



Statesboro Community Youth Network

S C Y N

March 18, 2021, 6pm, via Zoom
Statesboro Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Kristina Patterson, Jennifer Mock, Fallon Brown, Debbie Vives, Lakesha Hill, Caitlin Brady, Tracy Linderholm, LaShai Campbell, Mike Jones, Lainie Jenkins, Stacey Grant, and Marilyn Creech-Harris

City Council Liaison: Amanda Clements

Meeting Notes:

Kristina Patterson called the meeting to order and noted quorum was present. Agenda was approved as written. Minutes from February meeting were approved as written.

Lakesha Hill gave an update from a meeting with Mayor McCollar on his priorities for the Commission. There is interest in creating 4 designated children's zones (Harlem Children's Zone model), with one at Luetta Moore Park. They brainstormed ideas, and want to kick off tutoring services beginning with the 21-22 school year.

Caitlin Brady gave a summary of thoughts/takeaways from the Securing Statesboro: Keeping our City Safe forum. The importance of literacy was discussed, providing safe spaces to develop literacy skills, mental health community resources and gaps. There were questions about violence, juvenile gangs. Overall, there seemed to be a general excitement and commitment among community members to serving youth.

The committee discussed potential outreach projects/ mentorship projects related to the opening of the two renovated parks (Luetta Moore and Reverend W.D. Kent). Ideas included: intentional STEM programming, exposure to career areas. Ms. Hill also suggested a career day and mentioned establishing internships. Various partnerships were discussed, including the idea of doing a 5-10 minute community clean up at the end of an event to get community buy-in, feelings of park ownership. Lainie Jenkins noted the importance of reaching the youth that aren't as involved, aren't getting information other places. Fallon Brown mentioned partnering with the GSU Basketball Team. We discussed the idea of a basketball pickup game, maybe hiring a semi-famous basketball player? Possibly a Youth Town Hall for the opening day, to find out what youth and families wanted. The idea of the importance of representation of different ages, races, neighborhoods in partnerships was discussed. Stacey Grant suggested having a consistent event, every month, put on by different community groups, with different types of events (athletic, arts, etc). The parks are scheduled to open in Summer 2021.

The group then started discussing forming various sub-committees. Dr. Patterson made some suggestions and other members offered feedback and other suggestions, to wit:

- Kristina Patterson: Grants & Subgrants; Programming
- Stacey: creating a hub for programs so we can get community involvement.

- Lainie: a youth leadership program
- Tracy: Gulfstream has supported a leadership program for high school students. She will report on it next time and get us an update on what they do.
- Kristina: a civic leadership institute. She has been working on a curriculum called changing the world in uncertain times.
- A youth town hall in the park.
- Jennifer: Involve the youth in the decisions of the committee
- Lakesha: maybe we can partner with the counselors to see what the greatest needs are

After a discussion, the group found these to be the best sub-committees to start with:

- Leadership Development
- Grants
- Programming
- Community outreach/Strategic Planning

Leadership will send out a Google form to sign up for sub-committees and then meet in break-out rooms next time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.