

Minutes

Youth and Family Affairs Committee

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

Videoconference and Teleconference: Zoom

Members Present: Onreka Johnson, Jeff Elbert, Robert Gorrell, Rick Lowe, Brenda Myers, Dianne Owens, Lisa Shaw, Ernie Sherman, Willie Smith, Woogie Burgess (Administrative Assistant).

Guests Present: Mayor Stan Booker

Agenda

I. Call to Order, establish quorum and ensure public notice requirements have been met.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Onreka Johnson. It was acknowledged that all required posting notifications had been made and confirmed that a quorum was present by videoconference and teleconference, as required by the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S. 2011, Section 304, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 81, O.S.L. 2019 (25 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 304, 307.1 and 311), Senate Bill No. 661 (2020).

II. Consider acceptance of the minutes from the April 6, 2021 Committee meeting.

ACTION: Robert Gorrell moved to approve the April 6, 2021 Committee meeting minutes; seconded by Lisa Shaw, and by roll call vote, unanimously approved.

III. Business

Discussion of Arts Info Distributed March 22 – Mayor Booker

Mayor Booker encouraged the group to consider the value of arts in the lives of children. He spoke of events he had attended involving children and arts, and noted that data shows kids involved in arts have a 15% higher grade point average and higher graduation rates than those without. He also noted that the higher the grade point average, the less likely children are to be involved in bad activities, and the higher the graduation rate, the less likely they will be involved in crime.

The Discussion then turned to the Search Institute of America (SIA) as a group that can provide training for a variety of different things, particularly programs for youth. Rick Lowe asked us to decide the following questions: (1) Who is going to be in the room if SIA presents; (2) who will receive the training, (3) what is the objective of the training. (Is it just to educate us about the principles and protective factors of putting a program together, or something more than that). Rick indicated he felt training of this group to help us evaluate as to whether any program we consider would increase the protective factors and reduce the risk factors was a good basic way to start. Onreka suggested that those who are going to receive funding should also be in the room. Onreka said she knew of a group that had received training from SIA, and that we should find out what they have to offer before we bring them in. Mayor Booker suggested we seek a proposal from SIA as to what they can

do and how much it would cost. Robert Gorrell asked for information about SIA so we would be familiar before it came time to vote. Onreka Johnson indicated we would send information out to the Committee members. Woogie Burgess indicated she would collect information about the SIA and the 40 risk factors and protective factors and send it to Committee members. Rick Lowe indicated there is quite a bit online – said to “Google Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets”. Jeff Elbert asked whether this meant the arts was the only focus for programs, and Onreka Johnson indicated that it was not, that it was only one avenue for consideration, but we had to provide multiple types of appeal in any program(s) we choose. She noted that we cannot do everything, so we have to narrow our focus so that we actually do something.

A. Logo Status

Brenda Myers indicated the kids at JDC wanted to be involved, and they are working on it. The Committee members discussed keeping the opportunity to at risk kids that are the target of the demographic for the Committee. Woogie Burgess indicated she had created a flier and an email address for submissions. Judge Lisa Shaw indicated there are individuals in DHS that could have the opportunity, and Brenda Myers said kids at Marie Detty would be great participants as well. Subcommittee to narrow the submissions to 3, and Dianne Owens and Brenda Myers agreed to serve on the subcommittee to narrow submissions and then present to the Committee.

ACTION: Rick Lowe moved to approve the deadline of April 19, 2021 for submission of logo entries to the Committee. Seconded by Dianne Owes. Upon roll call vote, unanimously approved.

B. Review draft application and rubric, and suggest edits

Woogie Burgess indicated the document had not been sent in sufficient time for the Committee members to have an opportunity to review.

ACTION: Rick Lowe moved to table consideration of the application until the next meeting. Seconded by Willie Smith. Upon roll call vote, unanimously approved.

C. Set deadline for submission of applications for YFA project funding.

The Committee then discussed the time to set the deadline for submission of applications for funding.

ACTION: Motion by Dianne Owens to set deadline of May 31, 2021 for submission of projects to the YFA for adoption consideration; seconded by Brenda Myers. Upon roll call vote, unanimously approved. (Note: Rick Lowe left the meeting prior to the vote).

E. Distribution of applications

The Committee considered several options for distributing the application, and generally agreed on the Lawton Constitution, KSWO TV, Facebook, through United Way, and through the Chamber of Commerce, hard copies available at the City of Lawton, in the City Manager’s Office (Tiffani Vrksa). Jeff Elbert suggested we set up a Facebook page

for the Committee to post information, and indicated he would assist as an Admin for the page. Onreka indicated she would assist, as did Woogie Burgess, and Onreka's mentee, Chris Tina Chin, will be happy to assist, as her strength is social media.

Woogie Burgess indicated we needed to ask the City Attorney for an opinion as to whether we would need to restrict groups to 501(c)(3) exempt organizations.

Dianne Owens and Brenda Myers agreed to help Woogie get the application ready for consideration.

IV. Other Topics - general questions, input

None introduced.

There being no further business, Chair Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Next meeting April 20, 2021, at 5:30 pm.