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**Youth Commission Meeting**

**Thursday, August 10, 2017**

**5:30 p.m.**

The Youth Commission held its second meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

The following were present:

Kimberly Hargrove Elisha Cole

Whitney Washington, Recreation Specialist Yolanda Austin, Mayor

Brian Bohlen Patricia Williams

Carl Kirkwood Kim Wilson

David Vincent

Mable Davis

Erika Hankins

Chairman Kim Hargrove opened the meeting by explaining the purpose, roles, and history of the nine (9) member commission members.

1. **Discussion of Commission Officers**
2. Secretary-Whitney Washington
3. Vice Chairman- Elisha Cole
4. Chairman- Kim Hargrove
5. **Introductions**

Each commissioner introduced themselves

1. **Academic Programs**
2. Mayor Austin informed the commission about the new library box that will be located on the south side of the parking lot at the Civic Center. Mayor Austin also spoke with St. Louis County Organization about putting an additional box elsewhere in the city of Jennings. A committee member asked if the books will have to be returned and Mayor Austin answered by stating that she is unsure at this time but further details will be available soon. Another member asked if library cards would be needed and that information is not available at this time either.
3. Secretary Whitney informed the committee about the new after school club. Program will start Monday August 28th and will be held at the Civic Center. The program will be geared towards education and will be Monday-Friday from 2:30-6:30PM. The cost is $25 per week. The kids will get assistance with homework, snacks will be provided as well as transportation. Incentives were discussed as well. Mystery Trips and or prizes will be awarded to the groups with the highest GPA. Inspire Young Tutoring Service was discussed as well and that flyer was handed out.
4. **Status of New Program Ideas**
5. Community Gardening- Mayor Austin informed the committee about the current gardens and the new gardens that will be added at other locations.
6. Financial Literacy- Mayor Austin asked the committee members who would want to research this topic. This topic is on hold for now.
7. Entrepreneurship- Mayor Austin informed the committee members that these topics were talked about at the most recent meeting and that the committee members were asked to research and get information to bring back today. Earl will research this topic.
8. Swimming- Mayor Austin informed the committee that the high school pool was open in the past years to the public but the community was unaware that they did have the option to swim for free. Mayor Austin also stated that Director Earl Green has reached out to Ferguson to get information about Jennings patrons using their swimming facilities. More information about that will be given at a later time. Chairman Kim asked if someone in the committee would like to check within Jennings on the availability of the high school pool. It was also discussed that there is an upcoming Jennings vs. Ferguson Kickball game on September 1st, 2017 at 6pm at Koeneman Park. Mayor Austin also discussed that a van will be coming available and may be used for transportation for the youth
9. Etiquette Class- Dawn stated that she would look into etiquette classes. She also asked where to start looking for anything. The committee mentioned that she could research someone that teaches etiquette classes. Beyond Housing and Better Family Life were mentioned. Elisha will look into the etiquette classes for the boys/men in the community. He mentioned that these types of classes are already available
10. Industrial Arts- A committee member mentioned that they would be interested in helping with this program but would need assistance getting materials. He stated that he has some for younger kids but would need something for the older youths. Mayor Austin then stated that Lowe’s, Home Depot, and Wal-Mart has some small grants available that could be used to get some supplies that would be beneficial.
11. Human Trafficking (women empowerment) - A committee member has done some research and would like to have a seminar that is for high school seniors and their parents. At this seminar a video/documentary called The Hunting Ground will be shown. A panel like discussion would take place afterwards that would help educate the girls and parents about sexual assaults that take place on college campuses. There will also be a dinner and Q & A. Mayor Austin suggested that a proposal be put together and presented to the chairman for review.
12. **Girl Scouts**

Kim Wilson from the Girls Scouts introduced herself and provided cookies for all committee members. She informed the committee of the status of our representation and stated that there is no middle school representation. She passed out literature and informed the committee that Mia Johnson is the contact person for all of the middle schools. She should be contacted if any of the Jennings middle schools were interested in creating a troop. She also informed the committee that presentations are done if the schools would be interested in the scouts coming to present and provide further information.

1. **Movie Night**

Mayor Austin stated she wanted to create a committee to help pick the movies, choose refreshments, set-up etc. Wants the night to be controlled and free of chaos. She requested that the committee look to see if September 15th was available at the Civic Center to use the hall for the movie night. Also the 22nd. She stated that the committee will decide how often the movie night will be. Time will be 7pm-9pm on Fridays. The committee decided that the first movie night will be for grades k-3rd. A member suggested that we also have arts and crafts available for the younger kids prior to movie night.

1. **“Know Your Rights”**

Mayor Austin stated that she hopes to create a forum that currently exists that has a panel of attorneys, judges, police officers, and other established members of the community that answer questions that the older youths may have. She also suggested that index cards be used at the jamboree in order to gather patron’s information so that they can be contacted at a later time when the programs have been created and established. Know Your Rights forum will be held in October on a Saturday morning. The committee will research and choose a specific date.

Chairman Kim asked who would be attending the Jamboree and a couple of members stated that they would be in attendance.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.