

## ■ ST. CHARLES YOUTH COMMISSION ■

Monday, April 1, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

St. Charles Police Department Conference Room  
211 N. Riverside Avenue

C. Denz – Youth Commissioner, Chair*	J. Burden, STC PD*
J. Diorio – Youth Commissioner*	E. Mahan, STC PD
C. Hime – Youth Commissioner, Treasurer	J. Keegan, Chief of Police
D. Kelly – Youth Commissioner*	R. Rogina, Mayor
L. Kristofer – Youth Commissioner, Secretary*	STC Aldermen
J. Muenz – Youth Commissioner*	M. Koenen, City Administrator
D. Saylor – Youth Commissioner*	J. Bruggeman, STC Park District
M. Weick – Youth Commissioner*	B. Buckley, STC Library
C. Wiese – Youth Commissioner*	J. O’Neal, TriCity*
J. Wong – Youth Commissioner*	P. Palagi, D303*
	M. Barfuss, TriCity

### \*Attended meeting

- I. Meeting called to order @ 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Secretary’s Report**
  - A. Approval of the minutes from the March 2019 meeting. Motion to approve; carried.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report – Cliff Hime**
  - A. The Youth Commission funded three funding requests last month: Bell-Graham Knitting Club, St. Charles East Post Prom and HOPE Club. Balance: \$1,620.
- IV. **Correspondence**
  - A. Commissioner Saylor shared a thank-you note from the Bell-Graham Knitting Club.
- V. **Presentations**
  - A. **Juvenile Justice – Judge Clint Hull**
    - i. Judge Hull has extensive experience working with both youth and adults in the juvenile justice system.
    - ii. The first thing we should keep in mind when considering youth in our community is all kids make mistakes and even good kids make bad decisions. It is important to cast a wide net in our efforts to reach the largest number of kids possible.
    - iii. The earlier kids start using substances, the more likely they are to continue later on. 90% of the kids he sees in court smoke marijuana which is too high of a percentage to ignore. With the legalization of marijuana, early intervention is going to be even more important.
    - iv. The Youth Commission should seek to support organizations that keep kids busy and give them a place to be, like the Park District teen center. When kids have nothing to do, they find something to do, and idle time can lead to problematic behaviors, especially with those in the 13 – 16 age range.
    - v. Friendships matter. Youth who hang out with the wrong crowd are likely to get caught up in the wrong situations.

- vi. The educational component is extremely important. Parenting education is a crucial part of the process and also a large part of how we can keep our kids safe. Programming should be relevant and informative so parents have an accurate perception of what their kids are dealing with.
- vii. The book, *What Made Maddy Run*, is about an Ivy League student who committed suicide. On the surface, her life was perfect, but she was struggling with anxiety and too afraid to ask for help. The author is available for public speaking engagements and would be a great person to bring in to address both students and parents.

**B. Bullying in D303 – Patti Palagi, D303 Director of Instructional Interventions**

- i. Thompson Middle School (TMS) has partnered up with the NIU *Project Prevent and Address Bullying* which is funded by a federal grant where grad students work with school personnel to study and address bullying.
- ii. School community is known to be a predictor of bullying. A close-knit community with more student/staff connections contributes to a better climate in schools.
- iii. The NIU students looked at the rate of positive interactions between staff and students and they also studied the correctional interactions. TMS was classified as a “nirvana” due to the large number of great interactions that were observed.
- iv. A survey was given to 1,300 students and the NIU team came up with a presentation to summarize the data. The most prevalent types of bullying identified were cyber bullying and name calling. 41% of respondents said they worry about bullying & 51% report they have not defended someone who has been bullied.
- v. Steve Morrill, the principal at TMS, hopes to work with his student leadership group next year to look at this topic in greater detail.

**C. Latino Youth in St. Charles – Cindy Ruesch, D303 Director of Staff, Family, and Student Services**

- i. In our district, 4% of our students are in the ELL program with over 80% of those speaking Spanish. This group of students and families face unique challenges.
- ii. Not all families have access to wi-fi and technology is not widely used.
- iii. Transportation and getting around can be difficult. Parents might not drive or may only have one car. If it's not walkable, it's not doable. Events are typically held at school where families can attend.
- iv. To be proactive, Davis School will be providing a bus and bringing families to get library cards to introduce this option to families and encourage them to utilize those resources.
- v. Safety is also a concern. On a number of occasions, parents have expressed a desire to participate in self-defense classes taught in Spanish.
- vi. We live in a challenging time politically and socially which causes anxiety for the bilingual students in our community who do not want to give info out about family/relatives because they are afraid of being deported and also worry about being asked to provide documentation.
- vii. After ICE visited our community, kids were afraid to come to school. To help alleviate this fear, two immigration lawyers came to talk with parents to educate them on their rights.
- viii. D303 has the ability to translate the information that is presented at Parent Universities. The district also held a mini parent university for Latino families to

educate them about colleges and community colleges. Teaching kids that college is possible & taking the families to a college campus is important because this doesn't always seem like a possibility for them.

- ix. Mentoring programs specifically tailored to this group would also be helpful, as interacting with positive adult role models has proven to be beneficial.

## VI. Reports

### A. Liaison Reports

- i. **D303 – Patti Palagi**
  - a. The school year is winding down.
  - b. The Thompson building project is on schedule.
  - c. School Board elections are on April 2, 2019.
  - d. Planning for next year is underway.
  - e. State testing begins tomorrow, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.
  - f. The fate of the Haines building is still undecided.
- ii. **Park District – Jennifer Bruggeman**
  - a. The Park District has been hearing grief about the short summer.
  - b. Hiring for seasonal positions is underway; another 50 lifeguards are still needed at Otter Cove. Ages 16+ are encouraged to apply.
  - c. The Park District is planning “Sensory Cove” with Katie Cantrell to provide one-on-one swim lessons for kids with autism.
  - d. Attendance numbers at the Teen Center were up by 100 visits last month.
  - e. There is excitement about mural work this summer with local artist, Jon Kristofer.
- iii. **Police Department – Officer Jim Burden**
  - a. Juvenile arrest listing attached.
  - b. There were a number of gang-related offenses committed by some members who were renting a home in St. Charles.
  - c. Several traffic offenses were committed by a repeat offender from Elgin.
- iv. **Library Programs – absent**
- v. **Tri-City Family Services – Jules O’Neal**
  - a. The Wilderness Challenge Program (WCP) is coming up; brochures were passed around.
  - b. The Hollywood-themed gala was wonderful with over 360 people in attendance, including a number of moving guest speakers.

### B. Outreach Sub-Committee Report

- a. Commissioner Wiese is working with the grant recipient interviews and hoping to have these shared on social media.
- b. The sub-committee has a meeting planned for next month.

**VII. Old Business**

- A. Impact Award – Daniel Kelly: the Youth Commission will be mailing Katie Cantrell her congratulatory letter soon and she will be joining us at City Council next month.
- B. Additional funding from City Council update: Commissioners Hime and Denz have been exchanging emails with the City contact. Any requests for additional funds must be submitted by November of the preceding fiscal year and presented in a line-item format.
- C. Update on public display case – Marianne Weick: there is a contact at the Library who will help us get information out to the public.

**VIII. New Business**

- A. Officer Elections:
  - i. Treasurer – motion to allow nominated Commissioner Muenz time to consider the position. Final vote was postponed until next month.
  - ii. Secretary – Commissioner Muenz motioned to vote Lara Kristofer in as Secretary; seconded by Commissioner Kelly. Motion carried unanimously.
  - iii. President – Commissioner Kristofer motioned to vote Cheryl Denz in as president; seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Annual Report – a written summary needs to be submitted by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who would like to view the document should contact Cheryl for the information.
- C. Next month's presentation will be given by a Lazarus House representative. It will be a short meeting but the goal is to have all presentations done in May and vote in June regarding what direction the Youth Commission would like to take next year.
- D. General plan going forward
  - i. June meeting will be used to discuss presentations, where to direct resources, and what to focus on for the year.
  - ii. We might need to put a research team together to look at what other communities have done and how to move forward with the plan/budget and also how to ask for more money for that "pet project."

**IX. Announcements/Discussion**

- A. April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm will be the City Council meeting for the Youth Commission by-law approval.
- B. May 20<sup>th</sup> will be the City Council meeting for the Impact Award.
- C. Commissioner Weick spoke about the great programs at the library such as the upcoming *One Book, One Community*.

**X. Public Comment**

- A. Commissioner Saylor talked about the need to revisit the TriCity Family Services funding request. Commissioner Diorio motioned to approve \$1,620 for TriCity Family Services; Commissioner Muenz seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**XI. Adjournment**

- A. Commissioner Weick motioned to adjourn at 7:21 pm. Commissioner Hime seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

***The next Youth Commission meeting will be Monday, May 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Charles Police Department Training Room located on the east side of the building at 211 N. Riverside Avenue.***

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Lara Kristofer, Youth Commissioner

# STC Underground

1975-1992



## Monthly Unique Individuals/Total Visits

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	104/362	115/401	112/466									
2018	100/431	122/377	157/524	122/407	128/387	111/420	85/295	103/391	100/384	84/275	108/333	109/343
2017	101/432	101/419	126/499	117/475	133/436	119/429	119/469	120/517	128/479	122/425	113/454	104/440
2016	94/389	112/428	98/413	108/439	108/432	121/441	109/432	88/377	145/524	128/503	90/284	103/436
2015	97/443	92/363	90/381	96/395	104/380	106/387	107/439	111/409	101/375	101/398	98/413	94/373
2014	118/433	108/403	120/430	110/443	109/461	100/411	99/439	104/428	117/402	108/423	99/404	105/420
2013	71/340	75/259	77/426	101/487	103/466	90/415	78/439	97/486	116/421	118/450	106/464	94/337

## Drop-ins

1:00pm	9
2:00pm	12
3:00pm	100
4:00pm	98
5:00pm	75
6:00pm	63
7:00pm	52
8:00pm	49
9:00pm	11
Days Open	22
Avg #/Day	21

## Members

Total Members	1,052
Males	700
Females	352

## History

### Annual Unique Visitors/Total Visits

2018	343/4590
2017	415/5,471
2016	347/5,098
2015	319/4,757
2014	319/5,097
2013	305/4,990