

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – MARCH 13, 2013
CHARLES HOUSTON RECREATION CENTER

ATTENDANCE

Present

Emma Beall	Samuel Hanoura	Jeffrey Murphy
Bill Campbell	J. Glenn Hopkins	Timothy Peterson
Victoria Cattaneo	Stacey Joyner	Sonia Price
Councilman John Chapman	Mike Mackey	Joyce Rawlings
William Chesley	Tammy Mann	Cynthia Skinner
Charlotte Clinger	Sean McEnearney	Marc Williams
Andria Cook	Gwen Mullen	

Excused Absent

Rose Dawson	Gregory C. Hutchings	Margaret Walsh
Mike Gilmore	Councilman Timothy Lovain	

Unexcused Absent

Rosario Casiano

Guests

Bernard Caton

Richard Merritt

Staff Present

Jacqueline Coachman
Carol Farrell

Barbara Farrington
Ron Frazier

Coleen Mann
Deborah Warren

WELCOME

Chair Mann opened the meeting by welcoming Stacey Joyner, who was appointed to the Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) by Alexandria City Public Schools. Emma West was also appointed as a Youth Member.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Glenn Hopkins made the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Sean McEnearney seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORT ON TESTIMONY FOR MARCH 11 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

Councilman John Chapman advised that any position CYFCC adopts regarding budget issues is enhanced when it addresses specific line items, e.g., the proposed 6% cut to the Alexandria Fund for Human Services and the cut of the Domestic Violence Coordinator. By the same token, broad themes such as work force housing and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are not as helpful to council deliberations. It was the position of Councilman Chapman that there is much to be gained if CYFCC and the City Council worked together rather than independently to address funding concerns. Chair Mann noted the youth master plan will shape the priorities of CYFCC and hence, recommendations regarding the FY15 budget will be more specific.

Mr. McEnearney noted the wording of Goal 4 of Alexandria's Strategic Plan had been modified in the budget document. Councilman Chapman stated the wording will be changed back to the original language. On the motion of Mr. Hopkins and a second by Mr. McEnearney, the Commission

unanimously passed a motion directing the Advocacy Committee to draft a letter supporting the restoration of the 6% cut to the Alexandria Fund for Human Services.

REPORT ON THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Bernard Caton, the City's Legislative Director, began the presentation by stressing the importance of synchronizing and coordinating legislative requests due to the numerous boards and commissions in the City. To facilitate such coordination, the City has an ordinance governing testimony to legislative bodies. Section 2-4-5(d) of the City Code requires Council approval before any committee, board or commission submits written or oral testimony to any federal or state legislative body or regulatory agency. The easiest way to accomplish that is to work with the Legislative Director. Most legislation proposed by the City is at the State level. The 2014 General Assembly Session will begin January 8 and end March 8.

In May, Mr. Caton will be sending his annual memo asking for legislative proposals for 2014. He offered to work with CYFCC over the summer regarding any proposals the Commission is considering. Proposals must be submitted by the beginning of September. The Council's Legislative Committee meets with the City's General Assembly delegation around October 1. The package goes to City Council in late October with a public hearing in November and adoption around Thanksgiving. The Governor has to act on legislation by March 25.

The City does not adopt a federal legislative package but instead deals with specific federal issues as they arise. City requirements for Council clearance of any legislative positions apply at the federal level as well. There is an annual meeting with Congressman Moran that has traditionally taken place in February or March at one of the Tuesday evening Council meetings. This year that meeting will likely take place in April.

Mr. Caton offered to meet with CYFCC representatives to discuss legislative recommendations. To that end, he proffered the following recommendations: do not ask for a lot of money; if it is a new idea, find out if it has been introduced before; build support from other localities; and do not feel obligated to submit something every year. City Council has to endorse a position and will ask for advice from the state delegation. Mr. Hopkins confirmed that CYFCC can make legislative recommendations around September 1.

CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION'S PROPOSED ACTION PLAN ON TOBACCO CESSATION & PREVENTION

Mr. McEneaney expressed the need for more time to review the action plan recommended by the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission. Vice-Chair Tim Peterson asked if CYFCC was being asked to support all the specifics of the action plan. The response of Richard Merritt, Chair of the Public Health Advisory, was that the Commission is being asked to support goals, not specifics.

Mr. Merritt also noted that the Public Health Advisory Commission is discussing with the Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA) the feasibility of a smoke-free policy because of the health risks associated with smoking in multi-unit housing. The Public Health Advisory Commission would like to test a new model for a smoking cessation benefit in ARHA developments.

On a motion from Mr. Hopkins and a second by Vice-Chair Peterson, the following motion was passed unanimously: "CYFCC joins with the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission in strongly urging the City Council to provide leadership and a financial investment in a comprehensive tobacco

cessation and prevention plan that seeks to achieve reductions in the level of involuntary exposure of our young children and youth to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in their homes; expansions in the availability and affordability of effective smoking cessation services for all current smokers who want to quit; and reductions in the number of youth and young adults starting to smoke”.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Andria Cook reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met to devise the CYFCC response to the Proposed FY2014 Budget. Their deliberations were the foundation of testimony proffered on behalf of CYFCC by Chair Mann at a public hearing on March 11.

Mr. Hopkins provided the report of the Advocacy Committee, which during the previous month forwarded the second of four planned opinion articles to the City’s Communications Office for possible publication; distributed copies of the Commission’s 2013 Legislative Agenda; and updated the Committee Work Plan. In addition, the Advocacy Committee drafted a letter to the Planning Director regarding increasing public access to information on the application process for Special Use Permits (SUP) to open childcare centers in the City. The committee recommended the letter be forwarded to the Planning Director and CYFCC voted in favor of that recommendation.

Cynthia Skinner, Co-Chair of the Design Team, presented a PowerPoint presentation prepared by the Forum for Youth Investment that summarized input gathered at the community forums. Community stakeholders from every sector were well-represented at the forums, especially the following: Parks & Recreation, K-12 Education, Youth-Serving Organizations, Early Care & Development, and Mental Health. Jacqueline Coachman reported on plans underway to host forums exclusively for youth.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Based on a review of the ordinance and minutes, Ron Frazier stated that the terms of CYFCC officers correspond with the City’s fiscal year. The Commission agreed to accept the staff recommendation that the Commission define its calendar year to coincide with the City’s Fiscal Year, which in turn defined the term of officers in accordance to the fiscal year. The Outreach & Membership committee will take the lead on the upcoming elections of CYFCC officers and serve as the nominating committee. Mr. Frazier also noted two vacancies on the Commission.

UPDATE ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Chair Mann stated that ACT for Alexandria is very interested in two ideas: identifying the types of data to inform and eventually shape the direction of the youth master plan, and identifying relevant initiatives underway in other jurisdictions. The youth master plan will be the vehicle for establishing strategies. The overarching theme is how the various entities with a vested interest in early childhood education can work together. Concrete action as to what that will look like will take place in April.

REVIEW OF CYFCC SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY13

Commissioners were provided the dates of upcoming meetings of the Executive Committee and the full Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. McEneaney moved (second by Ms. Cook) the meeting be adjourned.