

**City of Dade City Youth Advisory Council  
May 18, 2009**

**MINUTES**

**Roll Call:** (Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.)

Delegates Present: Nicholette Clark, Jonathan West, Andrew Riddaugh and Peter Hernandez

Delegates Absent: John Agnello, Keira Green and Jose Amateco

Members Present: Tyrone Lovett

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Jonathan West moved to approve minutes from the April 16, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Andrew Riddaugh and passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**Price Park**

Police Chief Ray Velboom introduced Officer Christina Diaz who is the Community Policing Officer for the City. Chief Velboom shared that Price Park has had one case of graffiti within the last two months which was quickly covered. Due to citizen issues the City has re-opened the restrooms at Price Park (and at Pyracantha Park). They are being opened in the mornings and locked in the evenings. The long term plans for Price Park are that the City is working on grant money to develop and reconstruct the park but in the short term the tennis courts have been resurfaced, the City is moving forward on the expression wall and would like the Youth Council to be involved in monitoring and assist in making operational rules for the wall and the City has purchase more durable appliances for inside the restrooms. Chief Velboom further shared that the planting of thorny bushes in strategic areas outside the restrooms is also in the plans.

Officer Diaz spoke to the Council concerning the types of persons who traditionally graffiti the wall and advised that getting the community involved is what will make this work. A 50/50 partnership between the police department and the community is almost a must for things to work properly and everyone enjoy the park. Chief Velboom advised he is encouraging people (Friends of Price Park), to help keep a look out in Price Park. Signage was also discussed for the park.

The Chief further advised that a survey of park users might be a useful tool to determine what type park the community would like. Commissioner Hernandez ask what was the best time to survey park users; Officer Diaz responded that the weekends and at lunch time seems to be the best.

Chairman Hernandez inquired as to how the money that the Council has raised could be best used? Chief responded that extra light at the restrooms would be useful or that reward money could be made available from the Councils funds.

Commissioner Hernandez shared that she has been asked about bike racks for Price Park. She will inquire further.

The Council will work together with the Police Department in creating rules for the Expression Wall, Friends of Price Park, creating a Youth Council legacy for the park, and doing a survey of park users. The council will move forward now with creating rules of use for the Expression Wall.

The Council was asked to bring back questions to the next meeting for inclusion in the survey. Also, be thinking of people in the community who would like to participate in Friends of Price Park.

Chairman Hernandez asked members to have their questions to Commissioners Hernandez via e-mail by Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Hernandez will bring up the other issues discussed to the Commissioners at the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Wendell Spear-Book Publishing**

Mr. Wendell Spear addressed the Council advising he was born in Dade City, left, and returned to Dade City about 7 years ago. During the intervening years he has written a book and produced a manuscript to the Council. He advised that it was difficult for a first time writer to get published so he wants to publish his book himself. His intent is to raise money around town to publish the book which would cost approximately \$15,000. He would like to get the Youth Council involved in promoting his book. Mr. Spear presented a list of ideas involving the publishing of his book which is about the adventures of a young boy who discovers he's a wizard.

Mr. Spear explained that he is intent upon digitally publishing 100 or 200 books and thought the Youth Council could put together a book signing with some proceeds coming to the Council. He also mentioned various other ways that the Council could receive proceeds from book sales.

Delegate Riddaugh mentioned teaming with Hugh Embry Library to come up with publicity.

Mr. Spear advised he has the money to publish the book but wants to raise more.

Commissioner Hernandez advised that the Council would take the manuscript, read it and bring it up again at the next Council and decide if this is something they want to get involved in.

Mr. Spear left the book copy with Jonathan West who will read it and make arrangements to get it back to Mr. Spear by the end of the week. Jonathan will call Mr. Spear when he's finished with the book. Jonathan will share his opinion with the Council at the next meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **Soap Box Derby**

Commissioner Hernandez advised that the Reutimann team did not seem enthusiastic about sponsoring the derby as they had expended their charitable contributions already this year. To do the derby adequately \$8,000 to \$10,000 would be needed if the council funded it themselves. Each kit car is \$450 per car. The intent was to go to businesses and ask for \$500 and the car would be theirs. She further shared that the economy is affecting everyone and if the Council really wants to do this they need to begin providing her with names of potential sponsors. She intends to make one more contact with the Reutimann team to see if they will reconsider. If the derby happens it will take all the Council pulling and pitching in to make it happen and happen properly. She needs council input and assistance.

Commissioner Hernandez presented the fact that perhaps the Reutimann team would like to commit to such an event next year.

The issue will be addressed during the next Council meeting.

#### **Movie in the Park**

Commissioner Hernandez advised that we are set up through December with the movies and beginning next month a flyer will be made available showing all the movies for the remainder of the year and that we will be trying to get more information out through e-mail.

Commissioner Hernandez advised that she is applying for funds to purchase the back packs for the August movie, which is a great idea, with area Wal-Mart stores.

### **Board Member Discussion of Other Topics**

Tyrone Lovett – Saint Leo Intern and Army National Guard:

Tyrone inquired as to whether or not an intern would be able to assist the Youth Council as a possible mentor. Commissioner Hernandez advised we had attempted to do this with P-HCC and their schedules are so very busy that it didn't work out. But Saint Leo may be able to help us out one or twice a year. There was no discussion about the Army National Guard.

### **Comments from the Audience**

None

## **Comments and thoughts from Commissioner Hernandez**

Commissioner Hernandez shared that the Florida League of Conference was upcoming up August 14, 15 and 16, 2009. She is looking at a possible overnight trip. She asked for names of those who would like to go by the next meeting. There would be no cost to the member. She also asked for names of members who might like to go to Tallahassee in conjunction with the Suncoast League of Cities. This will be next year.

Commissioner Hernandez advised she was approached by a group who would like to 'camp' in Price Park (8:00 am – 5:00 pm – daytime only), and the Council really wouldn't have to do anything, but they are looking for permission, support, etc. from the Council.

The Council's consensus was to support the group in their use of Price Park.

Commissioner Hernandez reminded the Council to let their friends know that there will be openings on the Youth Council for the next school year.

## **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

June 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm

## **Adjournment**

*Respectfully submitted:  
Joy McKinney  
May 26, 2009*