

## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING, S.T.A.R.S MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**March 15, 2023**

The S.T.A.R.S. Management Advisory Board of the City of Fort Myers, Florida, met in regular session on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 4:00 o'clock p.m. Board Members present were, Michael Morris, Neale Montgomery, Shanell Harleston and Ron Inge. Advisory Board Members; Amber Ware and Jazzmen Williams. Board Liaisons Absent: Chauncy Solinger, Dr. Shadreka McIntosh and Ross Webb.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 04:05 P.M. by Neale Montgomery.

(04:05) Roll call was performed.

**NO. 1 MINUTES:** (04:06) Ron Inge moved and seconded by Michael Morris to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023, meeting. The motion carried.

**NO. 2 Public Input:** (04:06) No public input.

**NO. 3 Monthly Report** (04:06) Amber Ware stated that for the month of February most of our focus was on black history month, we received a lot of positive feedback on the Black Cultural Experience showcase. Mrs. Ware stated that at the last Advisory Board meeting a new agreement was presented with Career Source of Southwest Florida, that was approved at the last City Council meeting and we are going to begin advertising and marketing the program, there will be approximately 10 employees between the ages of 18-24, and they will be paid by Career Source Southwest Florida, and the purpose of the program is to teach them job skills, anyone who successfully completes the 12 week program, will move to an additional 12 weeks of employment, and hopefully will turn into a 52 week program if the candidate is successful. Mrs. Ware stated that the way the program works is Career Source does all of the payments, and the City of Fort Myers does all of the training, which assists with some of our budget issues for the short term. Mrs. Ware stated that for March we are getting ready for Spring break, all of our spring programs have all begun. Mrs. Ware stated that our dance program did participate in the Edison Festival of lights Grand Parade and received a standing ovation as we walked through the parade. Mrs. Ware stated that we are on track with the budget. Mrs. Ware stated that the training will take place at the STARS, and we will train them in three different sections, administrative, which will teach them how to interact with customers, how to do monthly reports, accept payments, and doing all of the reporting that we have, we will have an additional three positions for Recreation Counselors, one with each age group, and that person will be learn how to create curriculum, implement lessons, how to manage a class, and the last three positions will be for athletics, they will be learning how to referee games, how to order and maintain equipment, setting up and breaking down the field, using the paint machine to line the fields. Mrs. Ware stated that she did receive word back from the Senior Project manager who is over the expansion, and we did receive funds in our 2023 budget, for the capital improvement of the budget, \$800,000 will be going towards the design, we will be finalizing the design and getting a bid set ready hopefully by the end of this fiscal year, in preparation for it to be funded in 2024.

**NO. 4. Rising STARS Teen Program Update**(04:18) Bertram Brinson Rising STARS Teen Program Coordinator stated that they have been making a lot of leaps and gains with getting the students ready for the Step it up to Work program, we have been doing mock interviews with the students, preparing them. Mr. Brinson stated that we currently have 12-15 students that come daily, to the STARS East at Billy Bowlegs location, every Wednesday we try to stay at the STARS to have hands-on training with the kids and what they will be doing for summer. Mr. Brinson stated that one of our

## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING, S.T.A.R.S MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**March 15, 2023**

Rising STARS students has been hired at the STARS, A'Nyah Moorer, she is one of our shining stars, she is an individual who everyone has saw some growth in her, she is currently in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, she does what she is suppose to do, she is well spoken, and dependable. Mr. Brinson stated that in February we took a trip to Bethune Cookman University, it was an experience, last year we went to Florida Memorial down in Miami. Mr. Brinson stated that one of the students, Breanna Johnson has been accepted into Bethune Cookman, for Fall 2023 and is pursuing a degree in Nursing, she is currently a senior at South Fort Myers High School, and has been doing a clinical rotation there, with their nursing program. Mr. Brinson stated that with the Teen Advisory Council they are putting together a Nature Concert at the Calusa Nature Center, with classical and contemporary musical selections, on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Mr. Brinson stated that they have been trying to do more fundraising, the Rising stars program had planned a trip to Atlanta for college visits, and other educational activities for their spring break, but unfortunately they did not raise enough money to go on the trip. Mr. Brinson stated that because they are not able to take their spring break trip instead they will be going down to Koreshan State Park down in Estero, to work on our swimming and survival skills, that is the topic for the month of March, we will also go sailing with the Edison Sailing Center, and also volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

**NO. 5. ADJOURN** (04:28) Bill Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Shanell Harleston. Motion carried.