

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, S.T.A.R.S MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
September 30, 2020

The S.T.A.R.S. Management Advisory Board of the City of Fort Myers, Florida, met in regular session on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 4:00 o'clock p.m. Board Members present were Neale Montgomery, Wilbur C. Smith, Ron Inge, Michael Morris, Ross Webb and Amanda Mingione. Advisory Board Members; Jazzmen Williams, and Amber Ware. Board Liaisons Absent: Dr. Jesse Bryson

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 04:01 P.M. by Neale Montgomery.

(04:02) Roll call was performed.

NO. 1 MINUTES: (04:02) Ron Inge moved and seconded by Bill Morris to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2020 meeting. The motion carried.

NO. 2 Public Input: (04:03) There was no public input

NO. 3 Recreation Partner Presentation (04:03) Presentations were given by J.R. Hernandez with Hammerhead Youth Rugby, Deb Kamila Coalition for A drug Free South West Florida, Shanell Harleston with the Fort Myers Jr. Firecats and Greg Howell with Dunbar Little League.

NO. 4. Afterschool Club Update: (04:30) Malik Hines, Program Coordinator for the City Of Fort Myers STARS Complex stated that at our central location, in the fall of 2019, we had about 200 participants, this year due to COVID, we have reduced our numbers but they are still growing and we are at about 60 participants. Mr. Hines stated that at the STARS East location in fall 2019, we had 30 participants and we currently have 12 afterschool participants. Mr. Hines stated that his main focus is education, and some of the programs that we offer is Homework assistance, Focus Learning through the Lee County School District, summer learning, a culture and diversity workshop, and other in house activities like arts, civics, science, journal writing, life skills, financial literacy, social & emotional learning, and STEAM with I WILL mentorship. Mr. Hines stated that it does not matter if we have 200 kids or 20 kids we are going to put our best foot forward and give great programs to the kids in our community. Mr. Hines stated that during our summer camp, we had 180 participants and we were able to complete 6 weeks out of the 8 week program, and spring camp, even with the beginning of the pandemic we had about 35 participants, and winter camp about 40 participants. Mr. Hines stated that we have put more focus on our partnerships, we spoke with a few of them earlier, but there are many other volunteers that come and assist with academics and tutoring, help and support, interacting with the students and mentorship opportunities, through organizations at FGCU and FSW, and other Recreation partners such as the Brunson Foundation, I WILL mentorship, Rugby, Dunbar Little League, and Fort Myers Jr. Firecats. Mr. Hines stated that some of the upcoming events that we have planned to get through the fiscal year, is the Trunk or Treat in October, Food Truck Friday which we would like to become a monthly activity, the Easter festival, our Cultural Carnival De Marsh, Martin Luther King Jr. day celebration, more movie in the park, feed the community events and family fun day events. Christina Bellamy, the Sr. Program Coordinator for the Rising STARS teen program stated that last year was the first big year for the program and our mission is to inspire, motivate, and develop teens in the Fort Myers community for a life dedicated to service and academic excellence. Ms. Bellamy stated that the four main focuses for the program are; academics, leadership development, community engagement, and lifestyle. Ms. Bellamy stated that with any new program there is trail and error, and the weakest area was really focusing on the

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academics and keeping track of the academics. MS. Bellamy stated the program design for this year has moved from a one day program to a four day program and would like to average 12-14 students everyday with Tuesdays and Thursdays being the leadership days, really focusing on the 7 Habits of Highly effective teens and Building everyday leaders, and Mondays and Wednesdays are focused on lifestyle and community engagement. Ms. Bellamy stated that this year she has really tried to include parents and get them more engaged. Ms. Bellamy stated that the future of the program is to increase community engagement, by hosting more events, hosting a teen town hall, teen expo, and teen nights. Ms. Bellamy would like to build a strong relationship with Dunbar High School and that relationship would be principle to what we are trying to accomplish. Ms. Bellamy stated that she would like to expand the step up to work program to not just include the STARS Complex but other city departments, and build greater relationships with the Fort Myers Police Department.

NO. 5. 2020 Budget Report: (04:45) Mrs. Ware stated that in the monthly report our goals for 2020 were to increase our program enrollment, host more events, and begin new educational and athletic programs which serves over 500 students, but unfortunately due to COVID-19 our goals were diverted, however we were still able to accomplish a lot, we took the initiative to be a dependable source for community support, youth development and leadership and parent resources. Mrs. Ware stated that coming up for 2021 our goals are to increase our membership once COVID is officially gone, establish a STARS programming plan, solidify more fundraising efforts, create sub committee's for the educational and athletic programs through the community partnerships, strengthen our adult activity selection, and increase staff training and professional development. Mrs. Ware stated that they 20/21 Budget was approved and everything that we asked for is the same as what it was last year and nothing has decreased.

NO. 6. ADJOURN (05:03) Bill Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Wilbur Smith. Motion carried.