

SEPTA Youth Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, May 27th, 2010

Attendees:

Guests:

Terry Mele

Eric Cheung- SEPTA's Citizens Advisory Committee, Clean Air Council

Brian Anderson- Director of Communications, SEPTA Customer Service & Advocacy

George Spellman- SEPTA Customer Service & Advocacy

SEPTA Liaison: Nilda Rivera-Frazier, SEPTA Customer Service & Advocacy

Representatives: Philip Dawson-Chair, Jamira Burley-Vice Chair, Marcus McKnight-Secretary, Scott Dubin-Technology Chair, David Dobkin, Charles Graham, Jesse Hunley, Ellen Hwang, Dustin Krautter, Phil Lindsay, Blaise Mannino, Kagiso Reed, Erik Virbitsky, Matthew Zaccagni.

New Business

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2010 plenary meeting.

Chair's Report:

Philip Dawson congratulated everyone for their work, noting that the YAC had accomplished a good deal so far, but also that it has a great deal of work left to do. He added that both of these facts are a testament to the YAC being a successful organization, as it should be continuously working with youth and with SEPTA.

Dawson reported that he attended the 25th Anniversary of the R1/Airport Line in late April and thanked those members who came out to represent the YAC at the dedication of North Philadelphia and National Train Day. He also reported that he and Ellen Hwang had a successful meeting at Arcadia University regarding a YAC presence at that school's new student orientation activities. He added that SEPTA had agreed to participate in Penn NSO, where it would hopefully distribute orientation bags and host a presentation and tour. New student orientation opportunities were also being pursued with Drexel and Temple Universities.

Dawson announced that the YAC's first "Tour de SEPTA" had been a great success. He apologized for having been obliged to reschedule the event, but noted that SEPTA had agreed to provide another similar tour in the future for members who could not attend this one.

Dawson reviewed some general goals with the YAC, including participating in upcoming new student orientations, preparing for activities during the next academic year, completing the Youth Rider Survey, writing the accompanying report on the results, and resolving any internal issues that may exist.

Dawson requested that members complete the internal surveys in their packets, and pledged to deliver a Midyear Progress Report to the Council at the June plenary meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Outreach & Events: The Outreach Subcommittee is still working on and planning several events. Ellen Hwang reported that Arcadia University is really interested in having the YAC come to their school, to help promote and get students to travel to Philadelphia. We are still waiting for a response from Drexel and Temple University.

Jamira Burley also reported that School District of Philadelphia is still planning their leadership conference and that Superintendent Ackerman will contact her with more information and how the YAC might be able to help or get involved with this event.

Service Evaluation: Conversation was held and we realized that the YAC did not focus on several smaller colleges throughout the city and region. Some colleges that we forgot about were Holy Family University, Philadelphia University, Bryn Mawr College, Neumann College and others. It was agreed upon that we contact these schools to try to introduce ourselves to them and to partner with them.

Special Events: Eric Cheung, from the Clean Air Council, and the SEPTA's Citizens Advisory Council gave us a presentation today about the Clean Air Council. He talked to us about the CAC's mobility alternative program. This program works with major employers, such as the School District of Philadelphia, the University of Penn and others to get them to take transit to work.

General Discussion

Several issues were discussed at today's meeting.

Jacob Nussbaum, chair of the Service Evaluation Sub-Committee is in Argentina for several months studying abroad. Since he's away, Scott Dubin will chair temporarily.

Marcus McKnight, secretary of the Youth Advisory Council presented an idea called the Transportation Education Initiative. It's goal is to bring Social Studies, Geography and Transit Awareness into the classroom. It was well-received by the YAC.

Finally, Scott Dubin, Technology Chair said that he is going to change how we view our events and calendars online.

The YAC also discussed and determined that the next plenary meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, June 17th, 2010 at 6 o'clock pm.

Submitted By
Marcus A. McKnight
Secretary