



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee

MINUTES

OF

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE

June 26, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Positive Youth Development

Subcommittee

June 26, 2008

11:30 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Positive Youth Development Subcommittee taken on Thursday, June 26, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at 11:30 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 MCKIBBIN MORAN, Chair
WARREN GRYMES, Member
GEORGE YOUNG, Member
JAMES CROOKS, Member
BOBBY DEAL, Member
CHRIS HAZELIP, Member
EDGAR MATHIS, Member
WYMAN WINBUSH, Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Betty Burney, Member
Ellis Curry, Member
Eddie Diamond, Member
Carolyn Floyd, Member
Maryam Ghyabi, Member
Timmy Johnson, Member
Bill Mason, Member
Mac McGehee, Member
Shelton Tarver, Member
Claudette Williams, Member
Chris Wood, Member
George Young, Member

STAFF:

Roslyn Phillips
Linda Lanier
Kristen Beach
Chad Poppell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jon Heyman, Communities in Schools
Judy Saylor, Communities in Schools
Marcus Hale, Communities in Schools

PROCEEDINGS

June 26, 2008

Positive Youth Development Subcommittee

11:30 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairwoman Moran, called meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Funding Subcommittee recommendations as they relate to the Positive Youth Development Subcommittee's recommendations.

Chairwoman Moran welcomed the group and thanked them for coming together on such short notice. She felt it was important to bring the subcommittee together to discuss the funding recommendations which would be presented to the Steering Committee later that afternoon at 1 p.m. She wanted to be sure she accurately represented the subcommittee's views on the most recent turn of events.

It should be noted, all proceeding presentations and comments/questions be found on the Web site at www.coj.net; click on the Jacksonville Journey icon and click on Meetings, Agendas and Minutes link on the left hand side of the page.

Chairwoman Moran then led the group in discussion. She noted that what struck her about the recommendations was that there was no funding for mentoring as had been recommended by the PYD Subcommittee. The Funding Subcommittee's recommendations include the addition of intramural sports as well as increased funding for

camps and afterschool and summer jobs. The outline is a one year plan as opposed to the three to five year plan the PYD Subcommittee had discussed.

Group discussion

Lt. Bobby Deal expressed concern that the intramural sports program does not include job training or educational components.

Warren Grymes questioned why mentoring, as one of the PYD Subcommittee's strongest recommendations, was removed.

Chris Hazelip noted that there seems to be a significant disconnect between the Mayor's charges at the beginning of the process and what is being presented to the Steering Committee.

George Young noted that in addition to mentoring children, the subcommittee was strongly recommending mentoring for young parents. That is not included in this set of recommendations.

Edgar Mathis asked if existing programs receiving funding already have a mentoring component. Linda Lanier responded that yes, TEAM UP would have volunteers but not necessarily a mentoring relationship as defined as one mentor assigned to one child. That is something that could be looked at

Jim Crooks noted that he is disappointed that mayor is not raising millage rate. Other cities facing similar challenges are using that as their platform to raise taxes.

Edgar Mathis noted that if crime is indeed an issue, we should look at increasing fines for those that break the law. He suggested passing ordinance requiring that \$3 go to fund the Juvenile Assessment Centers, then could use the \$325,000 currently proposed for the JAC for something else.

George Young said that Jacksonville has one of lowest tax bases in state and if we don't pay for change now through a millage rate increase, we will pay it another way in the future.

Several members agreed that it is less expensive to work with a child than to incarcerate an adult. The residents will pay for these issues one way or another but in order to change the community for the better; the funding should be spent on the front end.

Chris Hazelip said that there still needs to be a strategic and intentional way to address the culture of violence and false messages. The community needs to focus on positive messages for youth.

Edgar Mathis said that we need to leverage and utilize existing resources such as schools, parks and churches and noted that the Funding Subcommittee's report does not cover anything about the faith community's role.

Wyman Winbush noted that the Better Jacksonville Plan required "selling" and the Journey will need the same effort. The members need to change hearts and minds of the Council members and their constituents.

Chairwoman Moran said that what attracted her to the Journey was that it was not going to be a quick fix. She said she is pleased that \$30 million is available this year but what about the future.

The group agreed that a long-term plan of action is needed.

Warren Grymes also made the suggestion of rephrasing the part of the report that referred to "containing" kids. He suggested

"serving" instead.

Edgar Mathis suggested separating the categories of "Positive Youth Development" and "Public Safety."

Wyman Winbush suggested working with the local media. Media outlets are required to give a certain amount of time for public service announcements. He recommends charging them to use 50-60% of that time to help promote mentoring.

Guest Speaker:

Chairwoman Moran then introduced Chad Poppell, division chief for Human Resources.

HR is coordinating internal mentoring recruiting effort. Then the potential mentors are steered to the Jacksonville Children's Commission for training. The city ordinance code changed about a year ago to allow city employees to mentor for one hour per week. The city has committed to recruiting 350 mentors. At the Day of Action last Saturday, the United Way partners announced that they have signed up 850+ mentors for next school year. If all reach their stated goals, the group will hit 1,200 mentors. Chairwoman Moran then recapped with the subcommittee members the highlights of the discussion that she would plan to share with the Steering Committee. These included:

- The Subcommittee is concerned that there is no funding for mentoring. It was the first charge and they feel it is critically important. The Subcommittee appreciates what city is doing but need is so great that it needs funding.
- The Subcommittee is concerned that this is a short-term strategy. They were unanimously supportive of millage rate increase and disappointed that will not be a part of the new strategy.

- Subcommittee feels strongly that investments should be made "on the front end" (children) rather than on the backend (incarceration, etc.)
- The community needs to address supporting parents.

Public Comment

Jon Heymann, Communities in Schools, spoke to the Subcommittee about the importance of Take Stock in Children and noted that Duval County's program runs on considerably less than the state average. He also indicated that they are seeing tremendous return on investment and lauded the Jacksonville Children's Commission's accountability measures. He also agreed that we do not need to create new programs but rather fund existing, proved programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.