

AGENDA

Youth Services Committee
Thursday, May 21, 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—April 9, 2015
- C. Agenda Items
 - 1. 2nd Chance Update—Director Mike Jefferis and Major Paul McWade
 - 2. Update on Juvenile Welfare Board and Florida Department of Children and Families—Councilmember Amy Foster
- D. New Business
 - 1. Next Meeting Date—Thursday, June 11, 2015
- E. Adjournment

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
Youth Services Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2015 @ 10:30 a.m.

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

Also Present: Councilmember Gerdes, Officer Michael Christian, Officer Christopher Sessions, Officer Ray Merritt, Parks and Recreation Director Mike Jefferis, Assistant City Attorney Jordan Wolfram and Assistant to the City Clerk Heather Worley

Committee Chair Foster called the meeting to order. Councilmember Dudley made a motion that the March 12, 2015 minutes be approved as submitted. All were in favor of the motion. Councilmember Newton made a motion to approve the agenda to include the addition of an announcement from Parks and Recreation Director Mike Jefferis. All were in favor of the motion.

Discussion began with a quick announcement from Mr. Jefferis who proudly announced promotional staff changes within his department. He explained that the newly chosen supervisory personnel will further support youth within the city and enhance the department.

In connection with the new business, Bridge the Gap BMX Project, St. Petersburg Police Department Officers Michael Christian, Ray Merritt, and Chris Sessions began the presentation by introducing and explaining the sport of BMX racing. Officer Christian explained that the program would be operated by police officers and that he felt Walter Fuller Park would be a good location to build a track. Through further discussion they asked the Committee to consider building a BMX track within the city citing that the main goal of the program would be to bridge the gap between youth and police officers and to serve as a building block on which to strengthen community relationships. Officer Christian concluded the presentation by asking for any questions or comments.

Councilmember Gerdes said that we would like to have such a program in his district but that Walter Fuller Park is not the right location. Further discussion revealed a few reasons to seek another location including the fact that Walter Fuller Park is surrounded by residential homes and that a previous BMX track was already removed from there.

Councilmember Gerdes pointed out two alternative locations that he believed would be a better fit and expressed interest in a lot northwest of Tyrone Mall that has appeared run down for several years. He explained that he would like to see the lot serve a better purpose. Councilmember Gerdes also expressed interest in the space where Tyrone Elementary used to occupy and explained that he and Mr. Jefferis will look into these locations to see what can be done.

The Committee thanked the Officers for their presentation.

The next Youth Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.