

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY 13TH 2019
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Julie Crawford	Peter Kallin	Maile Organek
Rose Dawson	Jamica Littles	Brian Orrenmaa
Laura Durham	Mike Mackey	Malka Zeefe
Kate Garvey	Brent McKenzie	Dayanara Saget
Jacinta Greene	Kelley Organek	
Bryana Head		

Excused Absent

Councilman Canek Aguirre	Tammy Mann
Amanda Hazelwood	Javan Owens
Glenn Hopkins	Heather Thornton
Michelle Smith Howard	Isra Shuster
Kurt Huffman	
Councilwoman Amy Parker Jackson	

Unexcused Absent

Ameena Ashraf
Stephen Parker

Staff

Stacey Hardy-Chandler
Noraine Buttar
Robin Crawley
Chelsea Eickert

Speakers

Jean Kelleher, Director of Office of Human Rights
Nami Ishihara, Facilitator

Guest

Gwen Mullen

WELCOME

Chair Malka Zeefe welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and their role.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT JANUARY MINUTES

Minutes were approved with some changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Racial Equity Presentation - Jean Kelleher, Director of the Office of Human Rights, gave a presentation on Racial Equity that she also gave to City Council last fall. The City is adopting a racial equity policy, based on national models. Racial Equity is a national movement and the City of Alexandria is now a member of GARE. City Manager, Mark Jinks is a tremendous advocate. The City has decided to start by looking inward at its own departments first (Police Department, Court Services Unit, Office of Human Rights, the Department of Community and Human Services, and Alexandria Libraries). The City has formed an interdepartmental equity work group based on models of excellence. There is hope that in the 2020 budget, there will be resources allocated to a racial equity office.

Next steps: Go on the GARE Website and find the Members Only page. Work group members can sign up for specific groups and receive guidance from GARE. All departments will be required to have individuals on the groups.

March Retreat - Nami Ishihara from Happy Teams introduced herself as the retreat's facilitator. She shared planned objectives for the retreat, which emerged out of a conversation she had with Noraine Buttar. She went over them with the Commission and gathered their feedback. The objectives she shared were:

1. gain a shared understanding of CYFCC achievements and where we are now
2. establish clarity and consensus on goals for 2019
3. participants to reflect on the implications on commissioner's role and various committees
4. establish rapport with each other and gain momentum

Commissioners were asked to write down their answers to the following questions:

1. What do you expect from the retreat?
2. Main issues to discuss?
3. And main concerns for retreat

Nami Ishihara collected the answers and announced that she would be sending out an email to a group of five to seven commissions to conduct shorter informational interviews. New members were encouraged to visit website, read the Children and Youth Master Plan, and the Snapshot. Before attending the retreat, the facilitator encouraged Commissioners to refresh their memories on assigned tasks and to bring an open mind, fresh energy, and ideas.

Community Safety Fair - Brian Orrenmaa is looking for a body to take ownership for hosting a Community Safety Fair. The idea emerged after the Parkland event sparked conversations of gun safety and safety in the home. Many parents in Alexandria are looking for ways to keep their kids safe. Because the CYFCC is already focused on creating a Community Guide for Safety and Community Resources, can it help create something like a Community Safety Fair with booths for parents to learn from? PTAC would help support it.

Issues, such as the target audience, the Commission's role and capacity, participants manning the booths, and timing were discussed. Overall, the Commission agreed that the Fair is a good idea and could be a way to engage on several different levels with parents, students, and schools. It could also help to develop the Resource Guide. The Commission would play a coordinating role, identifying the space, time, city agencies and organizations to participate, and would invite community members. People agreed that the timing would be better at beginning of school year. The proposal brought up the need for criteria to help make decisions on things the Commission takes on. The conversation concluded with an agreement to discuss further and possibly pursue it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proposed Calendar Events – March 13th – CYFCC Retreat, 6-9 PM at Charles Houston Rec Center

ADJOURNMENT (8:45 PM)