



January 20, 2022, 6pm, via Zoom

## Statesboro Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: LaShai Campbell, Lakesha Hill, Debbie Vives, Kristina (Tina) Patterson, Danni Bennett, Caitlin Brady, Tracy Linderholm

City Council Liaison: Amanda Clements

Kristina Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:05. Quorum was not present. Agenda was approved with a correction to the date of the February meeting (17<sup>th</sup> rather than 7<sup>th</sup>)

The meeting began with an introduction of new ex-officio member, Danni Bennett as well as all commission members present.

Update from Bulloch BOE Meeting - Lakesha Hill gave an update from the most recent BOE meeting. BOE did not meet in December. In January, there was a presentation regarding instructional coaches. This is a new position, focused on improving teacher instruction, will include professional development badging for teachers. There were comments around how to measure success. BOE also approved 2022-23 school year calendar.

Statesboro HS - The Education Committee of the NAACP and other community members met with Mr. Wright (Principal, Statesboro High) and the Superintendent Wilson to discuss ongoing issues at Statesboro High. They need volunteers for mornings, lunch hours, and at dismissal to have an adult presence in the hallways.

Danni Bennett shared a conversation with a Statesboro HS student who was throwing up gang signs. She had a conversation with the student to find out some reasons why he emulated gangs and the student identified some issues: poverty, racism, lack of history being taught in school, and intergenerational trauma. We discussed that having a strategic way to get a trusted adult to be able to ask students why they were drawn to gangs would be helpful. LaShai Campbell mentioned that Chris Pugh was serving in this capacity.

Town Hall - Debbie Vives gave an update from the Town Hall.

Package sales ordinance, provision g - Kristina Patterson updated the youth commission on her planned statement in support of Provision G of the package sales ordinance at the upcoming city council meeting. All members present supported expanding the language to include state recognized nonprofit organizations that had not yet qualified for 501c3 status to build capacity.

Next event/regular event - the commission discussed the best way to reach youth/families to find out how we could best serve them. We discussed reaching out to social workers who may have already identified needs. We discussed doing a survey, but expressed concerns over reaching those we most want to serve who may not have internet access, need transportation, etc. Tracy Linderholm noted that we may get better information from a focus group. We discussed going into places where families were already engaging - meeting families/youth where they are.

The commission discussed hosting a listening session inviting local organizations to discuss issues affecting youth to freely talk and strategize. Squash the Spread recently had a virtual event that was well attended. We may be able to do a virtual event if we were intentional about panelists and monitored the chat for questions/comments.

Lakesha Hill suggested thinking outside of the box - having a more informal conversation and suggested collaborating with Statesboro High on a sports event. We could capitalize on the time when they were already

at the school to find out from parents/youth how we could best serve them. Lakesha Hill suggested trying to attend the girls' basketball game Senior night (boys basketball season has wrapped up already). LaShai Campbell noted that we would need to reach out to Keith Wright, SHS Principal to determine what would be appropriate.

Announcements:

The Restoring the Breach/Youth Career Commission/Pink Huddle college event has been postponed.

The College of Education received a sizable grant to fund remediation programs for students.

Next steps/Action Items:

Kristina Patterson to contact Keith Wright about attending the girls' basketball game on 2/8.