



## 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 3:36 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR RODRIGUEZ and MEMBERS JOHNSON, WILLIAMS, FAJARDO, SIERRA, McNAIR (via teleconference), PARKER, THOMPSON, MOORE, FLANK, ETZELL, SARKISIAN, CAMARILLO, YTURRALDE, and NELDBERG

EXCUSED: MEMBER THOMPSON

ALSO PRESENT: CHIBUDOM YANEZ, Management Analyst II; JEFF DOROCAK, City Attorney; and GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER, 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 Mental Health Awareness - Mental Wellness Fair; National Junior Honor Society - Feel Like Home; Northwest Career and Technical Academy Student Council - Activity Bags for Pediatric Cancer Patients; Peak Performers - Project Homeless Care Packages (HCP); Rockin' Rams - Rock the School 24; STEM Days - STEM Days: Robotics, Bricks & Kicks; The Allsparks - Brick-a-Thon: Where Imagination Takes the Lead; The Just One Project - New Student Welcome Baskets & Youth Resource Guide; Youth Helping Youth - Making drawstring backpacks for homeless youth; Magical Moment Makers - Serving Our Schools [NOTE: Presenters listed above that do not appear during this meeting may be allowed to present at the December 11, 2023 meeting, if excused by the Board at their originally scheduled meeting.]

Minutes:

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 CHIBUDOM YANEZ, Sr. Management Analyst with any questions.

**Magical Moment Makers – Serving Our Schools:** Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, MONICA SARKISIAN, youth leader for Magical Moment Makers, said Serving Our Schools provides individualized resources and supplies for elementary schools based on their requests. She learned that teachers are underpaid and struggle to pay for classroom supplies after speaking with a teacher she knows. She said since the toolkits are individualized based on a supply list, no money will be wasted and students will benefit by having supplies they have not had access to. Four elementary schools agreed to this project, which resulted in meetings with the principals of each school to develop a supply list within budget. They will hold a group meeting to discuss a plan of action, backup solutions, how to make the bundles, and gift ideas. The next steps in the process will be to shop for the supplies, organize and create the bundles, and distribute them to two schools on each distribution day. MS. SARKISIAN requested \$325, which was different than the \$2,000 amount indicated on the PowerPoint presentation, and pledged 25 hours per member. If successful, she planned to learn from obstacles, share learned experiences, post photos and videos on social media, and become a non-profit organization.

MEMBER SIERRA asked how many students were projected to receive toolkits. MS. SARKISIAN stated that would be worked out with the principal. She said the bundles will go to the office and the school will decide which teachers will receive the resources. The Member wondered how many toolkits could be made with the requested budget. MS. SARKISIAN said they are not making individualized packages, noting they are providing to the schools, who will distribute supplies to the teachers based on their needs.

MEMBER CAMARILLO questioned how the four schools were selected. MS. SARKISIAN said it was based on staff at schools within city limits that they were familiar with, noting that they reached out to more schools, but they did not respond in time.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ wondered what MS. SARKISIAN learned from previous years that made this year better. MS. SARKISIAN said she gained interest in working with children during last year's project, and she wanted to impact teachers to help the students this year.

**Mental Health Awareness – Mental Wellness Fair:** G'YANNA PERRY and ARMAN IORGULESCU showcased their project using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record. Their club holds weekly mental health checkups, with 30-second presentations and offers de-stress rooms at their school to promote mental wellness. MS. PERRY referenced a quote by KATE MIDDLETON stressing the importance of children's mental health. MR. IORGULESCU stated that nine out of 10 teenagers struggle with mental health issues, noting that their school has 12,200 students in an academically competitive environment. MS. PERRY said the fair will raise awareness and reduce stigma regarding children's mental health by providing extra resources such as workshops and presentations held by trained professionals. These workshops will be open to those who wish to share their personal mental health experiences as well. The Mental Wellness Fair will be held on April 4th from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Advanced Technologies Academy. The fair will utilize 70 clubs from their school and 28 leadership committee members will volunteer. Interactive activities, restorative justice circles, and keynote speakers from non-profit organizations will be featured at the event. They requested \$2,000 for food and catering, de-stress tools, socialization supplies, and booths for other student organizations to participate. They will provide a fundraising opportunity at the fair and encourage students to represent their club. They planned to use social media for marketing and to get the proper amount of food and de-stress tools ordered.

MEMBER ETZELL remarked mental health does not discriminate, and he appreciated the event they were having for the community. He offered to connect MS. PERRY and MR. IORGULESCU to a local non-profit that deals with mental health awareness.

MEMBER WILLIAMS believed the community needs these trainings and outlets, and he asserted it was awesome they were providing this fair to students at their school.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ asked if attendees are able to join the club after the event, noting that most clubs require a fee at the beginning of the year then close off the club. MS. PERRY responded their club collects a \$40 fee and is open to everyone.

MEMBER SIERRA wondered if they completed any projects similar to this in the past. MS. PERRY claimed she enjoyed holding some non-profit events and wanted to bring that passion to their school.

**National Junior Honor Society – Feels Like Home:** CHLOE WATSON, SCOUT BECK, JUSTICE LINCOLN, SOPHIA FIELDS, and REEGAN MITCHELL introduced themselves as eighth graders from Becker Middle School and utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to present their project. Their project consists of making care packages, hygiene bags, and Pillow Friends for teens and children that arrive at Shade Tree, a shelter that offers services to homeless and abused women and victims of domestic violence. Each care package and hygiene bag will include a toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, lip balm, backpacks, deodorant, socks, and underwear. They will also need fabric and stuffing for Pillow Friends, which help comfort displaced children. They requested \$1,996.11 and expect donations from their school and NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) supervisor. Extra money would go towards creating more Pillow Friends. Each of their 31 members pledged 30 service hours and will create posters, post on their school news and social media, and tell friends and family to seek donations.

MEMBER SIERRA praised their presentation skills and asked how many people they aim to help with this project. MS. LINCOLN said they were unaware of how many people are at Shade Tree, noting they were aiming to support the children and teens at the shelter.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ clarified with MS. WATSON that any extra care packages would be left with Shade Tree to be distributed to incoming children and teens.

**Peak Performers – Project Homeless Care Packages (HCP):** CHRISTOPHER IPINA, GERARDO PEREZ, and MATTHEW MENENDEZ shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to seek grant funding to create care packages for the East Las Vegas homeless community. Each care package would include a backpack containing hygiene products, such as a hat, blanket, pillow, water bottle, socks, and non-perishable foods. They requested over \$1,000 to support at least 20 homeless individuals in their community at \$50 per person and pledged 29 volunteer hours. They were also willing to expand the project to family and friends for additional help and offered to hold a fundraiser event if they do not receive the full amount requested. They will advertise through social media, school grounds, and other platforms.

MEMBER SARKISIAN commended them for the time spent on this project and asked how they became passionate about this topic. MR. MENENDEZ said they live in an area where they see homeless people every day and they wanted to make a change in their community.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ wondered who would receive the care packages and MR. MENENDEZ advised they know where the homeless reside in East Las Vegas after seeing them every day. The Chair appreciated that feminine hygiene products were included in the care packages

MEMBER FAJARDO asked them to come back next year and explain how they overcame any hurdles they encountered during this project. MR. IPINA explained the importance of showing the homeless community there are people that care and want to see them get better.

MEMBER ETZELL questioned what they would do with additional funding, to which MR. MENENDEZ explained that extra funding would go towards higher quality care packages, such as a larger backpack to include more supplies.

MEMBER YTURRALDE expressed concern for their safety when dealing with the homeless population and asked how they plan to coordinate the distribution of the backpacks. MR. MENENDEZ indicated they would take a cautionary approach by traveling in a group with at least one parent and two members to distribute the backpacks.

MEMBER PARKER offered to connect them to their local policing unit to provide supervision.

**Northwest Career and Technical Activity Student Council – Activity Bags for Pediatric Cancer**

**Patients:** ROCHELLE K-AHWIRENG utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to showcase her project. MS. K-AHWIRENG said she is the Vice President of the student body that facilitates community service activities at her school. This was her organization's second time applying for the grant and the objective of the project is to create 200 activity bags for children with cancer. Each activity bag would consist of a reusable backpack containing coloring, activity, and reading books, as well as a Lego set, fidget toy, Fight Like a Kid sticker, and a personal letter written by her fellow student council members. The estimated cost for the 200 activity bags is about \$1,500 with anticipation that enough books would be donated at her school's book drive to provide one additional reading book per bag. MS. K-AHWIRENG noted that there are two pack options: a cognitive pack and a creative pack. The cognitive pack includes an infinity cube, puzzles, and magnetic building blocks. The creative pack includes a game controller fidget toy, Play-Doh, and story prompts. She pledged 136 volunteer hours to plan, order supplies, write personal letters and story prompts, organize materials, and create the care packages. MS. K-AHWIRENG explained their school's student council would assemble the packages with the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation's help in distributing the packages.

MEMBER SIERRA was interested to know what led MS. K-AHWIRENG to helping pediatric cancer patients. MS. K-AHWIRENG said the growth rate of pediatric cancer patients in the past few years is heartbreaking. She said since pediatric cancer patients do not get to experience the connections associated with going to school, she geared the bags towards five to eight year olds because they need the creativity and cognitive skills the bags provide. MEMBER SIERRA commended MS. K-AHWIRENG for this project.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ said the presentation was beautiful and for an amazing cause.

**Rockin' Rams – Rock The School 24:** Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, JUAN SILLAS, ALEXIA OSOIRO, JONELLE WILMORE, JOHNATHAN HERNANDEZ, AMELIA CARRADINE, MICHAEL HIGUERA, DESTINY STOVALL, and EVOLETH SANCHEZ presented their project to paint students' feelings and memories onto rocks in their school's rock garden. The goal of this project is for the children to paint stories on the rocks so when they are older, they can look back on their childhood memories. The budget they have established is \$200 for acrylic paint, \$200 for acrylic paint pens, \$500 for paint brushes, \$100 for sealing spray, \$60 for bed liners, \$340 for gardening tools, and \$600 for the rocks, totaling \$2,000. They plan to hold two meetings for organization and one meeting to make any changes to their projected timeline, starting on February 6th. A separate meeting would be held to learn how to paint the rocks from their art teacher so they can teach others. Students and families will be invited to paint their rocks on March 11th where pictures will be taken and uploaded to their school's yearbook and Facebook page.

MEMBER CAMARILLO asked what they would do with extra funding, and the group declared the excess funds would be saved and put towards doing the project next year.

MEMBER YTURRALDE thanked them for appearing and believed the legacy the project would leave was an awesome idea.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ asked where the rock art will go in their school. The group said they were unsure of where it will be, but confirmed the art will be located somewhere in the school.

**The Allsparks – Brick-a-Thon: Where Imagination Takes the Lead:** Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, VIKTOR HILL, youth leader for The Allsparks, indicated that he and his brother, CALVIN HILL, are applying for the grant for the first time. The Allsparks were created in 2022 and they are a FIRST LEGO League Explore community team which is for ages six to 10. MR. HILL noted that last season at the Thomas & Mack Center, The Allsparks received the Coding and Challenge Solution award at the Las Vegas Regional Rally for their presentation. He explained that the Brick-a-Thon is a LEGO building and coding event that will be held at the Summerlin Library on April 27th and May 4th. There will be 84 total participants and each day will have two sessions to comply with the library's maximum room occupancy of 25 people per room. MR. HILL wanted others to bond and create lasting memories with LEGO building and added that it will also improve creativity, fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and critical thinking. They will hold monthly team meetings to advertise the Brick-a-Thon and prepare for the event, which includes printing out feedback forms and organizing LEGO materials, supplies, and souvenirs for participants. He said they will work

together to share ideas, carry out tasks, and adults will pick up supplies and provide transportation. He attested that a grant match of their volunteer hours is volleyed at \$5,704 and Summerlin Library's donated time is valued at \$240 along with a donation of hand sanitizers, wipes, and tissues valued at \$50. He requested \$2,000 for a LEGO SPIKE Prime set, LEGO SPIKE Prime Expansion set, tablet and bumper case, LEGO base plates and pieces, advertising, and supplies. If funding is available, he requested an additional \$984 for another LEGO SPIKE Prime Set, LEGO SPIKE Prime Expansion Set, LEGO tablet and bumper case so more people can code, and spare LEGO pieces if any get lost. The event will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and they will share highlights of the event online and with the library. MR. HILL proposed that after the project is finished, the LEGO materials could be reused to hold one-day projects with the help of his family. He concluded this project will promote inclusion, interaction, and foster creativity.

MEMBER PARKER said MR. HILL did an awesome job and the presentation was amazing.

MEMBER FAJARDO shared the same sentiment and noted that MR. HILL is very detailed in his work. She wished to hear about how he overcame hurdles they encountered when he comes back next year.

MEMBER SIERRA asked if he could serve more children if he received the extra funding to purchase additional items. MR. HILL clarified the purchase of additional supplies would only allow more of the existing participants to code.

MEMBER YTURRALDE said it was impressive for him to work with his brother and encouraged him to bring more students along to be inspired and become a leader like him.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ asked him what inspired him to do this project. MR. HILL stated he wants other people in the community to share the joy he experiences when playing with LEGO.

**STEM Days – STEM Days: Robotics, Bricks, & Kicks:** CRUZ CARPINETA explained that he learned about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through his parents, education, and learning experiences which taught him how to learn in different ways and be more creative. He noted that the Department of Defense reported that 80 percent of jobs will require STEM skills over the next decade. This year, they reached 85 kids at Ollie Detwiler Elementary School and learned to use less complicated LEGO kits for the upcoming events during this year's National Robotics Week from April 6th to April 13th. With the help of five to seven volunteers and donations from Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and UNLV (University of Nevada Las Vegas) Engineering Department, they plan to help schools in the Historic Westside. MR. CARPINETA requested \$2,000 to purchase materials, educational products, and LEGOS. Further, he distributed miniature versions of what will be given to the children and said that almost all great things in history came from creativity and teamwork.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ asked what he learned from last year that helped him plan this year's events. MR. CARPINETA said he learned which LEGO sets and materials to purchase this year.

MEMBER SARKISIAN asked how he came up with this idea. MR. CARPINETA stated he wants to help the students of Historic Westside.

MEMBER YTURRALDE said it was awesome that he partnered with the UNLV Engineering Department and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

MEMBER PARKER asked MR. CARPINETA what his favorite part was of STEM is, to which he said building hands-on projects.

MEMBER JOHNSON wondered what MR. CARPINETA would do with extra funding. MR. CARPINETA said he would like to use extra funding to include more kids in the events.

MEMBER SIERRA said the presentation was great and asked how many students were expected to participate. MR. CARPINETA said about 85 students.

**The Just One Project – New Student Welcome Baskets and Youth Resource Guide:** Using a PowerPoint

presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, ONI BOULWARE, Student Team Leader, reported that the Just One Project is the largest food distribution organization in Southern Nevada that connects people to resources such as housing and healthcare. MS. BOULWARE said her brother, KAI BOULWARE, volunteers with her regularly at Just One Project food pop-up events on the weekends. The Just One Project has a Leadership Academy that is a free, 90-day program for young adults that are disconnected from school or employment and Camp Just One, a week-long summer camp session for kids going into grades six through 12. She noted that they are working with participants and graduates of the Leadership Academy to make, collect, and deliver new student welcome baskets.

MS. BOULWARE covered the two components of the project, beginning with the proposal to create new student welcome baskets for immigrant students and their families. She learned that most CCSD (Clark County School District) schools receive about 30 to 40 new students, many of which come from other countries and do not know how to reach community resources. She explained that the CCSD Family Engagement Centers provide parents with a bag of information about what classes are offered at the center. She wished to add more to the welcome baskets that will contain information of emergency phone numbers, healthcare and utility details, energy assistance programs, and adult education information such as where to get a library card. Additionally, they will provide information on where to find food and job opportunities, as well as methods to connect with the Just One Project and two English books so the parent and student can practice English. She showcased an example of the basket and believed they will help new students and their families connect to resources and make them feel welcome to the Las Vegas community.

MS. BOULWARE detailed the second component of the project which included the completion, printing, and distribution of a new Southern Nevada Youth Resource Guide. She worked on a project that assisted homeless youth a few years prior and discovered the difficulty of finding resources to help them. This motivated her to create a youth resource pocket guide that helps youth identify where to find housing, food, and healthcare resources. She indicated that she collected information on 40 different organizations and services, and Project REAL agreed to help with graphic design and publish 5,000 copies once the guide is finished. Further, she stated that the pocket-sized resource guide will be in each new student welcome basket and can be used by non-profit organizations.

MS. BOULWARE requested \$2,000 and anticipated to receive an additional \$2,000 in donations from various community members and businesses. She said they will spend \$1,000 for a graphic designer and \$500 for the printing of the resource guides. She clarified that Project REAL will also provide funds to help with printing costs. Additionally, she said \$500 will be spent to purchase new student welcome baskets, noting that they will be prioritizing the distribution of the welcome baskets to immigrant families and schools that have a Just One Project program or activity. MS. BOULWARE added that they are inviting students from different school's National Junior Honor Societies to volunteer. In conclusion, she believed that the project would have a large impact on the community and felt that this is one of the few projects that are designed to assist immigrant families.

MEMBER SIERRA felt that this project was necessary and noted that in the few years he has been on the board, he has not heard a project like hers. He said that when he first came to Las Vegas to attend middle school, he saw immigrant families that could have used what MS. BOULWARE proposed. The Member wondered how many students and families this would aid. She stated that her goal was to make 100 baskets and offered that she would make more with extra funding.

MEMBER YTURRALDE learned of using AI (artificial intelligence) for graphic design after working with a homeless community and indicated that MS. BOULWARE could do the same to reduce spending for a graphic designer.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ said the project was amazing and asked if the resources come in languages other than English. MS. BOULWARE reported that the resource guide was being printed in English and Spanish, and other languages were being worked on.

**Youth Helping Youth – Making Drawstring Backpacks for Homeless Youth:** Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, ROXY JONES appeared to present her project and noted that her sister SKAI JONES could not attend. MS. JONES indicated this will be their second time doing

the project, with the focus of providing 100 drawstring bags filled with supplies to homeless youth. She reported that 1,295 unaccompanied youth are in Southern Nevada, primarily in Las Vegas. Twelve percent of the United States' homeless youth population are in Nevada, and the region encompassing Las Vegas has the second highest rate of unsheltered unaccompanied youth in the nation. She noted that most of the volunteers from the year prior will help again and they will spread the news to find more volunteers to make the process easier. She added that last year they had 30 volunteers, comprised of mostly youth, and the adults were in charge of sewing the bags. She explained that the youth volunteers will prep the materials and cut fabrics while holding sewing events located at Sew Yeah Quilting to ensure the bags are high quality. They are also working with the LDS (Latter-day Saint) Church to receive more donated essential care packages and hoped that more people would donate to the project this year. She indicated that they would like to include headphones in the bags this year, noting that they will be providing clothing, food, vitamins, and toiletries to the bags, in addition to printouts of available resources, small games, books, and cards with words of encouragement written by other youth. The budget for last year's project was \$1,950 and this year's project budget is \$2,000. Finally, they will distribute the bags, ask friends to share the event through social media, and encourage school participation to raise awareness for the project.

MEMBER FAJARDO said this was a beautiful idea and appreciated seeing the photos of the previous project. The Member wanted to know what MS. JONES learned from last year. She learned that people in the community will come together to support people in need.

MEMBER JOHNSON loved her idea and thought it was important to bring awareness to teens that need support.

MEMBER CAMARILLO asked where she was going to be giving the bags to the homeless and MS. JONES stated Project 150 will distribute them.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ wondered how many homeless she planned on reaching. MS. JONES said they hope to help at least 100 youth, noting that if they received extra funding, they would make more bags. She clarified that they spoke with the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, but since they do not have a station within city limits, they chose Project 150 because they have the infrastructure in place to assist and know how to utilize resources.

MEMBER SARKISIAN asked why she chose to do this project. MS. JONES explained that she performed at a concert with her sister and tried to find a charity to donate the proceeds of the concert to. In searching for a charity, she said they found the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth and were motivated to create this project after seeing the statistics she mentioned in her presentation.

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: 3:39 p.m. to 4:17 p.m., 4:27 p.m. to 4:35 p.m., 4:46 p.m. to 4:51 p.m., 4:52 p.m. to 4:58 p.m., 5:29 p.m. to 6:05 p.m., 6:32 p.m. to 6:38 p.m., 6:47 p.m. to 6:48 p.m., and was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, Deputy City Clerk

for   
Chibudom Yanez, Management Analyst II

Minutes Prepared by:  
Nick Crawford, 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