Agenda

Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee
310 Court Street, 1st Floor Planning Conference Room
Clearwater, Florida 33756

October 18, 2017

I. Call to Order 3:00 pm

II. Approve September meeting minutes

III. Presentation from Reta Newman, Director of Forensic Lab

IV. Local Government Structure PowerPoint

V. Teens Behind the Scenes Update

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjourn
In Attendance:
Commissioner Pat Gerard
Commissioner Gerard Exec. Assistant Whitney Creech
YAC Staff Advisor: Alyssa Bowers
Student Members: (see attendance sheet)
Speakers: Reta Newman

ADGENDA OUTCOMES –
I. Call to Order and Approval of Previous Minutes
Danielle LeVine, chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 3:18 pm.
Iris Champlin gave a brief recap of the previous month’s minutes. The committee reviewed and approved the September meeting’s minutes.

The committee gave attention to the guests sitting in on the meeting for a St. Petersburg College American Government requirement. The committee gave them a brief overview of the business conducted in the Youth Advisory Committee and the obligations.

II. Presentation from Reta Newman, Director of Forensic Lab
Reta Newman presented an informative overview of her occupation as the Director of Pinellas County’s Forensic Lab. She went into detail about the job description of a county Medical Examiner, including the process of finding the cause of death, collecting evidence, and testing toxicological elements. She explained the other careers involved within the county’s Forensic Lab, including Pathologists, Death Investigators, and Autopsy Technicians. Newman explained the Analytic Units of finding the cause of death in detail. She also described the workload that comes along with working in the Forensic Lab, revealing real-life cases and the staggering numbers of deaths in our county each year. Newman shed light on Pinellas County’s opioid epidemic, which is causing extreme amounts of death in the streets of our county. She also mentions the drastically rising number in drug-related deaths is taking a toll on our finances and the Forensic Lab’s budget granted by the county.

Commissioner Gerard notified the members of a candlelight vigil on October 19th at Largo Central Park that will honor those who have passed away in Pinellas
YAC Meeting Minutes  

October 18, 2017

County from drug and/or alcohol related incidents and in recognition of the many in our community who are suffering from the disease of addiction.

[Flyer passed around]

The YAC members thanked Ms. Newman for her educative presentation.

III. Local Government Structure PowerPoint
Mrs. Whitney Creech gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on Pinellas County’s government structure. She explained how Pinellas County’s population is the densest in all of Florida with almost 1 million residents. She gave an overview on the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, including their electing structure, their obligations, and some examples of recent amendments conducted by the Commissioners. Mrs. Creech gave an overview on the myths and truths about local government, as well as the boards and committees within Pinellas County’s governing system. She shared the benefits students who are interested in government could gain by attending and/or watching Pinellas County BCC Meetings.

The YAC members applauded Mrs. Creech’s informative presentation.

IV. Teens Behind the Scenes Update
Mrs. Creech coordinated with the airport staff at the Clearwater/St. Pete Airport and the Pinellas County Jail. We discussed the date for the Clearwater/St. Pete Airport tour to be on January 10\textsuperscript{th} at 3:15 pm. The committee also finalized the date and time for the Pinellas County Jail tour to be on December 13\textsuperscript{th} at 3:15 pm. Mrs. Creech mentioned that the former age restriction of 14 would be waived by Sheriff Gualtieri to members of the Youth Advisory Committee as long as the corresponding waiver is signed by a guardian and requirements are fulfilled.

V. Other Business
Commissioner Gerard proposed three potential topics for the BCC Meeting on May 22 to present to the county commissioners: the current opioid problem in Pinellas County, Penny for Pinellas Funding, or the teenage auto-theft problem. Iris gave insight on the benefit of choosing teenage auto-theft, because the members of YAC could give personal perspective on the issue being teens themselves. Peter Stavropoulos gave an overview on the notes he typed on Penny for Pinellas and gave insight about the importance of the program in our community.
Commissioner Gerard reinstated that she wanted our presentation to be group-written and reflect our teamwork. Justin Barlas motioned to vote on the three topics. Rehna Halprin seconded.

Appendix 1 shows outcomes of the voting.

Justin Barlas proposed the idea of separating the two topics most voted on into two separate groups presentations, rather than having everyone working on one project. He mentions it would create organization and prevent the chaos of having eleven people working on one presentation.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was motioned by Danielle LeVine to adjourn and seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 4:20 pm.
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<th>Penny for Pinellas</th>
<th>Teen Auto-Theft</th>
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APPENDIX I
BCC Meeting Presentation Proposals