



## Youth Neighborhood Association Partnership Program (YNAPP) Grant Review Board Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR RODRIGUEZ and MEMBERS REESE, WILLIAMS, FAJARDO, McNAIR, PARKER, THOMPSON, TREVINO, WRAY, DEL REAL, and JOHNSON

EXCUSED: MEMBERS BONAVENTURA, SIERRA, GOURDET, NGUYEN, and PARKER

ALSO PRESENT: CANDACE BORING, Management Analyst I, JEFF DOROCAK, Assistant City Attorney, and CHEYENNE LARANCE, Senior Deputy City Clerk

### 2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov); and The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov).

### 3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

### 4. Presentations on Youth Neighborhood Association Partnership Program applications submitted by Pajama Party – Pajama Party; Peyton’s Positivity Project – Peyton’s Positivity Project; Reasons to Smile – Reasons to Smile; Art & Reading Program – Art & Reading: A Book Tasting Program; Heroes and Heart – The Blessing Project; Learning is Fun Libraries – Learning is Fun Libraries; STEM Days – STEM Days: Robotics, Bricks, & Kicks! 2023; Nehemiah Youth Ministries – Something to Look Forward To!; Shot Callers Elite Dance Team – Arts District Clean Up; Coping Kids – Everyone Has Mental Health; Magical Moment Makers – Board Game Night; and Project 4 Humanity – Project 4 Humanity [NOTE: Presenters listed above that do not appear during this meeting may be allowed to present at the December 8, 2022 meeting, if excused by the Board at their originally scheduled meeting.]

Minutes:

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK confirmed with MEMBER REESE that her siblings were presenting with Pajama Party and Reasons to Smile at this meeting. He also confirmed that MEMBERS REESE and McNAIR would also be presenting. MR. DOROCAK advised that the Members abstain from

participating in the discussions on those presentations.

CANDACE BORING, Management Analyst I, indicated that Nehemiah Youth Ministries was unable to attend due to their youth leaders being ill. If the Board allows them to do so, the group was willing to come on Thursday, December 8th at 3:30 p.m. for a make-up presentation. A vote was taken to allow the group to make up their appearance at the aforementioned meeting.

Prior to each presentation, CHAIR RODRIGUEZ welcomed each of the groups and advised them they would be given five minutes for their presentation, followed by five minutes for the Board to ask questions. Subsequent to each presentation, she advised the Board would be voting on the recommended funding awards at a later meeting, and applicants were to contact MS. BORING with any questions.

Peyton's Positivity Project – Peyton's Positivity Project – Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, PEYTON REESE, a senior at Palo Verde High School, said she focuses on helping homeless teen girls by providing bags filled with underwear and bras for residents at the Shannon West Homeless Youth Center. This is her third year applying, and she detailed a list of supplies that were included from year to year. The goal of the project is to help homeless teen girls gain confidence in themselves. It is important because so many homeless teens are not able to get the things they need for themselves. She found it was important to provide enough bras and underwear for the teen girls, as when she visited the facility, the teen boys had more items supplied, and she wished to focus on the teen girls. MS. REESE partners with the Shannon West Homeless Youth Center, which distributes the bags. She partnered with them last year and was able to learn so much that she hopes to continue this partnership. She requested \$1,250 to fund her project, which will allow her to not only provide bras and underwear for the teen girls but also other things they may need. Each year she has been able to assemble approximately 40 bags ranging in size from XS (extra small) to 2XL (double extra large). She closed her presentation by showing pictures from her prior experiences and added that she also received donations from The Paul Powell Law Firm.

MEMBER THOMPSON confirmed through MS. REESE that she can craft 40 bags with assistance from her siblings and teammates. He asked her if she could make more bags with more funding, and she confirmed. If she received a few extra hundred dollars, MS. REESE believed she could make at least 10 additional bags, which would make a big difference. The Member asked her how much 10 bags would cost, and she guessed \$300.

MEMBER WILLIAMS said Shannon West Homeless Youth Center is an awesome facility, and he worked there about 23-25 years ago. He asked if she would have an opportunity to engage with the teens she is serving, and MS. REESE said she has not yet, but she would like to. She has, however, received a tour of the facility, and she reiterated her desire to meet with the individuals she is serving. MEMBER WILLIAMS was glad to hear that, as MS. REESE could learn about other things she could include in the bags in the future.

Reasons to Smile – Reasons to Smile – KELLEN REESE said he is applying for his third grant. This year, he is hosting a cooking class to cross generations between children his age and the elderly. They will cook with each other and bond over their experiences. His partner will be CHEF STACEY, a vegan cook, at the Doolittle Senior Center, and he will invite kids to partake in the cooking class.

MEMBER WRAY wondered how many seniors MR. REESE will be cooking with, to which he replied seven or eight.

MEMBER TREVINO asked what MR. REESE will be cooking, and he said although he has done this before, he does not know what they will be cooking this year. Last year, they made bowls with rice, tofu, and vegetables.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ asked what he would do with the extra funding if he received any, to which he said \$600 will go toward cooking supplies, \$300 for food, \$200 for sanitation supplies, \$50 for posters and decorations, and \$50 for anything forgotten.

Pajama Party – Pajama Party – CAMERON REESE said this is a community service project that provides pajamas for foster kids. After conducting research, she found that providing them with a good pair can improve

their sleeping schedule. Her goal is to provide 80 to 90 children with pajamas. She will work with Fostering Hope, which will also provide the pajama sizes, and the event will take place at Hannah's Closet. MS. REESE requested \$1,250 and hoped to bring smiles and sweet dreams to the foster care kids.

MEMBER THOMPSON wondered what age range would be served, and MS. REESE said last year it ranged from 0M (months) to size 14 pajamas. He then asked how many pairs she would provide. MS. REESE said last year they provided 80 pairs, and they hoped to provide 80-90 pairs this year.

MEMBER FAJARDO asked MS. REESE to tell her one thing she has learned related to the budget by doing this project each year. MS. REESE said all of the money goes to the pajamas and the bags they are delivered in. She noted that the sizes for the older kids cost more.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ asked how many youth and adult members were involved, to which MS. REESE said two adults and three youths.

MEMBER THOMPSON asked if she has interacted with the kids and if so, what has she learned. MS. REESE said watching them open the pajamas was her favorite part.

Art & Reading Program – Art & Reading: A Book Tasting Program – Using a Prezi presentation, a copy of which was not submitted for the record, MELANIE McNAIR, The Delta Academy, and NAOMI CUFF, Shadow Ridge High School, introduced themselves and said they love reading and want to give other kids the opportunity to have fun with reading. Their project will start during Nevada Reading Week 2023. The first day of the event will be held in the Historic Westside during an after-school event in the Urban Chamber office. The last two days of the event will be held at Wendell P. Williams Elementary School, and they plan to send event invitations to several schools in the surrounding area. The event will be 1.5 hours each day and will include kindergarten through 5th-Grade students. The first 45 minutes will involve students learning about primary and secondary colors, and they will make art projects such as bookmarks for the books they will be reading. A book tasting will be held for the last five to 10 minutes, with the idea that literacy is food for the soul. The group said reading proficiency levels have decreased over the last few years, so this type of project will allow children additional time to read and connect with their peers in order to get excited to learn. They provided an overview of the budget, for a total of \$1,250. A demonstration bag was given to each board member that included paintbrushes, markers, paint, colored pencils, and glue sticks. They will take COVID-19 protocols into consideration and will provide online opportunities for those who cannot attend in person.

MEMBER REESE asked what the five iPads in the budget were for, and MS. McNAIR said these will be used for children who do not know how to read. After this project, they will continue to be used for future projects. MEMBER THOMPSON asked where the iPads will be kept, to which MS. McNAIR clarified that they will be giving them to people in need.

MEMBER JOHNSON said the budget came to \$800, and he wondered where the rest of the money would be going. RAQUEL WATSON, adult leader, said the total budget should be \$1,250, and they have tried to keep the costs as low as possible. Each art kit is about \$10, and each book bundle totals \$5.35. She clarified that the iPads are used for reading, will be used for future projects, and housed in a secure location.

MEMBER WRAY confirmed with MS. WATSON that five iPads will be purchased. She worked hard with the youth to ensure they could purchase refurbished iPads to keep the costs down. MEMBER TREVINO said the application listed \$150 for one of the iPads, and MS. WATSON said that might have been her mistake, but she was confident it would be \$95.

MEMBER WILLIAMS asked how the books would be accessible through the iPads, and MS. McNAIR said they have a subscription through ABCmouse. He asked if that subscription was in the budget, to which MS. McNAIR replied no. She then clarified that the library will provide the subscription for free because the event will be hosted there.

Heroes and Heart – The Blessing Project – JUSTYN BOUMAH, CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and Founder of Heroes and Heart, said he is seven years old, and he thanked the Board for supporting him since he was five

years old. They have created millions of smiles, and he wished to create billions. This year, he wants to thank bank tellers, veterinarians, state troopers, and others. He requested \$1,250 to complete The Blessing Project this year. A short video was shown about the project, a copy of which was not submitted for the record.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ said she is in school for nursing and will soon take her medical exam for certification. She thought it was amazing for MR. BOUMAH to recognize these heroes but the amount of work they do is underestimated. She wondered what inspired him to create this project. MR. BOUMAH said when he was four years old, he was watching the news and asked his aunt why community workers were not being thanked. She was unsure and expressed the desire to thank them, noting he first thanked sanitation workers.

MEMBER DEL REAL asked MR. BOUMAH what he wished to be when he grows up, to which he replied many different things.

He reiterated who they would be thanking this year for MEMBER THOMPSON and said people can become involved in the project by visiting [www.hereosandheart.com](http://www.hereosandheart.com).

MEMBER REESE complimented the presentation and wondered what item in the thank you bags was MR. BOUMAH'S favorite. He said M&M'S. MEMBER TREVINO said the Board is proud of MR. BOUMAH and the work he is doing. She asked him who helps with the bags the most. He replied his parents, who travel with him.

MEMBER WILLIAMS said MR. BOUMAH did an awesome job and just by being present, it has brought a smile to his heart. The Member thanked him and appreciated his work in the community.

STEM Days – STEM Days: Robotics, Bricks, & Kicks! 2023 – Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, JUSTIN ST. CLOUD, Youth Team Leader, and CHRIS WEBB introduced themselves. MR. ST. CLOUD said this is their first time applying, but he has been involved in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) since he was young. This project will bring a STEM-related activity to young children in East Las Vegas. The proposed dates for the project will be April 9-13, which is STEM week. The project will be conducted at the East Las Vegas Library from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and the final celebration will be held on a Friday, where awards will be distributed in addition to a celebration. The target audience is BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) families, which do not have as much access to STEM resources. Each day a different demonstration will be conducted, and the group will partner with the UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Robotics Team and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. MR. ST. CLOUD briefly reviewed an itinerary of what will be done each day.

MEMBER REESE asked who they planned on involving, and MR. ST. CLOUD said they will have five volunteers as well as team builders in addition to his friends.

MEMBER WILLIAMS said Becker Technology Center, the City's first tech park, is opening next spring and is dedicated to robotics and other STEM programs. He asked MS. BORING to keep in touch with the group, as he wished them to remain engaged and participate in the process.

MEMBER THOMPSON asked for more information about the Bristlebots included in the budget. MR. ST. CLOUD said the bots can be assembled and are fun to interact with once built. The Member also wondered why LEGO Technic Monster Jam models were chosen for the building kits, to which MR. ST. CLOUD said monster trucks are cool, and the kits are fun to put together. The group will allow as many participants as they can and will have the kits ready to assemble.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ asked if the group would consider asking for donations of snacks, water, and drinks because if donations for those are received, the group would be able to buy an additional 25 packs of kits. MR. ST. CLOUD replied in the affirmative.

MEMBER FAJARDO encouraged the group to write down what they learned about this project for next year.

Learning is Fun Libraries – Learning is Fun Libraries – ANTHONY WILLIAMS II, Junior at The Delta Academy, and LA'RELL WYSINGER were present. A video was shown of the project, a copy of which was not submitted

for the record.

MR. WILLIAMS explained for MEMBER THOMPSON that he will build in-home libraries for children. Android tablets were requested, as they are the least expensive and could be given to more children. They will encourage the children to use the tablets by downloading reading apps and games. He told CHAIR RODRIGUEZ that the children will be given a choice in what they would like to download.

MEMBER JOHNSON liked the idea of the project to help give children an early start to their education. He wondered how the group was inspired to pick this as their idea. MR. WILLIAMS said most children struggle in different areas, and this will provide them with one step that will lead to another.

MEMBER MCNAIR asked about the criteria for a child to receive an iPad. MR. WILLIAMS said each child will receive an iPad, and there are 10. MEMBER WRAY wondered how the 10 children will be selected. MR. WILLIAMS said the faire will be held at the East Las Vegas Library. The group will make a poster for children in need of a home library and tablet. The first 10 families to express interest will be selected.

MEMBER TREVINO wondered what was located at 1951 Stella Lake Street because she believed the past two projects had the same address. MR. WILLIAMS said the group built a library named after this project, and that is its location. He confirmed that he is related to the last two presenters. MS. BORING clarified that the address is like a community center, and the students are a part of a leadership program. There is not a familial relationship but one that is part of the community center.

MEMBER FAJARDO asked how the group will get the word out. MR. WILLIAMS said using social media and posters to attract attention. MEMBER WILLIAMS complimented the presentation and encouraged the group to remember that the City supports the Little Free Library, which are libraries placed throughout the community where people can share and swap books. As the families finish reading books, the group can tell them about the Little Free Library. He noted MS. BORING could put the group in contact with staff who is in charge of the libraries.

MEMBER REESE asked if the faire will continue after the tablets are gone. MR. WILLIAMS said the faire includes giving away books, tablets, and a bookshelf.

Coping Kids – Everyone Has Mental Health – Using a Prezi presentation, a copy which was not submitted for the record, ROBERT BARSEL said when he was five years old, his father passed away due to a sudden heart attack. Because of this experience, he went through both individual and group therapy, and he felt that group therapy was the most beneficial for him. In 2017, he began Coping Kids, which is a non-profit to help teach kids how to approach their mental health. When he was 12 years old, he was trained by that same organization, according to best practices as dictated by the National Association for Grieving Children. For the past five years, MR. BARSEL has been leading groups across Las Vegas at his school, Project 150, and Nevada Youth Network. These groups have been composed of kids and adults ages five to 18, where he has been teaching them how to identify and articulate emotions, how to use healthy coping skills, and how to manage emotions. This is the second time the group has applied for YNAPP (Youth Neighborhood Association Partnership Program) funding.

The volunteers include, KELLY KNIGHT, his mother, who is a facilitator with eight years of peer support group experience, and ERICA KIEFER, a recreational therapist with a degree from BYU (Brigham Young University) and author of three young adult books. He shared several mental health statistics and stated that he was awarded a \$5,000 grant to create a workbook. It is a free, 65-page workbook with three sections for emotional intelligence, coping skills, and social awareness. He plans to write and illustrate five more sections and created a website to promote and host the workbook, which is [www.copingkids.org](http://www.copingkids.org). He shared several example pages from the workbook and noted that over 550 kids have downloaded and used the workbook. Of those surveyed after completing a section or all of the workbook, 100 percent of participants felt better prepared to address their mental health struggles.

MR. BARSEL requested \$1,250, which will go towards illustrations for at least one chapter; however, if additional funds are received, proceeds will go towards creating more workbooks and cards for recipients.

MEMBER REESE thought everything about the project was incredible and asked if MR. BARSEL is looking to put these workbooks in schools. MR. BARSEL affirmed and said he is working with his own teachers as well as a lobbyist and SENATOR ROBERTA LANGE to pass new legislation that will increase mental health curriculum in Nevada.

MEMBER WILLIAMS asked what age group the workbook is geared towards, to which MR. BARSEL said it is for 12 to 18; however, he personally works with kids anywhere from five to 18, and he plans to create another workbook geared towards a younger audience. MEMBER WILLIAMS asked if he is planning any events or outreach to youth. MR. BARSEL said he is raising additional funds to hire a search engine optimization professional to attract more website visitors. He also recruited a group of his friends to reach out to various schools across the Valley to put the workbook in schools and hospitals.

MEMBER THOMPSON said this is an amazing project and asked how MR. BARSEL plans to combat negative opinions about mental health. MR. BARSEL said there is an entire section on how to have a non-judgmental conversation about mental health and destigmatizing the topic.

MEMBER JOHNSON asked how many people have read this workbook, to which MR. BARSEL said 550, plus another 20 whom he has worked with in person.

MEMBER THOMPSON asked how he can get a copy, and MR. BARSEL said [www.copingkids.org/single-project](http://www.copingkids.org/single-project). He is raising funds to print hard copies, as each hard copy costs approximately \$22.

Subsequent to the presentations, MS. BORING stated that she was unable to get in touch with Shot Callers Elite Dance Team. She indicated that MONICA SARKISIAN stated that the e-mail address in ZoomGrants for Magical Moment Makers is her student e-mail, and she did not receive MS. BORING's e-mail regarding presentation time; however, the group said they could present on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, if given the opportunity to do so. She confirmed she had an appropriate e-mail address to ensure the group receives the new presentation time information. A vote was taken to allow the group to present on December 8, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

Additionally, MS. BORING said Project 4 Humanity informed her that an adult team leaders has COVID-19. A vote was taken to allow the group to present on December 8, 2022, and she confirmed that the youth team member will be present at that meeting. MEMBER WILLIAMS expressed concerns about COVID-19 exposure, to which MS. BORING informed him that the youth team leader does not live in the same household as the adult team leader.

Lastly, a vote was taken to deny allowing Shot Callers Elite Dance Team to present. MEMBER WILLIAMS believed the Board has given everybody an opportunity to present and wondered if this group was being denied for lack of responding to MS. BORING'S text. MEMBER WRAY found it hard to make the motion, but given the Board's limited knowledge as to why they did not show for their presentation, he believed they had ample opportunity to present. MS. BORING said she called and texted both the adult team leader and youth team leader, noting there was no other contact information provided. MEMBER WILLIAMS said he could support the motion knowing MS. BORING made several attempts to contact the group.

MS. BORING said the following groups were rescheduled for make-up presentations: TSL Group, Nehemiah Youth Ministries, Magical Moment Makers, and Project 4 Humanity.

Motion made by Alexandra Rodriguez to Approve rescheduling Nehemiah Youth Ministries to the 12/8/2022 meeting

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 4

For-Harry Williams, Maria Fajardo, Melanie McNair, Alexandra Rodriguez, Daniel Thompson, Maria Trevino, David Wray, Anastacio Del Real, Lamius Johnson, Peyton Reese; Excused-Chance Bonaventura, Andrew Sierra, Alyssa Gourdet, Jonathan Nguyen;

Motion made by Alexandra Rodriguez to Approve rescheduling Project 4 Humanity to the 12/8/2022 meeting

Passed For: 6; Against: 2; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

For-Melanie McNair, Alexandra Rodriguez, Daniel Thompson, David Wray, Lamius Johnson, Peyton Reese; Against-Harry Williams, Maria Fajardo; Excused-Chance Bonaventura, Andrew Sierra, Alyssa Gourdet, Maria Trevino, Anastacio Del Real, Jonathan Nguyen;

Motion made by Alexandra Rodriguez to Approve rescheduling Magical Moment Makers to the 12/8/2022 meeting

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 7

For-Harry Williams, Maria Fajardo, Melanie McNair, Alexandra Rodriguez, Daniel Thompson, David Wray, Lamius Johnson, Peyton Reese; Excused-Chance Bonaventura, Andrew Sierra, Arnold Parker, Alyssa Gourdet, Maria Trevino, Anastacio Del Real, Jonathan Nguyen;

Motion made by David Wray to Deny rescheduling Shot Callers Elite Dance Team to the 12/8/2022 meeting

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

For-Harry Williams, Maria Fajardo, Melanie McNair, Alexandra Rodriguez, Daniel Thompson, David Wray, Lamius Johnson, Peyton Reese; Excused-Chance Bonaventura, Andrew Sierra, Alyssa Gourdet, Maria Trevino, Anastacio Del Real, Jonathan Nguyen;

5. **Citizen Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. No subject may be acted upon by the Board unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:  
None.

6. **Adjournment**

Minutes:  
The meeting was recessed as follows: 3:46 p.m. to 3:48 p.m., 5:09 p.m. to 6:13 p.m., 6:27 p.m. to 6:38 p.m., and was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

---

Cheyenne LaRance, CMC, Senior Deputy City Clerk

---

Candace Boring, Management Analyst I

Minutes Prepared by:  
Ashley Foster, Deputy City Clerk

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:  
The City of Las Vegas website – [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)  
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor