



Youth First Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2007

1. Welcome
2. Minutes
 - a. It was noted in the previous minutes that Cynthia was an Executive Committee member. She notified Christine and it was corrected for the minutes for this meeting. Gary motions to approved, Clark seconds, motion carries unanimously
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Cynthia - Has money from city been received for the next funded year?
 - A. Gary will follow up with the city
4. Old Business
 - a. Family Night Committee report
 - b. Mural update
5. New Business
 - a. Report from Dr. Andrew Dick re: Community Survey results
 - A. Andy's analysis: believes we achieved objective and that quality of data was good. Feels that it gives the community a lot of opportunities to choose a path and allocate resources to begin to address a number of problems. The survey also identified some real strengths in the community as well.
 1. Citizens of Gridley like the community and, don't want to leave, and want to address problems.
 - B. Overall recommendation, make sure that in an effort to address the problems, we don't neglect to continue to recognize what is already good and make those things better. He also recommends not casting the net too wide, but to identify specific objectives and focus efforts on achievable goals.
 - C. Clark commented that it will be helpful to share data to support what we thought Gridley believes in and values. Specifically that we value our youth and are willing to support them.
 - D. Cynthia stated that information here will also be useful for other organizations, (i.e. city industrial park, GUARDIAN, etc.)
 1. In the introduction, Andy included "Youth First and other community agencies" specifically so other readers would understand it was not biased by our ideas and focuses

- a. Clark added that that idea parallels what we think our function is. We want to facilitate all of the community working together.
- E. Clark believes that we need to market better to solve disconnect between people believing they support programs, and actually knowing about them.
- F. Cynthia believes it validates a lot of what we thought and were trying to do.
 - 1. Cynthia thinks we need to have a meeting to talk about a strategic plan now and get the report to the rest of the community.
- G. Chris added that we need to look at doing a summary of some type; she told City Council we would do this.
 - 1. Andy says how to do this depends on what we want the community to see, breadth and depth or quick hit points.
 - 2. Gary believes needs to be condensed to get people to see it.
 - 3. We also have to put on the web site.
 - 4. Clark thinks we should maybe send only related parts to specific agencies.
- H. Gary commented that the survey results make him proud, that police and schools are seen favorably. He agreed that we do want to get this information out and help people feel proud of where they live.
 - 1. Interesting to see family importance
 - 2. Very grateful for it
- I. Clark asked Andy how his students felt about the survey process?
 - 1. Andy replied that every one of those students will now understand how to do research and will understand the difficulties involved and what must be overcome. Hands on make it lifetime learning. This was very intensive for them. To do a complete research project in less than a year is very unusual. This project had students more invested than anything else that had been done in his classes.
- J. The labor intensive way of distributing the survey strengthened the community commitment to the survey.
- K. Andy recommended that we should consider running it off and giving it to the major agencies in Gridley in addition to a summary of what we found important. Have Gridley Herald take both documents and write it up.
- L. Clark would like another title page so that people with questions regarding the results of the survey and do not call him.
- M. Andy suggested that we could receive a lot of positive marketing by letting people know about the survey and what we are going to do with it. Marketing the positive in Gridley will be self-fulfilling positive prophecy.
- N. Gary commented that he is happy that the survey revealed a focus beyond the gangs; we don't have to focus on the negative.
- O. The results broken down by race were not statistically significant.
- P. The survey referenced the "Little Village Project". This can be easily researched online.
- Q. The survey also referenced a "Peer Court" Andy is aware that there is one in operation somewhere near Placerville .

1. Andy strongly recommends peer court for our community based on lots of other research in that subject and what it can do for the problems we've identified.
 - a. Has impact on delinquency and is a way to get kids positively involved in the community.
 - b. Would be happy to talk to us about how to pursue with option
- R. Chris will summarize report and email for feedback.
 - a. Youthcourt.net or youthcourt.org for more information
- b. Areas of focus for Youth First as indicated by Community Survey
 - A. If you have ideas, email what you thought to Chris
 - B. Cynthia suggests considering a longer meeting for the discussion.
 - C. January 16, 2 hour meeting (4-6) and 23 (3:30-5:30)
- c. School Policing Partnership Grant update
 - A. Meeting last Wed., we will lose school resource officer in June and grant will be up. We need to find other funding for that position.
 - B. Cindy Kershaw has submitted a letter of interest for a grant. Will know on December 28 if we have been invited to apply.
 - C. Chris feels what is happening currently with the officer is important and it needs to continue.
 - D. Gary will have to lay off an officer if we can't get funding. Could also be involved with Peer Court.
 1. Can maybe get a little money from city? School district? \$55,000 of the salary for the position, \$90-100,000 all together.
 - E. School District grant, very different structure, prevention grant. So Peer Court and mentoring, etc may fit better.
 1. We can only give suggestions to the district, can't control what will happen.
- d. Youth First monthly activities
- e. Youth Recognition- Chris would like to recognize a youth per month and place them on the website. This would help get community members to look at the website. Suzanne suggested we could use Character Education criteria to recognize youth.
- f. Marketing
 - A. Our contact info needs to be in Gridley Herald with all other organizations sections

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.