

May 10, 2017  
City Manager's Roundtable  
Social Hall, Robert A. Lee Recreation Center  
Meeting time 12PM-1PM

Present: Kara Logsden, Simon Andrew, Rafael Morataya, Orville Townsend, Bill Campbell, Joe D. Coulter, Charlie Eastham, Mayor Jim Throgmorton, RaQuishia Harrington, Stefanie Bowers, Shannon McMahon, Royceann Porter, Ashley Monroe, Kristin Watson, Melva Hughes, Henri Harper, Tracy Hightshoe, Pastor Anderson, Ron Varner, Susan Craig, Kara Logsden, Anthony Branch, Chad Dyson, Jody Matherly, Juli Seydell-Johnson, Geoff Fruin, Pastor Smith.

### **Meeting Overview**

The meeting opened with participants introducing themselves, their organization affiliation, and any noteworthy upcoming events.

City staff from Police, Parks and Recreation, and the Library spoke of youth summer programming. Some of the programs mentioned included (see attachment for further programs/services): The *Do You See Me Now Challenge* being held on July 19 & 20 - a competition between youth and police officers in the sports of basketball and soccer, a youth RAGBRAI event, a program to provide refurbished bicycles to youth in junior high to improve their access to public amenities via bicycle, open gym, open swim pool, Book Mobile, Summer Library Bus, Koza Teen Center and the Summer Reading Program.

Meeting participants noted the following suggestions to the City: create a youth advisory board, think more about how we define persons, for example referring to persons as at-risk or low-income almost serves as a disconnect to those the City may be trying to reach with programs or services.

Other suggestions included: more collaboration between organizations, sharing of resources, outreach to youth on programs/services offered throughout the year and not just in the summer. Also, looking at outcomes and how to measure them, getting feedback from youth on programs/services, offering mentors to youth, more literature on programs/services in languages other than English, finding a way to improve connections to Sudanese and Congolese youth and families.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of the August 9 City Manager's Roundtable date. At that meeting, (location to be determined) City staff will provide updates on how City youth programs/services were received over the summer. City staff will put together a City Manager's Roundtable Participants List so that persons may keep in touch over the next few months.

Notes by Stefanie Bowers.

## **Animal Shelter:**

Read to the Paw - A program offered here at the shelter for kids ages 5-13 to read out loud to cats, kittens, and small animals. Thursdays 3-5 pm, must call to reserve a 30 minute session.

Host shelter tours, birthday parties, and humane education presentations here at the shelter – kids get a tour, a chance to pet an animal, work together on projects that benefit the animals, and they get a small lesson in humane education, responsible pet ownership, and animal safety (dog bite prevention).

## **Police Department:**

Elementary Youth Academy – July

Jr. High Youth Academy – July

Sr. High Youth Academy – July

High School Leadership Academy (Explorer Program) – year round program

National Night Out – August

Safety Village – this is a partnership with surrounding departments but we are a main part of starting the program and continuing it – June.

## **Parks & Recreation:**

Open gym

Basketball

Soccer

Roller skating

Underserved initiatives – youth summer fun, beginning gardening, free wheels bike program

Skate boarding

General fitness

Martial arts

Aquatics – open swim pool use, swim lessons (this is getting stronger with our scholarship program)

Other youth sports – tennis, volleyball, t-ball, etc.

Camps

Special populations

Art classes – painting, pottery, drawing, etc.

Dance – ballet, jazz, tap, etc.

## **Iowa City Public Library**

Programs for youth begin the first day that school is out. Summer opportunities include:

Summer Reading Program (encourage sign up at all elementary schools and junior high) – popular with all demographics. In recent years we have added additional incentives in hopes that more low-income youth would be attracted and that has been successful. June 5-August 4.

Special Thursday programs – these are large programs that attract many summer camps, BASP, neighborhood centers and include many youth of color.

Stories in the Park – a weekly story time and activity presented in City parks, expanded to three locations with the bookmobile this summer – we have added Wetherby to Mercer and Willowcreek Parks.

## **Teens**

The Koza Family Teen Center is a very popular hangout for teens. Youth of color make up a majority of the users (perhaps as high as 75%). We provide additional staff in the summer so some of the equipment such as video game centers are available more hours. Staff tries to have some food available at many of the programs noted below.

There is a teen summer reading program component with the following special programs:

Bike Ride with United Action for Youth

Park Clean Up

Upcycled Crafts

Movie Club--Doctor Strange

Help at the Iowa Farm Sanctuary. Registration Required.

Video Game Tournament--Super Smash Bros for Nintendo Wii U

GIF Workshop

Build a Better World Book Club

Find Your Voice with Dreamwell Theatre

Movie Club--Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

Help at Free Lunch of Iowa City

Movie Club--Before I Fall

## **Transportation**

Supports the "Summer Library Bus". Kids through 12th grade, and the adult caregivers with them, can ride any Iowa City Transit bus for free when traveling to the Library during Iowa City Schools' summer vacation, weekdays between 9 am and 3 pm – they just show their library card to the bus driver. Children can catch a ride home anytime the same day with a Ride & Read bus pass.