



**Organization: Hampton Youth Commission**

**Meeting Date: March 26, 2012**

**# in Attendance: 14**

- How at risk is youth civic engagement, if taxes are not increased?
- The biggest impact of closing libraries or reducing library hours would be discouraging education and for kids without the internet, the library is the only option available.
- Libraries have the books teens need. Especially for the school summer reading list and book reports.
- Summer reading clubs are fun and lots of teens participate. They get teens into reading.
- Concern about eliminating lifeguards at beaches. One teen in attendance is a lifeguard and she has saved 3 people since working as a lifeguard and could not imagine the beach without them.
- Many swimmers think they know how to swim but can still get into trouble. 'Swim at your own risk' isn't really an option.
- In regards to Sandy Bottom Nature Park, teens don't have a lot of time to do things during the week because of school and extracurricular activities, so a recommendation is to reduce the hours to weekends. Lots of families attend the parks with children; people have picnics, go fishing and do nature projects on weekends.
- Programs that are offered at Sandy Bottom are important to youth around the city. The park is used during the week for school field trips.
- Recommend that the Teen Center hours be reduced to weekends and special events because teens are busy throughout the week but available on weekends. Events offered on weekends are very well attended. We understand that we would need to find another use for the building during the day and other off-peak times.
- They shared a recent talent show event at the teen center to support their idea of a successful event.
- Consider changing the name of the teen center, because it is not enticing to young people. We need to make it sound cool so that more teens will want to come.
- If we close the teen center there are teens that will have nowhere else to go, and potentially get into trouble. Teens that frequent there will be deeply affected.
- Some schools have after-prom at the teen center.
- Youth civic engagement programs being eliminated would cause youth to be more apathetic than they already are, and the programs yield good citizens. Elimination of these programs would make youth want to leave Hampton because they would feel like Hampton doesn't want them or support them.

- The civic engagement programs open youths eyes about what's going on with the city. It gives youth the opportunity to understand what is going on with things like the budget.
- Hampton has many good athletes. Youth civic engagement grooms the youth for the future just as young athletes are groomed for sports.
- Engaging youth is what makes us different from other cities.
- What is meant by prevention services for youth?
- Concern about eliminating the HYC mini-grant program. It's a great way to help build youth civic engagement in Hampton.
- Cutting the youth prevention programs would mean that youth won't be able to get the guidance they need to get back on track. It will make the youth think that we don't care about them. Youth are our future. They will be apathetic towards us if we are apathetic towards them.
- Want to keep school crossing guards, especially for elementary schools but also at middle schools. Eliminating this is a huge safety concern.
- Ask the PTA groups to fill in as crossing guards.
- Eliminate 311 for nights and weekends. Don't think it would do that much harm to the youth. Youth can use the internet to find out about approaching storms, etc.
- Have expanded 311 hours during storms so that people don't have to call 911 for non-emergency needs.
- Look at the amount of money it costs to keep the 311 service available and the number of citizens that actually use it. What would be the cost to change the service to be fully automated? Might be a reduction.
- Libraries can double as a meeting place as well as a place for education.
- Youth were given a scenario; if their school fees were raised, what are the top three services they would keep:
  - Keep school crossing guards for elementary- 14
  - Keep youth civic engagement- 14
  - Keep life guards- 9
  - Other services that were a priority; Teen Center and libraries
- Youth Commission wants to keep the civic engagement programs from being eliminated. The Commission has doubled in size in the past few months. This should show that youth are interested.
- The city is unique because of the youth civic engagement. Without this we lose the uniqueness...we'll just be another city.
- There is a large youth population here. We want to keep our youth here.