

## **SEPTA Youth Advisory Council**

Plenary Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 21, 2010

### **Attendees**

SEPTA: Nilda Rivera-Frazier, SEPTA Customer Service & Advocacy;  
Brian Anderson, Manager of Communications

Representatives: Philip Dawson—Chair, Anna Stepchin-Secretary, Scott Dubin-Technology Chair, Jamira Burley, John Dao, David Dobkin, Jesse Hunley, Ellen Hwang, Phil Lindsay, Marcus McKnight, Gary Thomas, Jonathan Tieu, Ashley Wagner

### **New Business**

#### Chair's Report

- Mr. Dawson welcomed the other members and thanked Ms. Rivera-Frazier for providing refreshments in honor of the one-year anniversary of the YAC's first meeting.
- Mr. Dawson reviewed the results of the YAC Officer Elections.
  - He congratulated Matthew Zaccagni on being elected the new Vice Chair, adding that Mr. Zaccagni had already shared some excellent ideas for the coming year with him.
  - He congratulated Anna Stepchin on officially beginning her duties as Secretary.
  - He also congratulated Scott Dubin for winning re-election as technology coordinator for one more year.
  - Mr. Dawson noted that Outreach and Communications Subcommittee Chair Ellen Hwang would retain her position for another year since no one challenged her in the elections.
  - He also announced that Marcus McKnight had won election to the previously-vacant post of Service Evaluation Subcommittee Chair, and as such would be leading that group in the development of its new suburban service evaluation project.
- Mr. Dawson said that September had been a productive month for the YAC, especially in view of the fact that most members had to balance returning to school and class-work with their SEPTA commitments.
- Mr. Dawson thanked those who participated in the Public Transportation Proseminar at the University of Pennsylvania, which was one of the YAC's prime new student orientation activities.
  - He added that the event had been a great success, and that university representatives had expressed interest in repeating the Proseminar in 2011 with multiple sections.
- Mr. Dawson drew members' attention to the subcommittee assignments in their meeting packets, noting that they would also be sent out as attachments via email for members who were unable to attend.
  - He requested that all members read the information for their respective subcommittee or work group thoroughly, and asked that subcommittee and work group chairs take action as soon as possible to schedule a meeting and get their members working on those tasks.
  - He added that while the Outreach and Communications Subcommittee was not in need of much direction at the moment, the Transit Education Work Group needed to begin developing the ideas it drafted during the summer,

and that the Service Evaluation Subcommittee needed to begin planning the new survey.

- Mr. Dawson announced that while Ms. Rivera-Frazier was unable to secure a guest speaker for the current meeting, she is aware of the YAC's interest in various topics suggested at the August meeting, and that she would schedule a speaker for the October meeting.
  - He also announced that Ms. Rivera-Frazier was working with SEPTA staff to organize a second Tour de SEPTA for new YAC members.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### Outreach & Communications

- Mr. Dao discussed the possibility of organizing a presentation about SEPTA and the YAC at Ursinus College, where he is a student. He added that he also is making arrangements to host a Suburban Youth Rider Forum at Ursinus to discuss Philadelphia's different modes of transportation.
- Many members in general are collaborating with the YAC's goal to expand its outreach by reaching out to higher-level learning institutions, beginning with the universities that many members attend.
- The group also discussed the October 10<sup>th</sup> event at Villanova and Temple Sustainability outreach events during the third week of October. The YAC also talked about the possibility of having a hybrid bus present, both for visual appeal and as an example of SEPTA's movement towards a "greener" city.
- The YAC has also been in contact with Temple University Public Affairs Communications Manager Andrew McGinley about the possibility of hosting outreach events and forums throughout the year to gain new ideas from Philadelphia's youth.

### Service Evaluation

- Mr. McKnight announced that Subcommittee members had begun discussing the Suburban Youth Rider Survey. The group is debating whether or not to omit questions that do not relate to suburban residents, while substituting questions that cater to and further investigate suburban riders' knowledge of SEPTA and their comfort level on the system.

### General Discussion

- Several members announced that they planned to attend the SEPTA Rodeo.
- Returning to the topic of the Suburban Youth Rider Survey, the group commented on the gap between city and suburban transit users, noting that auto-dependency in the suburbs discourages frequent use of public transportation.

## **Action Taken**

The YAC determined that the next plenary meeting would be scheduled for Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by  
Anna Stepchin  
Secretary