MEETING MINUTES
Mayor’s Youth Task Force
Thursday, April 19th, 2012
2:00 PM
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave, Aldermanic Library

Elected Officials Present: Elizabeth Tisdahl, Mayor; Delores A. Holmes, Fifth Ward Alderman; Peter Braithwaite, Second Ward Alderman.

Members Present: Richard Mosley Jr., Hemenway United Methodist Church; Naria SantaLucia, James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy; Monica Weiss, Youth Job Center; Melisa Carpenter, Youth Organizations Umbrella; Joey Rodgers, Peaceable Cities

Staff Present: Doug Gaynor, Parks, Recreation, and Community Services; Kevin Brown, Parks, Recreation, and Community Services; Knetra Shaw, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Evonda Thomas, Health Department; Jody Wright, Evanston Police Department; Jonathan Webb, Health; Shanee Weston, Community and Economic Development; Joseph McRae, City Manager’s Office, Godwin Chen, City Manager’s Office

Discussion

A. Overview of Mayor’s Day at ETHS – Feedback & Suggestions

Feedback received by Mayor Tisdahl had the common theme of music. The Mayor also attended a poetry event at the high school and noted that the library was standing-room only.

Kevin Brown was impressed by the feedback received from the outreach, the students who organized the Mayor’s Day, and the level of questions and responses by students. Students took seriously and understood the importance of the Super Summer program.

Ald. Holmes heard students asking for bowling alleys (for 9 on-going years, music, spoken word, “clubs” for sodas and games.

Mayor Tisdahl was able to get a commitment from Superintendent Dr. Witherspoon for band rehearsal space.

It was mentioned that Bill Stafford would contact the CFO of Wilmette, who is affiliated with “Pinstripes” to explore possibility of bringing a bowling alley to Evanston.

Joe McRae stated that Boocoo would be a great location to house Evanston’s TeenTown if they can be convinced to see themselves as serving the youth.

Other ideas included: “Louder than a Bomb” could be invited to teach spoken word, 3 on 3 basketball with the Police Department, beach volleyball, a designated teen beach (Clark St. Beach), and more opportunities for youth to
dance downtown. Basketball tournaments can take place at James Park. First Friday pop-up lounges.

Moran Center hosts a “Partners in Peace” event with a series of activities, barbecues, tournaments, discussion time, movies, including safety officers the high school.

Jody Wright mentioned that some police officers have created their own police mentoring program and brought some ETHS students on a field trip.

Kaymen West Park closes at 7:00 pm, mentioned that neighbors do not like the kids hanging out. Court is only half-court, suggested that letter be written to have full-court.

B. Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Job Fair
   The fair will take place on April 21st from 8am – 3pm. They expect up to 300-400 students and may apply up to 3 jobs. They are asked to have resumes in hand be coached them on soft skills. Children who do not get jobs can be directed towards the Youth Jobs Center and Y.O.U’s entrepreneur program.

C. Super Summer Sampler – April 26
   Will take place on April 26 at ETHS from 11 am – 1:15 pm. Expect 7 partners, will be advertised on Facebook and Twitter. Hope to have more information on locations of activities i.e. 3 on 3 basketball, band practice. Members stressed the importance of reaching out to parents of students via: PTAs, e-newsletter, links on the ETHS homepage, ETHS e-news bulletin.

D. Review of Modified Vision and Missions statements
   Joe McRae received suggestions to put the Vision and Missions statements on the website so organizations could use it as a tool to plug-in. This would be presented before the rules committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Godwin Chen,

ICMA Fellow