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## CITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEET

TOPIC: YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: 9/16/2020

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### **BACKGROUND**

The Youth Council has operated through the City Charter for several years, originally started as a way to incorporate youth participation in local government. Chapter 2.70 in our City Code establishes the Youth Council.

- 2.70.010 ESTABLISHED: There is hereby established St. Helens youth council, hereinafter "SHYC." The purpose of the SHYC is to actively advise the city council with thoughtful recommendations on issues concerning youth and to assist city staff in considering youth perspectives in its planning efforts. The SHYC shall hold periodic meetings with the mayor and/or city council and will attend city council and city board and commission meetings when youth issues are on the agenda. SHYC shall create task forces as needed. (Ord. 3185 § 1, 2015)
- 2.70.020 MEMBERSHIP: The SHYC shall be composed of 15 members, and five to 10 alternate members between the grades six through 12, from St. Helens High School, the St. Helens Middle School, St. Helens Alternative School and home schooling programs, with the majority of the members from St. Helens High School. City council shall appoint members to serve one-year terms. The existing members can continue to serve on the SHYC for two years or more if they so desire. The SHYC shall have adult nonvoting advisors. The advisors may be appointed from the city council members, school staff or may be community volunteers. (Ord. 3185 § 2, 2015)
- 2.70.030 MEETINGS: The SHYC shall meet at least one time per month. All members shall serve on at least one task force and cannot miss more than four unexcused meetings in a one-year period. The SHYC shall choose its own officers and shall adopt rules of procedure for the proper conduct of its business. (Ord. 3185 § 3, 2015)
- 2.70.040 COMPENSATION: No member of the SHYC shall receive compensation for service, but members of the SHYC may be reimbursed necessary expenses which are approved in advance by the city council. (Ord. 3185 § 4, 2015)

### **CURRENT CITY APPROACH**

Currently, the Youth Council has been focused on projects around the community to become more involved with action and needs throughout the City. Currently, even before COVID, meetings have been held in Council Chambers, but have more recently been held at the Recreation Center or outdoors with COVID concerns. The Youth Council does not have any dedicated staff appointed to the commission at this current time. There have been official meetings, however no official agendas or meeting minutes have been completed that are technically required as it being a formal commission by municipal code.

We would like to propose to the City Council, removing officially the Youth Council as a commission from the Municipal Code. Much like was done in the past of the Tourism Committee, the process would involve an amendment to remove

chapter 2.70 from the Municipal Code through a couple series of public notices and meetings, which would also allow the public to weigh in on any opinion of this matter.

So, what does this new title/organization mean?

- The Youth Advisory Committee will work directly with Recreation to plan, promote, and implement community activities. The YAC will help with policies and programs with the recreation program and then be involved in other parts of the boards and council. Recreation Manager, Shanna Duggan, would help lead the group for the future and be the support staff for this group.
- It is an opportunity to define immediate and long-term needs in the community and attempt to meet those needs throughout the school year.
- YAC will help plan sports leagues, volunteer opportunities, planning sessions for recreational events/activities within St. Helens.
- YAC would be open to students living in the St. Helens School District boundaries.
- The YAC can also facilitate other teen opportunities that are not as structured that way teens can pick what fits them best and how to be involved throughout the year.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

City Councilor Ginny Carlson and city staff are recommending this change to the City Council.

If approved, City staff would move forward with removing Chapter 2.70.010 through 2.70.040 from the Municipal Code. Youth Council would then transition into the new Youth Advisory Committee.