

SEPTA Youth Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 21st, 2010

Attendees:

Guests:

Bob Clearfield- Member of SEPTA's Citizens Advisory Committee
Kagiso Reed- Former Member of SEPTA Youth Advisory Council
Romell Calloway- Student, Community College of Philadelphia

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

Representatives: Philip Dawson-Chair, Marcus McKnight-Secretary, Scott Dubin-Technology Chair, Jesse Hunley, Dustin Krautter, Ashley Wagner, Matt Zaccagni, *Gary Thomas, Elisabeth Harby, Anna Stepchin, John Dao, Jonathan Tieu*¹

New Business

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

Chair's Report:

- Mr. Dawson thanked all members in attendance for coming out, given that the July meeting was optional.
- Mr. Dawson requested that all new YAC members present introduce themselves to the rest of the Council. He noted that, according to Mr. Rauch-Mannino, there was a very competitive process of narrowing down the large pool of applications received over the past months, and that the CAC had selected 6 new candidates to join the Council.
- Mr. Dawson also announced that the CAC had elected not to reappoint five members to a second term. These members are Mr. Charles Graham, Mr. Kagiso Reed, Mr. Erik Virbitsky, Ms. Emily Shaeffer, and Mr. Jacob Nussbaum. He added that Ms. Blaise Mannino had elected to resign her membership as she leaves the region to pursue a career.
- Mr. Dawson relayed the CAC's statement that its decisions were well-founded, that they weighed people's performance records against the qualifications of new applicants, and that outgoing members would remain eligible to reapply in the future.
- Mr. Dawson continued on to his Chair's Report, saying that since the June meeting, YAC representatives had participated in a number of meetings with potential partners:
 - In late June, he and Ms. Ellen Hwang joined DVARP's Andy Sharpe for a meeting with Temple's Office of Sustainability, at which they discussed strategies for marketing SEPTA to youth and learned about the specific needs of Temple students.
 - Ms. Jamira Burley, Mr. Matthew Zaccagni, Ms. Ellen Hwang, and Mr. Dave Dobkin, and he also met with SEPTA's Strategic Planning Director Byron Comati for an introductory talk. Mr. Comati and his department are considering working with the YAC in the future on some of their initiatives.

¹ Members' names in *italics* indicate that they are new members of the SEPTA Youth Advisory Council.

- Ms. Rivera-Frazier, Mr. Dobkin, and he also had a successful meeting with officials from University of Pennsylvania, at which they negotiated the terms of the YAC's involvement in New Student Orientation there this September. He added that the University was very enthusiastic about partnering to create an interactive event that would combine a presentation on public transit with a subway trip downtown.
- Mr. Dawson concluded by announcing upcoming Officer Elections. He said that the CAC would like the Council to get in the habit of holding elections in the summer so that leadership positions would be set when the school year begins in September.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Outreach & Events: Secretary Marcus McKnight talked about the current new student orientation event at Drexel University. He explained that YAC members were at Drexel University talking to new students about public transportation on and around campus and about of services that SEPTA offers.

Service Evaluation: Phil Dawson and Scott Dubin provided an update on the service evaluation sub-committee's work. They summarized the completion of the Youth Rider Survey and what was accomplished so far, and what they are planning to do in the future with this sub-committee. The YAC was also instructed to check the service evaluation report outline on the internet.

General Discussion

Several issues were discussed at today's meeting.

There was massive discussion about SEPTA's rapid transit routes, the Market-Frankford and Broad Street Lines. Members discussed what type of service patterns they noticed and how they believed it could be improved. Members also discussed whether or not they could propose to SEPTA to run later subway service or to improve NiteOwl Service.

Members also discussed quality of service issues, such as illegal smoking on the systems, and subway and bus cleanliness.

The YAC also discussed and determined that the next plenary meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, August 26th, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted By
Marcus A. McKnight
Secretary