

PROJECT UNITY

MEETING SYNOPSIS | Youth Sports and Recreation Subcommittee

December 17, 2020 | 2:00 pm

The following is a summary of the Youth Sports and Recreation subcommittee December meeting. The meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Demario Phippen
Chris England
Gabby Little (rep for Tiffini Grimes)
LaKeda Smith
Eric McCalpine
Harold Bishop
Daniel Pruet
Tanika Minor Rice

Staff Present:

LaParry Howell
LaShonda Kemp
Terrance Young
Lillie Leatherwood
Cristy Gilliam-DeLoach
Scott Holmes
Margaret Jones
Chad Hobbs

Welcome:

Terrance Young welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the discussion.

Current youth activities:

The subcommittee discussed current youth activities that are provided in Tuscaloosa. The list of current activities included:

- E-Sport and Robotics programs at Shelton State Community College
- Sports camps at the University of Alabama
- Al's Pals
- Boys & Girls Club of West Alabama
- Summer and winter academic camps at the University of Alabama
- Current activities at the Benjamin Barnes YMCA included:
 - Literacy and reading programs
 - Nutritional programs
 - Partnership with Tuscaloosa City Schools that allows students to access their virtual school activities
 - Additional computers provided through grant funding

Challenges:

The subcommittee stated there is a need for an expansion of youth activities in general within the community. Another challenge is marketing of current programs offered and how to get the word out to parents and children. There was a discussion of the challenges of providing youth, which are not interested in sports, with activities throughout the year. Transportation to and from sporting practices and events was also discussed.

Ideas:

There was an extensive discussion of possible recommendations and necessities for youth activities.

- Compilation of programs offered and the percentage of youth participation
- Partnership with Tuscaloosa City Schools to issue surveys that will determine the amount of participation within programs currently offered
- Create a smart sheet of all programs that is readily available to the community
- Improve marketing and content creation
- City bus routes dedicated to youth recreation only
- Sibling activities
- Live & learn mentorship series/masterclass
- Space for teenagers
- Partnership with Headstart, University of Alabama and Stillman College
- City leagues that compete against other cities in gaming, sports, and debate
- Youth gym/centralized recreation center
- Tuscaloosa Youth Ambassadors/ Youth Council
- Building relationships with City of Tuscaloosa facilities
- Scholarships
- Middle school aged children
- Annual sporting events
- Mentorship between the youth and athletes from Tuscaloosa
- Marketing to actual people in the community
- Gateway programs for the youth
- Newsletter
- Boys and Girls Club discussion with Kimberly Turner

Topics for next meeting:

- Parks in west Tuscaloosa

Adjourned at 3:00 pm