

## **AGENDA**

**Youth Services Committee**

**Thursday, July 24, 2014**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Room 100**

**Members and Alternates:** Councilmembers Amy Foster (Chair), Bill Dudley, Charlie Gerdes, and Karl Nurse; Alternate – Steve Kornell

**Support Staff:** Mike Jefferis, Parks and Recreation Director

- A. Call To Order and Roll Call**
- B. Approval of Minutes for Youth Services Committee – June 19, 2014**
- C. Agenda Items**
  - 1. Civil Citation Update**
- D. New Business**
  - 1. Committee Priority Setting**
  - 2. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, August 21, 2014**
- E. Adjournment**

City of St. Petersburg  
YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Thursday, June 19, 2014 @ 8:36 a.m.

Present: Committee Chair Amy Foster; Councilmembers Bill Dudley, Charles Gerdes, Karl Nurse and Steve Kornell (alternate)

Also Present: Mike Jefferies, Parks & Recreation Director, Kim Porano, Assistant City Attorney, Nita Smith, President & CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Suncoast and Leroy Sullivan Jr., Executive Board Officer, Patricia Beneby, Deputy City Clerk, Heather Worley, Assistant to the City Clerk.

Committee Chair Foster called the meeting to order with the above persons present. Councilmember Dudley moved for approval of the Agenda. All were in favor of the motion. Councilmember Gerdes moved for approval of the May 29, 2014 minutes as submitted. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the new business, Nita Smith, President & CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Suncoast (BGCS), gave an overview of BGCS and discussed their mission - to enable young people to realize their full potential in core areas namely, character development, academic success, leadership, and citizenship. With funding received from the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Education, BGCS has the capability to serve more children and is seeking opportunities to impact youth in St. Petersburg, particularly in economically challenged communities. Their challenge, however, is a locale, particularly a gymnasium, to implement their programs.

Councilmember Foster commented that she spoke with two of the largest unions in the City, specifically regarding the Passport to Manhood Program, and that they offered to provide male role models to participate as mentors

Councilmember Dudley mentioned the Police Athletic League (PAL) and the Northeast Exchange Club.

Councilmember Gerdes thanked Ms. Smith for everything that BGCS does and supports and stated that he would like to ask the real-estate department to advise what city owned property or facilities might be available for use; preferably on the south side of the city where statistics show the greatest need.

Mr. Sullivan thanked the City for providing BGCS with the Royal Theater location and commended the participation and effort put forth by the City thus far.

Councilmember Nurse advised Ms. Smith that if she does not hear anything back from PAL to come back to Council on the topic.

In connection with the new business, Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) - Annual Compliance & Quality Review Report, Mike Jefferis, Parks & Recreation Director, recognized his department's

partnership with the JWB and provided a summary of the TASCO Out of School Time Program (OST). Mr. Jefferies explained the TASCO program as having six core concepts: 1) positive youth leadership; 2) family interaction; 3) community involvement; 4) drug resiliency; 5) academic achievement/ career development; and 6) peer socializing opportunities.

This youth program, employed in licensed recreation centers and reviewed annually by the JWB, received an “in full compliance” rating. This is certainly noteworthy since JWB could not recall any other agency that has been rated as such. Mr. Jefferis praised Council for its financial commitment to the program and also pointed out that St. Petersburg is the only municipality in Pinellas County that makes a financial contribution to the OST Program, unlike other municipalities which require total subsidization by the JWB.

Both Councilmembers Nurse and Gerdes questioned why TASCO lapsed \$54,656.62 or 3.42% of the JWB allocation. Mr. Jefferis explained that it has been a challenge to spend down to that amount due to extra funding of approximately \$375,000 of which approximately \$320,000 was spent.

Council congratulated Mr. Jefferis on the excellent report.

In connection with the new business, Youth issues brought up at Public Budget Summit, Councilmember Foster asked for feedback regarding topics to discuss in the future. Specifically Councilmember Foster inquired about the Detention Alternative piece.

Councilmember Dudley suggested they wait until the new police chief has been selected to tackle the Detention Alternative piece.

Councilmember Kornell wished to discuss youth jobs and Councilmember Dudley suggested to have the Chamber of Commerce come in on this topic.

Councilmember Gerdes explained that he feels there is more work to be done in regards to the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program (JAAP).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.