most students have level 2 violations. She agrees that the focus needs to be in Zone 1.

Bobby Deal: Agrees with Betty Burney. The most dangerous part of the city is Zone 1. There is more of a police presence in this area. Currently there is a "turf war" going on where the newest PAL site is. (Located behind Jacksonville Children's Commission) The drug dealers are losing a main area where they deal drugs. Shots can be heard only blocks away.

Chairwoman Moran: So we are all in consensus that we need to zero in on Zone 1? All subcommittee members nodded in agreement.

Chris Hazelip: Look at the messages being sent to youth. The emphasis is on athletic prowess, monetary and sexual conquests. Messages being sent are that you have to have a lot and use people to get it. Or if you are bigger and stronger you will be

successful. We need to communicate in all the processes. At the end of their life are they going to reflect on how much they gained or what kind of a father they were and how many people did they help?

Carolyn Floyd: Edward Waters College has a program called the Soldiers Club. Young men at EWC signed up for the program which will walk them through how to be a true mentor.

Claudette Williams: Along the lines of Eddie Diamond's comment regarding hip hop music and college students - The reality is very different. Survey's among college students show that 60% practice unsafe sex. How do you get through to them on the consequences? They know the possible outcome of unsafe sex practices. It's the same with drug dealers knowing the consequences of selling drugs but they do it anyway.

Chris Hazelip: Kids are exposed to false definitions of success. There has to be an emphasis to kids of a young age to teach them to become something bigger than themselves. Telling and exposing youth to what is right is very important. We can make more progress by youth being involved in positive activities.

Linda Lanier: Our committee has discussions from the heart. We need to take a lesson based on science. For instance, we know smoking kills us, yet people still smoke. We know that not wearing your seat belt is dangerous, yet there are times we don't wear one. There are laws on smoking and not wearing seat belts. Yet people still break these laws. We need to build on the character of the young people.

Joseph Bastian: Areas in Zone 1 are high crime areas. The youth need to be developed socially and economically. Young people need some knowledge on how to survive the next 20 years or so.

James Crooks: How can we affect Zone 1 for recommendations to the Steering Committee?

Eddie Diamond: Kids don't talk like we talk. They talk the language of "the hood." How do get the "hood" to read and speak appropriately? Some of the main issues in these areas are:

- No mother or father
- Drug addictions
- Disease

People that hustle everyday make it. These people carry guns. These people need to be taught how to articulate. Bobby Deal is right. We need to target these areas and roll up our sleeves and get things done.

Chris Wood: It's very important to communicate to kids. Kids are being communicated to falsely. We can articulate these basic transcendent values needed.

Roslyn Phillips: We have all recognized that this needs to be a multifaceted approach such as security in the parks and kids who don't usually go to park programs. If JSO provides security, this almost cuts the cost of the JaxParks Intramural program in half. This is only a portion of the round table discussion which took place during this meeting. To hear the full audio discussion, please log onto to www.coj.net and click on the Jacksonville Journey logo.

Chairwoman Moran thanked the committee for their heartfelt candor. She stated that the committee needed this "round table" approach in order to share thoughts, feelings and ideas for the youth in our city. Chairwoman Moran thanked the youth on the committee and said that she was grateful for them being a part of the Positive Youth Committee.

Chairwoman Moran opened the floor to Public Comments

Public Comments

Gretchen Mitchell, Jacksonville Public Library: There are six Jacksonville Public Branch Libraries in the Zone 1 area. Ms. Mitchell gave handouts which contained information on these branches and programs the JPL runs in the Zone 1 area.

Raylius Thompson, Chief of Staff, EWC Student Government:

- There needs to be mentoring for parents.
- Rap Music - The positive rappers don't get recognition like the bad ones.
- We can mentor the 17 year olds so that they can shine down on the younger children.
- Intramural Program - How do you attract kids to participate in the program? There needs to be more incentives than just a trophy to be won. Most teenagers (age 17) could care less about a trophy.

2. Action Items

The subcommittee will look to apply action items for all four charges to JSO Zone 1 (urban core and Northwest areas).

The subcommittee requested from the staff; statistical data for JSO Zone 1 for the March 26 meeting.

The subcommittee will make recommendations for charges III and IV.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.