

Mayor's Commission for Children Minutes

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 8 a.m.

Zoom Conference Video Call

Commission members present: Brandy Harris, Susie Henderson, Dr. Elizabeth Andrews, Christy Davis, Missy Riley, Chris Jarratt

Commission members absent: Linda Saturno, Jennifer McClure, Monica Horton

Advisory Council present: Christian Mechlin, John Chastain, Gerry Lee, Jan Fisk, Dr. Jennifer Baker, Dr. Kayce Morton, Amy Chenoweth, Carol Wooten, Alexis Brown, Mike White, Rinda Davis

The Zoom meeting started at 8:05. Dr. Elizabeth Andrews made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Missy Riley seconded that motion. The Minutes were accepted as written by the Commission.

Jan Fisk started the meeting off giving an update on the City's response to Covid 19 and the phases of re-opening. She shared with the group that right now the City is taking steps to weather the loss of revenue from the past eight weeks. The budget has been set by the City Managers office and City Council will be approving that over the next eight weeks. Jan noted 60% of tax revenue lost by city during Covid-19 at home order. Unprecedented. Funding down \$5million. When purchases are made online, no local taxes apply. Leaves local brick and mortar at a huge disadvantage. Jan encouraged everyone to buy local.

Jan noted various awards Springfield has received.

\$1 million in HUD funds

\$9.3 million in CARE funds (primarily for airport/transportation capital needs -- Air traffic is 95% down)

\$364,000 Missouri Health Foundation

Jan also noted \$3.4 million in CARE funds to Greene County were awarded.

Thankfully, City of Springfield had a \$3 million carry over in budget so that is helping

Gerry Lee reported on the legislative session updates regarding appropriations. The budget was passed on last Friday K-12 and Preschool foundation monies were still protected. Higher Education too did not

see any more decreases. The governor has talked about withholding from higher education due to Covid 19 at a later date depending on the state revenue situation.

Brigitte shared the link to the dashboard on watching Covid-19 developments in Greene County. The early action and leadership by the Health department has been much appreciated in the Community. Community leaders responded very positive to the steps for containment and mitigation. We will be looking at a new meeting space-the Chamber currently is not letting outside groups meet. We will just have to monitor going forward with the pandemic.

Susie told the group that Burrell received a large service grant beginning in May from SAMSHA to address mental health to vulnerable populations (uninsured and underinsured) in our county due to the pandemic. Two-year grant and all ages are included. Family therapy is also included.

Dr. Jennifer Baker with Good Dads announces Kamp Kuarantine, a home program, which will be held this summer. Children will participate and earn badges/stickers for activities. The first week is free. Many retired teachers are involved to assist with the program. The program plans to launch Memorial Day weekend.

John Chastain reported out that Cox has renovated a floor in their north hospital for Child Psych. Private rooms instead of semi-private due to safety concerns. Utilizing the same number of beds with more rooms.

Brandy Harris and Christian Mechlin talked about how their organizations pivoted to provide meals and hygiene needs to needy families. Distribution has been at the three locations at the Boys and Girls Club. In partnership with Ozark Food Harvest and so many food vendors this has been a success for those in need. Fundraisers have been put on hold and there will be a real need to replace lost revenue to these organizations.

Christy and Missy reminded us that the last day of school is May 21. Graduations are set for Aug 7-8 at this time at JQH. Explore first session will be online. At the elementary level, a curriculum by the National Parks will be utilized throughout the first session of summer.

There is some talk about July session not being online-but to be determined later. Parents as Teachers has seen a over 1600 virtual visits since Covid 19. Incoming Kindergartners will be packet led, rather than digital curriculum distribution and participation for the explore program. Fall Registration for Kindergarten is on-line, and screening will be done at a later date closer to school starting.

Mike White, who chaired both naming committees to name Early Childhood Center at Carver and the building where Shining stars program is housed. Formerly known as the Shining Stars Early Childhood Center, the building was named the Arthur Mallory Center for Childhood on March 24, 2020. The program name will continue to be Shining Stars.

Amy Chenoweth reminded that there is free tele-mental health out of Missouri State Counseling Center for clients who would like to access. For referral, call 836-3215

The June meeting will be at Kraft Administration building on St. Louis street. Dr. Amy St. John, Yvania Garcia-Pusateri, and Dr. Nicole Hunt will be the presenters.