

ST. JOHN'S

Youth Advisory Committee Report

July 26, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Virtual

Present: Councillor Jill Bruce, Council Champion
Maria Rae Penney, Co-Chair
Isabel Ojeda, Individual Representative
Jen Crowe, Choices for Youth
Lindsey Hynes, Go Getters NL
Mariam Nawal Oishee, Individual Representative
Nathan Young, Individual Representative
Ony Anukem, Individual Representative
Saadia Azam, Individual Representative

Regrets: Michael David Coombs, Individual Representative
Salome Barker, First Light

Staff: Victoria Etchegary, Co-Chair, Manager, Organizational Performance & Strategy
Laura Turner, Organizational Performance Specialist
S.M. Fahim, Intern, Organizational Performance & Strategy
Jennifer Squires, Legislative Assistant

1. Youth Forum

The Co-Chairs asked the YEWG for additional input on the previously discussed Youth Forum. The group was advised that should they wish to proceed with planning, Council approval would be required, and additional details, such as format and length, on the event would be necessary. It was recommended that a smaller working group be formed to iron out the details of the event. During the discussion, the following points were made:

- Events should be held both in person and virtually. This would remove barriers for attendance and also allow participants to benefit from in person networking. It was suggested that the kick off or opening event be held in person with additional virtual and in person events to maximize attendance.
- The group are proposing to hold the event in the Fall. Councillor Bruce cautioned that this may limit the availability of Council due to the upcoming budget discussions. It was suggested that the budget could play into the event as a topic of discussion.
- Events could take place in wards, with the Ward Councillor in attendance. This would remove the transportation barrier (if held in person) and would permit discussion to focus on the interests of each ward. Previously collected data can be examined to determine if there are any interests particular to one area. If held in person, Community Centres, and the Community Market, as well as City Hall were suggested as possible meeting locations. Proximity to a bus route or easily accessible venues would be necessary.
- Open Space facilitation, which is a technique for running meetings where the participants create and manage the agenda themselves, was provided as an option for creating collaborative agendas during the meetings.
- As a great deal of data has been collected, it was noted that the Forum should focus on finding solutions and creating actionable items for previously identified areas of interest of concern. Data can be leveraged to find the topics of most interest, and the sessions can provide an opportunity to inform the solutions. The forum working group will look at the data and choose 4 or 5 topics of interest to focus on for the event. These items can guide the event and there can still be an opportunity for Open Space facilitation.
- There is a concern when information is gathered and there is no follow-up or action taken. The Forum needs to have an action-oriented component to it.
- The goal of the Forum should be to show youth that they have a voice and can be actively engaged in conversations about what matters to them with the City.
- It was suggested that there be devices available at in-person events to help people sign up for the Youth Panel. This will capture new

audiences that have not been previously engaged. A QR code can be created.

- The event should happen twice a year, once to identify topics and find actionable statements, and the second at the end of the year to show the progress that has taken place and direct the next steps to take.
- The sessions should be around 2 hours in length.
- The City should provide a draw for participants, such as food.
- YEWG members noted they would be happy to help facilitate the events. City Staff would be in attendance to respond to questions and act as experts on specific topics.
- Council should be invited to an in-person kick-off event as it would be a great opportunity to have face time with youth constituents.

Co-Chair Maria Penney, and members Nathan Young and Jen Crowe will form the sub-committee and start ironing out the details of the event. They will work with OPS staff on planning and logistics. Any items requiring additional consideration by the YEWG can be decided via E-Poll, or a meeting can be called if necessary. Staff will incorporate the feedback from the meeting into a Decision Note for Council for an upcoming meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Recommendation

Moved By Nathan Young

Seconded By Lindsey Hynes

That Council approve the YEWG to start working on a youth forum for Fall 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

CO-CHAIRS, MARIA RAE PENNEY & VICTORIA ETCHEGARY