



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Kirkland Youth Council Leadership
Date: May 8, 2009
Subject: Kirkland Youth Council Leadership Study Session with Council

The 2008-09 Kirkland Youth Council is in the midst of yet another busy and success-filled year. The year began with a highly competitive selection process during September and October. The Leadership Group conducted interviews over three days, selecting 16 new members.

The first activity for the 40 member group was the annual trip to the Waterhouse Center Challenge Course in Monroe. This trip is always a great way for members to develop leadership skills and camaraderie. After training, the group was ready to start the year and all the projects ahead.

The following is a brief overview of the Youth Council's 2008-09 projects.

Community Service Projects

The Kirkland Youth Council sets out to participate in at least four diverse service projects during the school year. The following is a list of six projects KYC has been involved with this year.

November 2008 – KYC members sponsored a food drive for Hopelink at the Juanita Albertsons. During the four hour drive, the Youth Council was able to fill the reserve aid truck (900 lbs of donations) and collect \$560 in cash.

December 2008 – The Youth Council hosted its annual Holly Day Brunch at the Peter Kirk Community Center. Members of KYC host, cook and serve brunch to patrons of PKCC. Over 50 seniors attended the event.

December 2008 – KYC members assisted with the 12ks of Christmas run stuffing goodie bags for the runners as well as at the race.

March 2009 – The group traveled to Eastside Baby corner to assist with various tasks at the warehouse in Issaquah.

April 2009 – Members of the Kirkland Youth Council assist with the City's Earth Day project at Juanita Bay Park removing blackberry bushes.

May 2009 – The Kirkland Youth Council will assist with three water stations along the route of the Kirkland 1/2 Marathon.

Teen Court

Members of the Kirkland Youth Council continue to serve as judge and jury for the bi-monthly Teen Traffic Court. Cases are heard monthly at the Kirkland Municipal Court. This program has been extremely successful reducing the recidivism rates of the participants for more than 10 years.

Mini Grant Program

Every year, the Youth Council awards \$6,000 in mini grants to area schools and youth serving organizations. The purpose of these monies is to help support small events, projects and activities for Kirkland teens. Members of the Youth Council serve as the review committee for the grant applications and make funding recommendations. Awards typically range from \$250-\$750.

We've Got Issues

At the start of the school year, there were several We've Got Issues programs that were in progress. The goal for this year was to complete the Teen Stress, Summit and Going Green programs.

Superintendent Meetings

The Youth Council continues to meet quarterly with the Lake Washington School District Superintendent Chip Kimball. During these meetings a wide variety of topics are discussed. This year, topics that have been covered include; Linkage Teams, Internet Usage Policy, District-wide College fair, Harassment Policy, and District budgetary issues.

City Manager Meetings

KYC Leadership looks forward to their quarterly meetings with City Manager, Dave Ramsay. Topics that have been discussed include; annexation, library remodel, budget issues, KTUB, and the transit center.

Visits by Mayor

New this year, Mayor Lauinger has been periodically stopping by the regularly scheduled Kirkland Youth Council meetings. This has been a great opportunity for both the Youth Council and the Mayor to discuss current issues and trends in the City.

Respect Booklet

The revised edition of the Respect Booklet is in its final stages. Edits have been completed, photos taken and the final formatting is currently underway. The completed booklet should be finalized by the end of the school year.

Bluefish Festival

Every year, the Kirkland Youth Council partners with the Teen Union Building to host the Bluefish Festival. This event features teen music, art and several other teen related activities. This day-long celebration will take place on Saturday, June 13th at the KTUB and in Peter Kirk Park. Subcommittees have been working hard planning the various aspects of this event.

Police-Fire Social

As in years past, the Youth Council hosted an event to get Police, Fire and teens together in a fun, stress free environment. This year the group decided to hold a social at the teen center featuring Wii games and other activities.

Website

A representative of the Youth Council has been meeting with the City's Webmaster, City Attorney, and IT Director to discuss the possibility of KYC having its own website. Several options are currently being researched.

This is a short summary of what the Kirkland Youth Council has been working on during the 2008-09 school year. Members of the Youth Council Leadership are looking forward to sharing and discussing event and project details with Council members during the upcoming Study Session.