

AGENDA

Youth Services Committee
Thursday, February 12, 2015
10:30 a.m.

Room 100

Members and Alternates: Councilmembers Bill Dudley, Amy Foster, Steve Kornell, and Wengay Newton; Alternate—Karl Nurse

Support Staff: Mike Jefferis, Parks and Recreation Director

- A. Call to Order and Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes for Youth Services Committee—January 15, 2015
- C. Agenda Items
 1. Approval of the Florida Department of Children and Families Reform Resolution
 2. Early Childhood Initiative Overview—Councilmember Nurse
 3. Community Services Update—Susie Ajoc and Nikki Gaskin-Capehart
 - a. Early Childhood Initiative/Readiness
 - b. Youth Employment
- D. New Business
 1. Next Meeting Date—Thursday, March 12, 2015
- E. Adjournment

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
Youth Services Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2015 @ 10:30 a.m.

Present: Committee Chair Amy Foster; Councilmembers Steve Kornell, William Dudley, Wengay Newton and Karl Nurse (alternate)

Also Present: Councilmembers Charles Gerdes, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Jefferis, Assistant City Attorney Kim Proano and Assistant to the City Clerk Heather Worley.

Committee Chair Foster called the meeting to order. Councilmember Kornell moved for approval of the December 18, 2014 minutes as submitted. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the new business, nominations for Committee Chair, Councilmember Dudley motioned with a second from Councilmember Newton that existing Committee Chair Foster continue to serve as Chair of the Youth Services Committee for 2015. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with nominations for Committee Vice-Chair, Committee Chair Foster motioned with a second from Councilmember Newton that Councilmember Kornell be selected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Youth Services Committee for 2015. All were in favor of the motion.

Committee Chair Foster announced that there was a slight change in the agenda to include statistical data compiled by the St. Petersburg Police Department regarding juvenile arrest charges and individuals arrested by year. Committee Chair Foster provided copies of a bar graph and highlighted the following:

- **1,235** individual juveniles were arrested in 2014
- **2,481** juvenile arrest incidents took place in 2014– (Of the 1,235 individuals, some were arrested on several occasions.)
- **3,161** juvenile arrest charges were filed in 2014– (Of the 1,235 arrested, some had multiple charges.)

The bar graph also provided statistics for years 2012 and 2013 which indicated that youth crime rates have been escalating for the past 3 years. Committee Chair Foster explained that based on the statistical data provided, there are about 60-100 juveniles within the City that are committing the majority of the crimes.

Committee Vice-Chair Kornell explained that he would like to see more data regarding how much DCF involvement took place in connection with the 1,235 individual juvenile arrests.

Committee Chair Foster mentioned the need to develop a better way to tie information together such as DCF reports and PD reports and explained that having information attached to an address may not provide an accurate historical picture because some families are transient in nature.

Councilmember Nurse enters the meeting.

In connection with the new business, 2015 Goal Setting, Committee Chair Foster opened the floor for discussion of ideas from fellow Committee members. Suggestions included the following:

- Presentation of a tracking system to be used concurrently by social service agencies, courts and police
- Youth swimming lessons
- Youth employment opportunities including more outreach to private sector businesses
- Reducing absenteeism
- Neighborhood associations' interaction with youth
- Truancy update on programs
- Early childhood quality initiative
- Youth and family counseling as a method to reduce juvenile crime
- School system to give update on "Scale up for Success"
- Data on the 1,235 youth arrested that have contacted the Florida Department of Children and Families abuse hotline for themselves or a family member

The next Youth Services Committee meeting will be held on February 12, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.