

AGENDA

Youth Services Committee
Thursday, November 10, 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—August 11, 2016

C. Agenda Items

1. My Brother's and Sister's Keeper—Rev. Kenny Irby, Community Intervention Director, St. Petersburg Police Department will present an update on the initiative. He will be joined by Erik Smith and Gypsy Gallardo, MBSK Subcommittee Chairs.

D. New Business

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

E. Adjournment

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE
August 11, 2016 @ 10:30 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, Parks and Recreation Director Mike Jefferis, Assistant City Attorney Sharon Michnowicz, Assistant to the City Clerk Cortney Phillips.

ABSENT: Darden Rice (Alternate)

Chair Foster opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and began with a roll call. Councilmember Gerdes moved for approval of the July 14, 2016 minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the new business, Consultant Lynne Tucker of Social Capital appeared before the Youth Services Committee at the invitation of Education and Community Engagement Director Leah McRae. Ms. Tucker's topic of discussion was summer learning loss and expanded learning opportunities faced by at-risk and disadvantaged students.

Summer learning loss, or summer slide, takes place during the summer months when school is not in session. Students from low-income households commonly lose skills in reading and math during these months due to lack of access to adequate programming. These students that rely on school-provided meals also face food insecurities.

She presented methods to curb academic achievement gaps by involving community stakeholders and developing learning opportunities. Studies have indicated that the three main barriers to summer learning programs are affordability, convenience, and transportation. Cities that have implemented successful programs have offered free or low-cost programming to youth that have been targeted as the highest need within the area. Programs that Seattle has put in place cost around \$2.3 million, but that investment offsets the \$39 million in the equivalent of skills lost to Summer Slide. The investment will also offset the cost of involvement of public agencies to students that would have otherwise dropped out. Ms. Tucker requested that Youth Services make Summer Learning a priority, asked that other cities' successes be looked at to help create an asset map to build social capital assets. She suggested that a Summer Learning Work Group be established.

Councilmember Nurse inquired where the Summer Bridge program in St. Petersburg comes into consideration. Ms. Tucker responded that Summer Bridge is an intense program with hours that may not fit into a working parent's schedule. Transportation is not provided, and so attendance becomes very difficult for some families.

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Jefferis noted that St. Petersburg has parallel attributes to other cities and identified expanded learning opportunities implemented by his department:

- 350,000 free breakfasts and lunches served at facilities and parks during the summer
- tutoring and disguised learning techniques employed
- hiring of elementary and middle school teachers at departmental facilities enforcing STEM and science teachers at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve

- *Libraries Unshelved* program, working closely with libraries to make books readily available at facilities
- out-of-school time, after school, and overlay programs
- family open house at recreation facilities to introduce available services

Councilmember Gerdes noted that there are programs in place within the community that offer the personal care that some students need, such as the walking school bus, and that he looks forward to “connecting the dots” as far as getting different community services to engage with one another.

Mike concluded by publically thanking Council Members, the Mayor’s office, and the Juvenile Welfare Board for the resources and support provided. He is committed to fine tuning the expanded learning services offered and finding opportunities where each student will progress at his or her best.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.