

STUDY SESSION

Summer Camp Update

CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, March 11 2024
6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Study Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, March 11, 2024, Mayor Terry Crow, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

In addition to the Mayor, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember Aleta Klein
Councilmember Steven McMahon
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales; (*excused*)
Councilmember Dennis Fuller
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson; (*excused*)

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr., and Interim Director of Public Works & Recreation, Darin Girdler.

2. CHANGES TO THE REGULAR AGENDA

Councilmember Clay asked that Items K (1); Underwriter Engagement Letter for potential issuance of Certificates of Participation (COPS), and K (2); Rating Study for Certificates of Participation, be moved from the Consent Agenda to the City Manager's Report.

3. SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

Mr. Rose stated this update is being provided to allow Council with an opportunity to provide input and guidance on the City's future Summer Camp Program. And with the assistance of the School District and Washington University, something he would like to incorporate into the program is a tutoring component. So tonight, Mr. Girdler has been asked to provide Council with information on the previous camp's structure and his objectives moving forward.

Mr. Girdler noted that due to staffing and facility issues the City will be unable to conduct Summer Camp this year.

Summer Camp 2019

Eight weekly themes from June through July.

- Welcome to Camp
- Salute to our Heroes
- Blinded me With Science
- Time Travelers
- Welcome to the Jungle
- Body Movin'
- Movie Mania
- So Long Summer

Fees

1st through 6th Grade

- Resident: \$60.00
- Non-Resident: \$80.00

7th through 8th Grade

- Resident: \$70.00
- Non-Resident: \$92.00

Camp B4 or After

- Resident: \$24.00
- Non-Resident: \$31.00

Camp B4 or After

- Resident: \$48.00
- Non-Resident: \$62.00

Brochure

Summer Youth Recreation Programs
Children ages 6-12 who do not have had a summer fun-in-the-sun week program.

Dates: June 3 - July 26
NO CAMP JULY 4TH
Days: Monday - Friday
Times: 9am - 5pm
Location: Central Commons, CampCom, 770 Ohio
Participants: Max: 50/Max: 50

Basic Program Information
Summer Youth Recreation Program activities include: water polo, swimming, recreational sports, games, and crafts, along with water and much more. Field trips are also part of the program and each site will take several age appropriate trips to local and/or regional destinations. The field trips for and programs to date are both included in your registration.

Teen Activities Program
Teen Activities Program (TAPS) for children ages 13-18 provides opportunities to participate in positive recreational activities, while interacting with peers and positive role models. Activities include: water polo and other recreational sports, games, swimming, recreational games, and much more. Field trips are also part of the program and the site will take several age appropriate trips to local and/or regional destinations.

The TAPS program will be held at:
Central Commons (CampCom), 770 Ohio

Dates: June 3 - July 26
NO CAMP JULY 4TH
Days: Monday - Friday
Times: 9am - 5pm
Participants: Max: 20/Max: 20

Fees per week: 8 weeks
Resident: \$50/Non-Resident: \$70
Fees per week: 1 week
Resident: \$10/Non-Resident: \$15

Camp B4 and After
Participants ages 13-18, grades who have enrolled in Central Commons and Teen Activities program per participation activities include arts and crafts, games, and more. Breakfast and afternoon snack provided.

The TAPS program will be held at:
Central Commons (CampCom), 770 Ohio

Dates: Monday - Friday
June 3 - July 26
NO PROGRAM JULY 4TH
Times: 7:30 - 9am and 5 - 5:30pm
Participants: Max: 20/Max: 20

Fees per child: 8 weeks
Resident: \$40/Non-Resident: \$60
Fees per child: 1 week
Resident: \$8/Non-Resident: \$12

Camp B4 or Camp After
Times: 7:30 - 9am and 5 - 5:30pm

Fees per child: 8 weeks
Resident: \$40/Non-Resident: \$60
Fees per child: 1 week
Resident: \$8/Non-Resident: \$12

Parent/participant Orientation Session
An informational meeting will be held prior to the first day of camp so the parents and participants an opportunity to meet with staff, ask questions and tour the facility.

Date: Wednesday, May 29
Location: CampCom, 770 Ohio
Time: 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Question and Answer session begins at 6 pm

Weekly Activities

- Lunch
- Swimming
- Field Trips
- Games
- Crafts

Activity Bottom Line Report - 2019

Description	Enrolled	Total Fees	
TAPS	54	\$3,043.00	8-week period
Day Camp	308	\$14,665.00	8-week period
Camp B4 & After	122	\$1,890.00	8-week period
Camp B4 & After	9	\$272.00	8-week period
Camp After	31	\$666.75	4-week period

The Future of Summer Camp

Mr. Girdler stated staff is excited about 2025 when the facility is fully up and running. He stated the hope is that the Department will be able to collaborate with the school and other potential partners, to enhance the curriculum and expand the program's educational component.

Mr. Rose then asked Council for directions on the following:

1. Initiating a conversation with the School District and Washington University to examine this program and make recommendations, and
2. Allowing individuals and students participating in tutoring services to have free access to the pool and Centennial Commons

Councilmember Clay stated he is excited to hear that this program is coming back and that it will include collaborations with the School District and Washington University. He stated while he does not know if the District was running its summer program in 2019, it has been an advent for the last three years. So, he would think that part of those conversations should explore whether they intend to continue this program, and if so, how their program; which is purely academic, could mesh with ours. Councilmember Clay stated although he would be curious about the costs associated with both the camp and inventive program, he would like to see staff proceed with these conversations.

Councilmember Fuller asked if any consideration had been given to a scholarship fund for residents? Mr. Rose stated while he thinks that would be a good idea, he is unaware of whether such a fund existed in the past. However, staff can conduct some research to find out the answer.

Councilmember Fuller stated if there are no limitations on bringing in another university, he would be happy to work with staff to discuss this with the Education or Special Ed Departments at St. Louis University, who are always looking for outreach opportunities. He stated a lot of the students are willing to volunteer because they need curriculum hours, and this kind of program is ripe for that sort of thing.

Councilmember McMahon stated on average, the 2019 camp only had about 45 campers a week when there seem to be spots for over 150 kids per week. Going forward, are you looking to have enough capacity and staffing to service 150 kids? Mr. Rose stated initially, the plan is to conduct a pilot program to determine how much interest there is. That will probably be limited to 50 students, and if it is successful, expanded the following year.

Councilmember McMahon stated he thinks the District's program; which now consists of field trips and more engaging activities runs from June to the 4th of July. So, if you decide to add the tutoring component consideration will have to be given to where that staff will come from. You might find out that the teachers who volunteered for the District's program need that time between July and August to get ready for the next academic year or simply want a break.

Councilmember Klein asked if the tutoring classes would be open to kids outside of the camp program? Mr. Rose stated initially it will be limited to students participating in the Summer Camp, but the hope is that it can be expanded to everyone. He stated part of that depends on the number of teachers and students who are willing to volunteer as tutors. So, there are a number of unknowns.

Councilmember Klein stated she likes the idea of an incentive program, and at some point, it might be nice to expand it to kids outside of the summer program. However, that would probably precipitate the need for some kind of guidelines to make sure the incentive correlates with their efforts.

Mayor Crow stated his kids attended Summer Camp every year, and from his perspective there always seemed to be more than 35 kids. So, in an attempt to satisfy that perception, he has some questions that he understands staff may not have the immediate answers to, but probably need to be resolved.

Q. Has the Summer Camp attendance declined?

Q. Is there any information about the number of residents who participated in the camp?

Q. What are the enrollment numbers for the School District's Program?

Q. Can someone walk me through the options that were examined to make the determination that the City was not in the position to conduct Summer Camp this year?

Mr. Rose stated he had discussions with Mr. Girdler about whether the City had the facilities and staffing necessary to implement an effective program. And what he learned is that it was unlikely that the facilities would be available in time to conduct camp in 2024. He stated this unavailability is a result of the floods and the City's desire to be reimbursed by FEMA prior to advancing funds for the needed repairs.

Councilmember Clay stated he's also curious to know if there has been a decline, and if so, what might have precipitated it. Because while he understands that this was some time ago, Summer Camp was his first job, and at that time it was busting at the seams, with a waiting list.

Councilmember Fuller posed the following questions to Mr. Rose:

Q. Are you anticipating that staff will be volunteers rather than salaried employees?

A. No, the intent is to compensate staff. However, there will be discussions with the School District and universities to determine whether any teachers and students are willing to volunteer.

Q. Is it safe to assume that the Director of Recreation will play a significant role in this planning process?

A. Absolutely.

Mayor Crow stated while Councilmember Smotherson had to leave, he may have a few questions for staff at a later time.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked Mr. Girdler for his presentation and adjourned the Study Session at 6:20 p.m.

Kena Dean / Ir
Acting City Clerk