

AGENDA

Youth Services Committee
Thursday, August 11, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Room 100

Members and Alternates: Council Members Amy Foster, Charlie Gerdes, Karl Nurse, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman; Alternate—Darden Rice

Support Staff: Mike Jefferis, Parks and Recreation Director

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

B. Approval of Minutes from Youth Services Committee—July 14, 2016

C. Agenda Items

1. Social Capital—Lynne Tucker, MPA, will discuss expanded learning and summer learning loss

D. New Business

1. Next Meeting Date—Thursday, September 8, 2016

E. Adjournment

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE
July 14, 2016 @ 9:15 a.m.

PRESENT: Committee Chair Amy Foster, Vice-Chair Lisa Wheeler-Brown, Karl Nurse, Charlie Gerdes

ALSO PRESENT: Education and Community Engagement Director Leah McRae, Recreation Administration Support Coordinator Kerry Bittner, Assistant to the City Clerk Cortney Phillips.

ABSENT: Darden Rice (Alternate)

Chair Foster opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. and began with a roll call. Councilmember Gerdes moved for approval of the April 14, 2016 minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the new business, Leah McRae introduced the Principal of Gibbs High School, Reuben Hepburn. Principal Hepburn thanked the Committee for his opportunity to speak and outlined the issues at hand within area schools. He stated that young men and women, primarily of African-American descent, have little hope as to their future. Even as graduation rates are on the rise, the concern is for the young men and women that he doesn't reach. With that in mind, he came up with the City of St. Petersburg Career Center at Gibbs High School. The program partners with the City, as well as Pinellas Technical College to provide training and workplace readiness to students at Gibbs.

Students must successfully complete the City Career Center program and also receive their diploma in order to be provided with employment opportunities after High School is completed. The program consists of:

- Specified job training and mentoring provided by current City employees
- Job shadowing
- Paid summer jobs/internships
- On-site support from Human Resources representatives, and
- Priority hiring status upon successful completion of one of the programs.

Councilmember Wheeler-Bowman had questions regarding the types of job training that would be available to students. Principal Hepburn stated that there are a wide variety of programs available to students, including plumbing, welding, auto, photo, and more.

Councilmember Nurse noted that employment opportunities within the Police Department will substantially increase within the next few years due to the number of officers approaching retirement. He would like to see the future demographic of the department more accurately reflect the City in terms of diversity.

Councilmember Gerdes would like to offer his full support, and considers this a tremendous investment of taxpayer money. Ms. McRae added that there may not be a great need to allocate funds for this program, as it relies heavily on volunteering and grants. The City already makes room in the budget for paid internships, which is a piece of this program. She stated that the next step will be to include district officials in the discussion and come up with a formal action plan.

Councilmember Gerdes moved that a resolution be put forward to full Council expressing support for this program. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the new business, Leah McRae introduced Deanna Gray and Steven Kramer with Code for Tampa Bay. On June 4th Code for Tampa Bay held their first National Day for Civic Hacking in St. Petersburg. The program brings together volunteers to build programs and applications that serve the public good or need. The volunteers created an application to serve families and students in need of services.

Ms. Gray demonstrated a website she and Mr. Kramer created, called Sunshine Family Connection. The site, which is not yet live, has a goal of connecting citizens in need of services to providers within the area. Parents, children, and teachers will be able to log on and search for support, such as mentors, food resources, childcare, and more. Site admins will be able to vet providers before they are put up on the site to ensure their legitimacy. The end goal is to give teachers and families a resource to be connected with services as easily as possible, as well as to provide information on support providers they may not have previously known.

Chair Foster reflected that this site could accomplish many of the same things as 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, which generally does not have such an instant response, especially as funding is being cut. Families currently contacting 2-1-1 have often experienced lengthy delays or non-response.

Leah McRae stated that Code for Tampa Bay is submitting a funding request for FY2017 to support Sunshine Family Connection. At this time, there is not a specific dollar amount requested.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.