

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Melinda Galler, Assistant City Manager

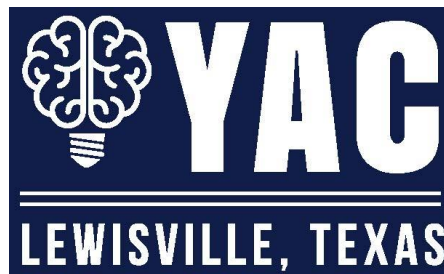
**DATE:** July 17, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Update on the 2019-20 Youth Action Council Program

### BACKGROUND

The City Council directed staff to create a Youth Action Council (YAC) after discussion at their retreat in February 2017. The makeup of the YAC was to include students who lived in Lewisville who were in the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The summer of 2017, staff began recruitment efforts for the first YAC focusing on all high schools in the area that included Lewisville students, private schools in Lewisville, and home-schooled students living Lewisville. The purpose of the YAC was to connect with exceptional teens in the community who could advise Council on youth-related issues, assist with special projects and events, and design and plan new youth events and activities to encourage youth involvement in the community.

The first year, 25 students applied to be members of the YAC and all 25 were accepted. Twenty-one of the students attended Lewisville High School, two attended Hebron High School and two were home-schooled students. The program kicked off with a reception for the students that was held prior to the Council meeting at which they were then sworn into the program. During the first meeting, the students worked with Mixed Media to develop a logo that has been used for shirts, pins, and other related materials. The logo below was a collaboration of all the students' efforts.



The first year, 2017-18, the programming was geared toward educating the students on municipal services, and the meetings were led by various department directors. In addition, several members attended the TML Youth Summit in Cedar Hill. The youth only attended on Saturday and did not spend the night and participate in the activities on Sunday.

The first year, the students selected Kyles' Place as their service project and their goal was to raise awareness of teen homelessness. The students held a field day event that included a sock walk to benefit Kyle's Place. The event was poorly attended and was labor intensive for Lewisville staff.

At the end of the first year, the students participated in a joint meeting with the City Council. The youth presented City Council with their feedback on the first-year Youth Action Council program. One of the challenges discussed was attendance. Four of the 25 students attended 50% or less of the meetings due to the students having multiple activities with conflicting schedules. The students also felt that too much meeting time was devoted to lecture with PowerPoints with too little time devoted to work on their service project. Staff also felt that the program did not allow adequate opportunities to provide Council with input or feedback. Based on the feedback from both the Council and the youth, the following changes were made to the program for the 2018-19 year:

- Students are not allowed more than three absences
- Meeting times increased from 1.5 hours to 2 hours
- All meetings were posted so that all Council members could attend
- An overnight stay was budgeted to allow the YAC members to participate in both days of the TML Youth Summit
- Programing was changed to be more interactive and less lecture

For the 2018-19 year, the City received 35 applications to participate in the program. Based on the prior year's experience and the programs planned for the year, staff decided to limit the group to 20 students. Programming for the 2018-19 year included a field trip to Sysco foods with a focus on economic development. The group also toured the water and wastewater plants, created a project in the Hive, kayaked at LLELA, and participated in exercises at the Jerry R Galler Training Center using the firearms simulator, driving simulator and the fire training tower. The YAC held a joint meeting with the City Council in April.

Sixteen of the students attended the Youth Advisory Council Summit in Fort Worth on February 23 and 24. Students boarded a bus at 6:30 am on Saturday morning and attended sessions all day. They then enjoyed a social at Joe T Garcia's where there was food, music and dancing until 9:00 that night. After spending the night in Fort Worth, the students attended sessions on Sunday morning and returned to Lewisville Sunday afternoon.

For their service project, last year's YAC held a drive to collect personal hygiene items for Friends of the Family and held an event at Wayne Ferguson Plaza that included a DJ. Again, the event was intended to heighten awareness of teen homelessness, but the event was poorly attended.

## **2019-20 PLAN**

For the upcoming 2019-20 year, there are several exciting opportunities for the program. First, with NLC City Summit coming to Texas, it is a chance for our students to engage with youth all from over the nation and attend a conference with national speakers and engaging topics. Thirteen of the fifteen students are registered to attend. Second, staff is planning to utilize the YAC students in planning and designing the use of a small piece of city-owned property located on Palisades that is within walking distance of Lewisville High School. Several of the programs will revolve around this project and it will culminate with the students presenting their plan to Council at the end of the year.

In addition, this year staff is limiting the size of the Youth Action Council to 15 very talented and qualified students. The group includes 10 students from Lewisville High School, two from Hebron High School, two students who are home-schooled and one student from a private school. Six students are returning from last year. Staff feels that the smaller group will make programming easier and allow staff to spend more quality time with the students. Also, the smaller number will make travel to San Antonio for NLC easier.

This year's schedule provides for new tours and activities and the opportunity for the students to provide input into several projects including the Lewisville 2025 update. See the proposed schedule below.

Meeting Dates	Program	Location	Staff Lead
Monday, August 19, 2019	Reception/Workshop and Swearing In at Council Meeting	City Hall, 3rd floor	Melinda Galler/Stacie Anaya
Wednesday, September 18, 2019	Overview of Park Project	Police Training Room	Stacie Anaya
Wednesday, October 23, 2019	Fire/Police/Emergency Management	Jerry R Galler Training Facility	Tom/Tim/Kevin
Wednesday, November 13, 2019	ITS/Technology Tour	Police Training Room	Chris Lee
November 20-23, 2019	NLC	San Antonio	Melinda/Matt/James
Wednesday, December 11, 2019	Christmas Party/Old Town Tour	MCL Grand	James Kunke
Wednesday, January 8, 2020	Parks Project/ YAC and Park Board Joint Meeting	Glenmore Savage Community Room	Stacie Anaya
Wednesday, January 29, 2020	2025 Workshop	MCL Grand	Melinda Galler
Wednesday, February 12, 2020	Recycling/Sustainability	TBD	Keith Marvin/Mendie
Wednesday, March 11, 2020	Animal Services	Gene Carey Animal Shelter	Chris McGinn
Wednesday, April 15, 2020	The Hive/Project Discussion	Library	Carolyn Booker/Stacie
Monday, May 4, 2020	Council Meeting - Final Report on Park Project	City Council Conference Room	Melinda Galler

In addition to the scheduled meetings, staff anticipates that additional meetings throughout the year will be necessary to work on the park project. The students also will have the option of some type of collection drive to benefit one of the nonprofits as they have done previously.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.