

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL Date: April 20, 1998
FROM: Cynthia J. Kurtz, Acting City Manager
SUBJECT: Youth Center Update

This agenda report is provided as an information item to update the Pasadena City Council on the activities of the Youth Center project.

BACKGROUND:

On August 5, 1997, the City Council approved a \$10,000 contract between the Organizational Effectiveness Group (including Kumamoto and Associates) and the City of Pasadena for the purpose of working with a group of youth advisors to:

- develop a proposal for a Youth Center;
- identify potential sites based on identified needs;
- and identify potential funding sources to support the project.

The consultant group was selected following an interview process led by members of the Youth Center Steering Committee, which is a group of young people dedicated to developing the Youth Center project.

Through the fall and into the winter of 1997, the consultant group worked with the Youth Center Steering Committee and a group of adult advisors to implement the elements described above. Accomplishments included:

- A community meeting that was led and facilitated by teens on September 8, 1997, with several goals in mind:
 - To gather additional input on the perceived components of a Youth Center;
 - To begin to market the concept of a Youth Center in Pasadena;
 - To enlist community support for such a Center;
 - To attract new volunteers to the project; and

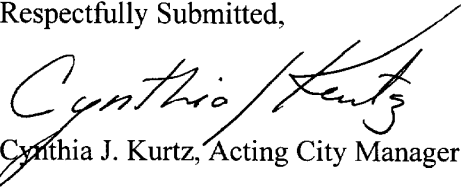
- To provide a historical perspective (presented by the youth) on the development of the Youth Center concept.
- Several community focus groups were facilitated by members of the Youth Center Steering Committee and involving a sampling of Pasadena youth. Additionally, one focus group was held to obtain adult input. The purpose of the focus groups was to gather information on the activities and priorities desired in a Youth Center.
- Based on the feedback obtained by the youth, components of a Youth Center may include the following activities:
 - Resource assistance, especially in relation to computer training, college placement assistance, and obtaining employment
 - Workshops on life issues (e.g., drugs, AIDS, child care, etc.)
 - Art Gallery to provide youth an opportunity to express their artistic talents
 - Opportunity to present Multicultural themes in a variety of ways
 - A facility with security and accessibility to public transportation (including the ARTS buses)
 - Activities scheduled to meet availability of young people (such as early evenings during the week, late evenings Friday nights, and day activities on Saturdays and/or Sundays)
 - Located on neutral territory
 - A youth governed Center with adult advisors
 - Age-appropriate activities
- The Coalition for a Non-Violent City was selected to enable the project to apply for funding.
- Several meetings with the Youth Steering Committee and Adult Advisors to discuss research gathered from other communities on successful elements of a Youth Center. These ranged from a “virtual center”, in which the youth would designate existing services as “youth-approved” or work with local providers to develop appropriate services at a variety of existing sites citywide, to a free-standing youth center filled with numerous activities and services for youth.
- The preparation and submission of two funding proposals (written in part by the youth) were submitted to the City of Pasadena’s Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant and Human Services Endowment Fund Process. The first was for a program planning grant in the Public/Human Services category and second was for a facilities planning grant in the Non-Public Services category. Presently, recommendations have been adopted by the two reviewing Commissions, as follows:
 - Northwest Commission (Non-Public): \$20,000
 - Human Services Commission (Public): \$40,000

These recommendations are scheduled to be reviewed by City Council on May 11, 1998. Furthermore, much of the contents in these proposals can be modified and adopted to other funding applications as additional funds are sought.

- Consideration of potential sites where a Youth Center may be located. Based on identified needs to date, a meeting was held with a volunteer architect to consider space needs for a Center, and four sites were visited.

Presently the Youth Steering Committee continues to meet with the Adult Advisors on a regular basis. The last two meetings were held on March 31, 1998 and April 14, 1998. The purpose of these meetings are to address organizational issues, determine roles and responsibilities of the members of the Youth Steering Committee and the Adult Advisors, increase the base of support for the project, include additional youth in the process, and plan the steps necessary to implement the two proposals submitted to the City of Pasadena.

Respectfully Submitted,



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