

AGENDA

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

Room 100

Members and Alternates: Councilmembers Bill Dudley, Amy Foster (Chair), Steve Kornell (Vice Chair), 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—October 8, 2015
- C. Agenda Items
 - 1. Leah McRae—Department of Education and Community Engagement
 - 2. Lori Matway—Assistant Superintendent with the Pinellas County School Board
- D. New Business
 - 1. Next Meeting Date—Thursday, January 14, 2016
- E. Adjournment

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
Youth Services Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 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 Charlie Gerdes, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Jefferis, Assistant City Attorney Macall Dyer, Assistant City Attorney Jordan Wolfgram, Community Service Director Susan Ajoc, Guest Speaker Trenae Gayle and Assistant to the City Clerk Heather Worley

Committee Chair Foster called the meeting to order and requested to amend the agenda by adding a discussion regarding new business and how this Committee will move forward. Committee Vice-Chair Kornell moved for approval of the agenda as amended. All were in favor of the motion. Committee Chair Foster requested roll call regarding approval of the May 21, 2015 minutes as submitted. All were in favor of the motion.

Committee Chair Foster opened discussion by addressing the issue of how the Committee handles business. She explained that last year the Committee did a great job focusing on the Juvenile Second Chance Program and that this year there has been thoughtful discussion regarding topics of interest. However, she expressed concern about the lack of focus on policy and the absence of new business items which makes discussion and movement to Full Council difficult. Committee Chair Foster asked the Committee to participate by recommending items for discussion.

Councilmember Dudley mentioned better advertisement regarding summer jobs available to youth.

Community Service Director Susie Ajoc spoke briefly regarding the partnership with Boley and stated that Boley is considering hiring youth directly in connection with efforts to raise awareness for youth employment.

Councilmember Newton commented that there are many items to discuss and explained that the five failing schools and foster kids aging out of care and both very important topics.

Councilmember Nurse asked how many of the current after school programs are not filled to capacity. Recruitment and door-to-door strategy was discussed.

Committee Chair Foster summarized the discussion by reaffirming main concerns including youth summer employment opportunities and education. The need to identify local businesses that would be willing to employ youth and the importance of a greater connectivity to education among youth were also emphasized.

In connection with the presentation from Trenae Gayle, founder of Secrets Shouldn't Hurt, Inc., Ms. Gayle began her discussion by introducing herself and explaining about why she started her organization. Ms. Gayle spoke passionately of her desire to help children victimized by sexual abuse and assault and stated that her short-term objectives include bringing awareness to the rise in such crimes, noting the failures of the systems meant to protect, and connecting with those in need of help and healing. Her long-term objective is to establish a residential home for exploited youth. Committee members commended Ms. Gayle for her fortitude and vision, presented suggestions for establishing a nonprofit organization, and offered their help in whatever way possible.

Councilmember Kornell exits the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.