



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director
Leslie R. Miller, Human Services Supervisor
Regi Schubiger, Youth Services Coordinator

Date: May 20, 2021

Subject: 2020-21 KIRKLAND YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL REVIEW PRESENTATION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council receives a presentation from representatives of the Kirkland Youth Council highlighting their accomplishments during the 2020-21 school year.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

Although it has continued to be very challenging times for the Kirkland Youth Council and its members, the group has been successfully adapting to the many changes and adversities the world has presented and has made significant contributions to the City this past year.

Recruitment

Due to the pandemic and accompanying uncertainty, the Youth Council limited recruitment to middle school students for the 2020-21 school year. Even with this limited pool, 30 students applied. After careful consideration and review of applications, Youth Council leadership invited 15 candidates to interview. Of those, Youth Council invited five new members to join.

Mini Grants

KYC members reviewed three cycles of Mini Grant applications awarding \$8,500. Programs that received funding included the Diverse Library Collection at Finn Hill Middle, India Association of Western Washington Youth Horticultural Program, International Community School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Juanita High's Homelessness Awareness effort, Urban Gardening Club at Juanita High, bus passes for low-income students at Kamiakin Middle, Food Pantry at Rose Hill Middle, and Tesla STEM's Japanese Incarceration Remembrance effort.

Student Traffic Court

In September 2020, the Kirkland Municipal Court resumed offering Student Traffic Court as a deferred finding option for teens. Members of the Kirkland Youth Council served as judge and jury for 10 virtual cases to date. Since this is a year-round program offering of the Youth Council, Court sessions will continue monthly through the summer.

Advisory Opportunities

The Leadership Team of the Youth Council held quarterly meetings with Lake Washington School District Superintendent Jon Holmen and City of Kirkland City Manager Kurt Triplett. Topics covered during the meetings with Dr. Holmen included LWSD response to COVID, virtual learning, communication with students, standards-based grading, LWSD "Future Ready", and plans for the 2021-22 school year. Youth leadership and Mr. Triplett discussed COVID, R-5434, online learning, traffic, snow response, the Best Starts for Kids Levy, the Fire Safety Ballot, and construction.

Throughout the year community organizations and city staff have requested feedback from Youth Council on the following topics:

- The King County Conservation District
- Neighborhood master plans
- School Resource Officers
- The Best Starts for Kids Levy Renewal
- Washington State Youth Court Conference
- Washington State Youth Legislative Action Day

Community Service

Youth Council members have missed the opportunity to complete service projects most of this year. A group of them were thrilled to participate in a small Green Kirkland Partnership in April.

Feature Project: Youth Needs Assessment

The most significant undertaking for the Youth Council this past year has been the Needs Assessment Survey. While Youth Council usually does not meet during the summer, 2020 was an exception. Members of the Youth Council met virtually throughout the summer of 2020 to lay the groundwork for their needs assessment. This included learning about the Youth Participatory Action Research approach. The Youth Council constructed a thoughtful [survey](#) that covers a number of subject areas including:

- Youth relationship to the Kirkland community
- Youth relationship with Kirkland schools
- Opportunities outside of schools
- Mental Health
- Substance use
- City services for youth

The survey is set to close at the end of May. Preliminary results will be shared with City Council during the Youth Council presentation.