

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2016
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Present

Natnael Adere	Rose Dawson	Tammy Mann
Councilman Will Bailey	Kate Garvey	Gwen Mullen
Robin Blair	J. Glenn Hopkins	Sonia Price
Ronnie Campbell	Melissa Little	Michael Suppa
Councilman John Chapman	Mike Mackey	Kendallee Walker
William Chesley	Gerald Mann	Eric Williams
Julie Crawford		

Excused Absent

Gisselle Brown	Gwendolyn Lewis	Brian Orrenmaa
Ramee Gentry		

Unexcused Absent

Carlos Suber	Joyce Rawlings	
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Staff

Jacqueline Coachman	Ron Frazier	Shanna Samson
Carol Farrell	Jonathan Leonberger	Deborah Warren
Barbara Farrington		

Guests

Jose Aguimatang

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT JANUARY MINUTES

There being no changes to the minutes of the January meeting, Gwen Mullen moved approval. After a second by William Chesley, the minutes were approved unanimously.

PLANNING NEXT STEPS FOR TWO COMMISSION-SELECTED PRIORITIES

Chair Tammy Mann reported the Executive Committee discussed the importance of improving communication with the community. A newsletter that could be shared with stakeholders would be a valuable tool as well as a similar document that could be disseminated on an annual basis. Mike Mackey endorsed the one-pager proposed by the Office on Housing.

Commissioners discussed strategies for moving forward its priorities for the year – affordable housing and equity. Gwen Mullen found it helpful that the January presentation by Helen McIlvaine, Director of the Office on Housing, outlined the location of affordable housing. Ms. Mullen said there would be value in plotting those locations on a map. Glenn Hopkins noted such a map is available online, but features only city properties. Julie Crawford reported affordable housing was on the agenda of a meeting of elementary school principals. Kendallee

Walker, who is charged with soliciting youth input for Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) implementation, stated while affordable housing is an issue that youth may not easily relate to, that is not the case with regard to homeless youth. Ms. Walker recommended that CYFCC raise awareness about the impact of homelessness on youth and advocate on their behalf. Ms. Crawford expressed the need to hear from youth who access these services. A strategy recommended by Chair Mann is scheduling presentations by entities like Carpenter's Shelter to discuss how they support young people.

Robin Blair asked how the triaging of homeless families is handled. Kate Garvey explained that case managers are assigned to families as a part of the homeless prevention initiative, but there is no such mechanism for connecting families to affordable housing. Mr. Hopkins recommended a Council work session on affordable housing. In response to the assertion that affordable housing is a regional issue as opposed to one limited to the City of Alexandria, Councilman John Chapman said it is more than a regional issue; it is an all-hands on deck issue that warrants a separate discussion. He also advised that effort be invested in changing assumptions regarding what it takes to live in Alexandria; what the Area Median Income (AMI) really looks like; who is being served; what it is like to struggle in Alexandria, and the state of families in the City. In that same vein, Ms. Garvey said there is a need to talk concretely about what it takes to live in Alexandria. Mr. Hopkins advised fostering a better understanding of what constitutes affordable housing, workforce housing, and what policymakers can do to help. Melissa Little advocated for partnerships in support of those about to lose their homes, especially since the Department of Community and Human Services is already engaged in homelessness prevention. Councilman Chapman broadened that recommendation to include assuring the faith community is knowledgeable of available resources, a recommendation endorsed by Ronnie Campbell. The online resources of ACPS were highlighted by Ms. Crawford. Mike Mackey announced a workshop that will provide front office staff of churches/synagogues/mosques with an overview of community resources for those looking for food, shelter, rental assistance. As did Martin Luther King, Jr., Councilman Will Bailey stressed the urgency of the word "now".

Councilman Chapman informed CYFCC that Alexandria is the only jurisdiction in the region that does not have a citizen advocacy group, and advised that the community be engaged in the entire range of housing issues. Mr. Hopkins noted legislation being considered in Richmond that will reduce the ability of jurisdictions to negotiate concessions from developers. While Fairfax is seeking a waiver, there is a clause that exempts properties in proximity to METRO stations, making the impact on the City of Alexandria minimal. Chair Mann noted the Executive Committee discussed the value of ad hoc committees. She recommended the establishment of an ad hoc committee on housing. Vice-Chair Eric Williams made that motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hopkins and passed unanimously. Mr. Williams, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Little, Ms. Walker and Natnael Adere volunteered to serve on the committee.

It was announced Agenda Alexandria is hosting an event on race and diversity in Alexandria on February 22. Ms. Mullen suggested CYFCC consider partnering with Agenda Alexandria to explore and promote diversity in the City. The position of both Councilman Chapman and Vice-Chair Williams was what is needed is definitive action steps as opposed to discussion. William Chesley stated not enough is being done in the City to reach out to people. His concern was ten

years of budget reductions have negatively impacted children, youth and families. The Children & Youth Master Plan, however, affords the opportunity to be less reactive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/PLANS

Budget and Finance has meetings scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on February 18 and February 29 at the Campagna Center. Mr. Hopkins is interested in the Early Care and Education Center that would centralize PreK as proposed by the Superintendent.

Outreach and Membership announced committee assignments as well as three vacancies. Implementation Monitoring has tentative plans to meet with the Forum for Youth Investment prior to the next CYFCC meeting. Research & Data will be entering into more definitive discussions with the International Academy regarding forums for students as well as parents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Garvey announced the City has launched a strategic planning process. Deborah Warren announced work has begun on an updated Profile of Youth Well-Being that will be distributed with the CYFCC annual report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.