

# PROJECT UNITY

## **MEETING SYNOPSIS | Youth, Sports and Recreation Subcommittee**

**October 22, 2020 | 2:00 pm**

The following is a summary of the first meeting of the Youth, Sports and Recreation subcommittee. The meeting was held virtually for subcommittee members that could not attend in-person and in the Daughtery Conference Room for remaining members and staff.

### **Subcommittee Members Present:**

Gary Minor  
Chris England  
Tiffini Grimes  
LaKeda Smith  
Eric McCalpine  
Harold Bishop  
Danielle McInerney  
Daniel Pruet  
David Gay Jr.  
Tanika Minor Rice

### **Staff Present:**

LaParry Howell (Project Team Leader)  
LaShonda Kemp (Deputy Project Team Leader)  
Terrance Young (Team Leader)  
Lillie Leatherwood (Team Leader)  
Cristy Gilliam-DeLoach (Administrative Support)  
Scott Holmes (Associate City Attorney)

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Mayor Maddox welcomed the subcommittee members to Project Unity. He stated that the goals and objectives of this group was very important to him. He advised the group to take their time and make conscious decisions and improvements that will help our youth. Mayor Maddox also asked the group to take a closer look at the future of Benjamin Barnes-YMCA.

LaParry Howell greeted the group. He introduced himself and each staff member proceeded to introduce himself or herself. Subcommittee members then introduced themselves and their professional backgrounds.

### **Subcommittee Roles and Expectations:**

Lillie Leatherwood advised the group of their expected attendance and stated that each member should attend 80% of all meetings and the group would like to meet once a month.

Terrance Young reviewed the goals and objections and opened the meeting for discussion.

**Challenges:**

- Lack of knowledge about what Benjamin Barnes offers to the community
- Identify the underserved areas of the community
- Lack of community involvement
- Program and sports affordability
- Lack of programs and sports for middle school aged children
- Racial divide
- Availability of sports subject to where one lives
- Lack of consumer-focused marketing
- Lack of transportation

**Ideas:**

- Tour of Benjamin Barnes
- Tour of McDonald Hughes Center
- Evaluate sports to college connection
- Marketing of sports for boys and girls
- Access to college beyond football
- Introduction of non-traditional sports
- Social media
- Marketing to actual people in the community
- Expansion of sports to younger children
- Providing young girls with more activities
- Ways to move people back to seeing Benjamin Barnes as a central service

There was a technical issue with Zoom at 2:50 pm causing the group to lose connection with members on Zoom. The group continued to discuss ideas to improve Benjamin Barnes and sports and recreation.

**Adjourned at 3:01 pm**