



**Community Task Force
Youth Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 8, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**

1. Roll Call

Present: Will Knapke, Jamil Robinson, Samhi Boppa

Staff: Kirby Dearth, Deidra Wolf

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 8, 2021 meeting, were approved by Jamil Robinson and seconded by Will Knapke.

3. Next Steps

Kirby Dearth asked the subcommittee members if there was needed discussion from the March 8th meeting. Jamil Robinson asked about follow up with Superintendents Hoadley and Marschhausen, specifically engaging discussions of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) between the Board of Education and the elementary/middle school students. Kirby Dearth stated that this committee cannot direct the Board of Education to implement these discussions but rather the members of the Youth Subcommittee can individually lobby to both the Board of Education and the Superintendents about engaging these conversations. Will Knapke asked Jamil Robinson if he was comfortable moving ahead with asking Dr. Hoadley about forming school subcommittees and Jamil Robinson said that he would lead that conversation with Dr. Hoadley.

Kirby Dearth stated that this subcommittee needs to review the priorities for the strategic plan that will be finalized by the Community Task Force and then submitted to City Council for approval. Kirby Dearth highlighted the youth engagement portion of the proposed DEI Strategy Plan outlining two key areas: to engage with youth to understand their needs and concerns and also to work with the school systems, recreation, the arts, athletics and Syntero to build programs to serve all.

Will Knapke suggested formalizing this subcommittee and adding more people as way to communicate the needs of students to City Council. Kirby Dearth suggested that if this group is formalized to appoint a chair/president and eventually have them serve on the future DEI Council/Board. This would be an opportunity for the Youth Subcommittee to have a voice on the DEI Council/Board and it would also create an opportunity for students to engage in the public policy process. Will Knapke stated that formalizing this group would be a valuable resource to the city as a way to directly engage with students. Jamil Robinson stated that others peers of his would be interested in joining the Youth Subcommittee, if formalized. Kirby Dearth suggested that if the Youth Subcommittee members know of others that would like to listen to these meetings now, all meetings are livestreamed and on the city's website.

Kirby Dearth reviewed other priorities outlined on the proposed DEI Strategy Plan and suggested recommending that the city treat the Youth Subcommittee as a relevant stakeholder. All members were in agreement.



Under “building programs to serve all”, Jamil Robinson asked about building programs with the different groups. Kirby Dearth’s understanding was to engage directly with each group (schools, arts, athletics, recreation) and use them in a variety of activities and demographics such as using the recreation center as a platform for youth that interact in that particular setting. Jamil Robinson suggested promoting these throughout the community and Will Knapke said that the key would be to promote these programs city-wide. Another suggestion was including the programs in each school’s morning announcements. The goal is to find innovating and new, engaging ways to hold these conversations and having them in the schools will speak to the most captive audience.

Kirby asked the Youth Subcommittee about bringing more guest speakers in and they all agreed that it would be a good idea, specifically Chief Paez. Kirby will reach out to Chief Paez about joining the March 15th meeting.

Homework is to be prepared to speak to the Community Task Force at their next meeting on March 16th about the priorities of this group.

4. **Adjourn** – 6:24 p.m.

Next Meeting:
Monday, March 15, 2021
6:00 p.m.
(Virtual Platform)