



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee

MINUTES

OF

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SUB-COMMITTEE

February 13, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Positive Youth Development

Sub-Committee

February 13, 2008

8:00 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee taken on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Positive Youth Development Committee

Audrey McKibbin Moran, Chair

Joseph Bastian, Member

Betty Burney, Member

James Crooks, Member

Ellis Curry, Member

Bobby Deal, Member

Eddie Diamond, Member

Carolyn Floyd, Member

Maryam Ghyabi, Member

Warren Grymes, Member

Chris Hazelip, Member

Timmy Johnson, Member

Bill Mason, Member

Rashean Mathis, Member

Edgar Mathis, Member

Mac McGehee, Member

Shelton Tarver, Member

Claudette Williams, Member

Wyman Winbush, Member

Chris Wood, Member

George Young, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

AUDREY MCKIBBIN MORAN, Chair
JAMES CROOKS, Member
BOBBY DEAL, Member
EDDIE DIAMOND, Member
CAROLYN FLOYD, Member
MARYAM GHYABI, Member
WARREN GRYMES, Member
CHRIS HAZELIP, Member
TIMMY JOHNSON, Member
EDGAR MATHIS, Member
SHELTON TARVER, Member
CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS, Member
GEORGE YOUNG, Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ELLIS CURRY, Member
WYMAN WINBUSH, Member

EXCUSED:

Bill Mason

STAFF:

ROSLYN PHILLIPS
LINDA LANIER
KRISTEN KEY BEACH
STEPHANIE BARNETT
RACHELLE M. SUNDY

OTHERS PRESENT:

Doug Murr, Character First
Anthony Clark, Edward Waters College
Tyisha Gould Edward Waters College
Virley McKinney, Edward Waters College
Keri Cory, JCC
Anna Bradley, COJ
Gretchen Mitchell, Public Library
Godfrey Story, Jr., River Region *Public Comment
Elena Moss, Empowerment Resources, Inc.
Tia Mitchell, Times Union

PROCEEDINGS

February 13, 2008

Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee

8:00 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairwoman Moran called the meeting to order at approximately 8:07 a.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee.

Chairwoman Moran welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to be in attendance. The minutes to January 23, 2008 meeting were approved.

Today's topic will be engaging the Duval Youth Voice Council on their ideas and suggestions as well as mentoring and volunteerism. Chairwoman Moran noted that Clara McLaughlin, PR Subcommittee Member, was scheduled to give an introduction and brief report on Public Relations Subcommittee but would be late. Ms. McLaughlin did not make it to the meeting in order to speak to the committee. Chairwoman Moran introduced Mr. Wally Lee, President of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce and mentioned his distinguished career with the Chamber as well as being the recipient of the Peace Builders Award. Mr. Lee gave a presentation regarding the Chamber's role in positive youth development. Highlights of this presentation are as follows:

- Obstacles and challenges regarding mentoring volunteers at area schools.
- The Chamber currently has a program called Career Academy

Collaborative. This program focuses on Technology, HealthCare, and Finance. Area businesses provide funding for this program at area schools. Career Academy prepares high school students for the world of work or scholastic endeavors which lead to the world of work. There are 23 Career Academies at various schools. (a list of these schools will be provided at a later date)The academy started in Jacksonville started roughly around 2001 - 2002.The program originated in Scotland and Denmark. These countries have had great success with students who enter the workforce or educational institutions.

Chairwoman Moran thanked Mr. Lee for his candor on the issues the Chamber of Commerce has in regards to the obstacles with area business involvement and the Schools. Chairwoman Moran stated the next item on the agenda which was a presentation by Duval Youth Voice Council and introduced two students on the council, subcommittee members Shelton Tarver and Chris Wood. Linda Lanier spoke at this time to give a little insight on the Youth Council. Ms. Lanier's presentation can be found at the website; www.coj.net and click on the Jacksonville Journey logo. Some of the key points from Ms. Lanier included more information regarding the three teams of the Youth Panel and what each team focuses on. Chairwoman Moran introduced the Youth Panel. At this time Shelton Tarver and Chris Wood took the podium. Also present for the presentation were Anthony Clark, Tyisha Gould and Virley McKinney, students at Edward Waters College. The Committee Members asked the Youth Panel about major factors that can lead to problems with today's youth.

When asked about the problems with today's youth, the students spoke on the areas of great concern such as talking to a receptive adult (i.e.: how negative facial expressions on adults hinders communication) and how low self esteem is a major factor in youth related crimes.

The main priorities the Youth Panel focuses on are as follows:

- Crime
- Communication with adults
- Education
- Sex Education
- Poverty
- Discrimination

The students spoke on these areas and elaborated using some of their own experiences. Some of the questions asked by the Committee Members are as follows:

Q: How can we, as adults communicate better with our Youth?

A: Act like you care. Be mindful of your facial expressions and really listen.

Q: What would you say is the main problem causing today's youth to turn to crime?

A: Low self esteem. When you have low self esteem, you are taken advantage of by others who hone in on the low self esteem of youth.

Q: Do you have any ideas on how male youth can be steered away from crime?

A: Youth males need father figures in their lives.

To hear the full audio the important message insight of the Youth Council go to www.coj.net and click on the Jacksonville Journey logo. At this time Chairwoman Moran asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Doug Murr, who represents Character First, raised his and asked to speak to the committee. Chairwoman Moran invited Mr. Murr to share his comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Murr stated that Character First goes into area schools speaking to students about issues. Mr. Murr stated that today's youth lacks initiative and consistency in their lives. To hear the audio comments of Mr. Murr, go to www.coj.net and click on the Jacksonville Journey logo

2. Action Items

Due to late adjournment, there were no action items discussed at this time

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am