

**STUDY SESSION**  
**2025-2027 Work Plan (Part 2)**  
**And Summer Camp Update**  
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor  
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130  
**Monday, January 27, 2025**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At the Study Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, January 27, 2025, Mayor Terry Crow, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Councilmember Stacy Clay  
Councilmember John Tieman  
Councilmember Steven McMahon  
Councilmember Dennis Fuller  
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr.; Director of Parks & Recreation, Darin Girdler, and Deputy Director of Recreation, Lynda Euell-Taylor.

**2. CHANGES TO REGULAR AGENDA**

None

**3. 2025-2027 WORK PLAN (PART 2)**

Mr. Rose stated during the January 13th Study Session he presented the Proposed Work Plan for 2025-2027. Tonight, he would like to add one project to the Economic Development section of the Proposed Plan. This project is to allow staff to examine the use of the LCRA for the acquisition of hazardous and/or abandoned properties. It would be carried out by the new Community Development Department and the individual hired to be the 3rd Ward Revitalization Coordinator, which Council recently approved.

Councilmember Smotherson stated he was glad to hear about this addition and wanted to make sure he had a clear understanding. Will the individual hired to fill the 3rd Ward Coordinator's position be able to utilize the power of the LCRA in their position? Rose stated the abandoned or hazardous housing stock they will be looking at falls under the umbrella of the LCRA, so the first thing he has to do is determine what would be an effective use of the LCRA for acquiring these properties. The idea is to place the properties up for bid and allow the private sector to place them back on the market. But that is going to require staff to develop a program for Council to evaluate and provide direction.

Councilmember Clay stated he appreciates the concept of leveraging the resources of the LCRA to address this vacancy issue and the leadership of this particular prong of the plan falling under the 3rd Ward Revitalization Coordinator; in that a vast majority of the vacancies are in the 3rd Ward. But some homes in the 2nd Ward also need to be addressed. Being mindful of the segregation of funds; particularly in the 3rd Ward, do you have a vision for how these other vacant properties would be handled? Mr. Rose stated initially that a study would be conducted by the Revitalization Coordinator to examine the use. Based on the results of that study, staff would put together an inventory that included the entire City. The cost for that employee would be shared on a percentage basis; the number of houses in the 3rd Ward versus the remainder of houses throughout the City.

Mr. Rose stated he intends to move forward with placing this item on Council's Regular Agenda for the final meeting in February.

**4. SUMMER CAMP UPDATE**

Mr. Rose stated an update on the Summer Camp Program will be provided by Mr. Girdler.

Mr. Girdler stated with him tonight is Deputy Director Lynda Euell-Taylor.

A few months ago, Council was presented with a basic outline of the program, and tonight they are presenting an example of what the full eight weeks would consist of. Staff is referring to it as their Summer Enrichment Program because it is a lot more than a daycare.

**8 Week "CentCom University"**

9:00 AM – 3:00

Proposed Fees: Resident-\$700/child

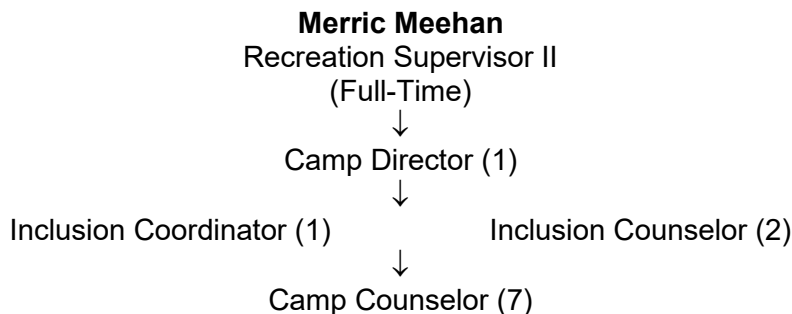
**Criteria**

- Participants: ages 5-12
- First come, first serve. Waitlist will be available at no cost
- Max: 50/week
- Ratio 1:6 ages 5-6; 1:10 ages 7-10; 1:15 ages 11-12
- Ages 5-6: Must have completed Kindergarten at the end of the 24/25 school year; Must be potty trained
- Program areas:
  - 5-6: Cub Care
  - 7-8, 9-10: Century Rooms 1 & 2 11-12: Boardroom
- Activity areas: Indoor Soccer Facility, Gymnasium, Heman Athletic Fields, Heman Tennis Courts, Heman Picnic Pavilion, Ruth Park Golf Course, etc.

**Dates**

- June 9-13
- June 16-20 (No camp Thursday Juneteenth)
- June 23-27
- June 30 – July 3 (No camp Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>)
- July 7-11
- July 14-18
- July 21-25
- July 28 – August 1
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**"CentCom University" Organizational Chart**



### **"CentCom University" Weekly Theme Ideas**

- Horticultural Week – All about plants and the earth...
- STEM Week – Science, Technology, Engineering, Math
- Around the World – learn about different countries, foods, languages...
- Sports Week – How to keep scores in different sports, how to play the sport, history of sports...
- Life Week – counting, cooking, and applying for jobs...
- Creative/Fine Arts – painting techniques, Lego creations, photography...
- Bodies In Motion – Zumba, yoga, how different muscles are used...
- MunicIPALS – what makes a city work and its various departments...

### **"CentCom University" Field Trip Friday Ideas**

- Zoo - Free
- Bowling – Tropicana Lanes - \$15.00/kid with shoes for 3 hours
- Trampoline Park – Sky Zone Shrewsbury (Contacted)
- Water Park – Aqua port (Contacted)
- St. Louis Aquarium (Contacted)
- Science Center - Self-guided visits are free, option to do programs for an additional cost if interested
- City Museum – Pricing available in early Dec 2024 for 2025 rates.
- Magic House – Field trip pricing available after Jan 1, 2025
- History Museum – Free, just need to fill out a questionnaire
- Botanical Gardens – (Contacted)

✚ *Recreational activities are included in each Sample Week.*

### **Sample Week 1 - STEM Week – Science Center**

- Staff will be meeting tomorrow with St. Louis University to talk to them about assisting them with this program

### **Sample Week 2 – Horticultural Week– Botanical Gardens**

- Make your own terrarium, learn about climate and the environment, and garden sun catchers.
- Make seed bombs, indoor fairy garden crafts, ladybug hotel crafts, recycled bottle bird feeders
- Make a pond in a pot; hanging tin can planters

### **Sample Week 3 – Around the World Week – Magic House**

- The Magic House because sometimes they have a cultural theme
- Kids make their own passports – as we learn about different countries kids mark them off throughout the week. Learn the history of North America/South America
- Print a map or use a globe, show where different countries are, and try to guess how long it would take to fly to that country
- Learn about Australia/Antarctica, Asia, and Africa

### **Sample Week 4 – Bodies in Motion Week – Sky Zone**

- Zumba history, then kids get to do Zumba; Yoga history, then kids get to do yoga
- Pilates history, then kids get to do Pilates; Tai Chi history, then kids get to do tai chi

### **Sample Week 5 – Creative/Fine Arts Week – Art Museum**

- Learn about photography, photography scavenger hunt outside with the kids
- Tie Dye t-shirts

**Sample Week 6 – Life Week – City Museum**

- Introduce lion bucks and teach kids budgeting. Check vs. Cash vs. Cards. How do you write a check?
- What do you want to be when you grow up? What can the kids tell us about what their dream career is? What can we teach them? Kids draw their careers and things associated with it
- Cooking, basic how-to; Lion Bucks store. Kids can purchase items with lion bucks they've learned about and budgeted for (candy, toys, trinkets, etc)

**Sample Week 7 – Gaming with Boards/Sports Week – Bowling**

- How to keep scores/history: golf, tennis, basketball, soccer, football, etc
- Pickleball instruction and play
- Bus or walk to the golf course
- Tour of Bush Stadium
- Different board game stations are set up, kids can play what they want and learn the basics of these games (Not checkers/chess/cards). Scrabble, Sorry, Battleship, etc

**Sample Week 8 – MunicIPALS – Field Trip is going to be in-house**

- Police department talk – a fun training activity with the kids
- Fire department talk – a fun training activity with the kids
- Human Resources talk – activity
- City Manager or Mayor talk – activity
- Public works or Planning and development talk – activity
- Courts or finance talk - activity

**Estimated Budget - "CentCom University" - Summer 2025**

Program 53 - Centennial Commons						
Account 5340 - Salaries-Part Time & Temp						
01-50-53_5340	Summer Camp Personnel		1.0000	75,000.00	<u>75,000.00</u>	
		Account 5380 - Overtime Totals	Transactions	1		\$75,000.00
Account 6010 - Professional Services						
01-50-53_6010	Summer Youth Recreation Program - Bus Service*		1.0000	6,000.00	<u>6,000.00</u>	
01-50-53_6010	Summer Youth Recreation Program - Field Trips**		1.0000	8,000.00	<u>8,000.00</u>	
		Account 6010 - Professional Services Totals	Transactions	2		\$14,000.00
Account 6040 - Events & Receptions						
01-50-53_6040	Summer Youth Recreation Program - End of Summer Event		1.0000	5,100.00	<u>5,100.00</u>	
		Account 6040 - Events & Receptions Totals	Transactions	1		\$5,100.00
Account 6060 - Instructors & Sports Officials						
01-50-53_6060	Educational Programs/Fitness & Sports Instructors***		1.0000	7,000.00	<u>7,000.00</u>	
		Account 6060 - Instructors & Sports Officials Totals	Transactions	1		\$7,000.00
Account 6650 - Memberships & Certifications						
01-50-53_6650	Metro Day Camp Membership		1.0000	150.00	<u>150.00</u>	
		Account 6650 - Memberships & Certifications Totals	Transactions	1		\$150.00
Account 7330 - Food						
01-50-53_7330	Summer Youth Recreation Program - Participant Snacks		1.0000	2,500.00	<u>2,500.00</u>	
01-50-53_7330	Participant Pop-Up		1.0000	500.00	<u>500.00</u>	
01-50-53_7330	Staff Training		1.0000	1,000.00	<u>1,000.00</u>	
		Account 7330 - Food Totals	Transactions	3		\$4,000.00
Account 7690 - Recreational Supplies						
01-50-53_7690	Program Creative Arts-Sports Equipment/Supplies		1.0000	10,000.00	<u>10,000.00</u>	
		Account 7690 - Recreational Supplies Totals	Transactions	1		\$10,000.00
Account 7770 - Uniforms & Safety Gear						
01-50-53_7770	Participant/Staff Wearing Apparel		1.0000	4,350.00	<u>4,350.00</u>	
		Account 7770 - Uniforms & Safety Gear Totals	Transactions	1		\$4,350.00
Account 7850 - Awards & Gifts						
01-50-53_7850	Program Participant Event Awards		1.0000	1,000.00	<u>1,000.00</u>	
		Account 7850 - Awards & Gifts Totals	Transactions	1		\$1,000.00
<b>Est. Total</b>						<b>\$120,600.00</b>

\*estimate cost; awaiting cost from vendors  
 \*\*estimate cost; actual figures available after January 2025  
 \*\*\*estimated cost; in discussion with groups, organizations and individuals

Mr. Rose posed the following questions to Mr. Girdler:

**Q. Has this gone through the Parks Commission for input?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Can you provide some insight into what the Commission recommended?**

A. *Rather than asking for a recommendation, staff asked if they had any objections to the program, and there were none. They thought it was a great program, and if Council is okay with it they would like to start advertising.*

**Q. What would be the best approach to take if residents want to provide input?**

A. *An email was sent out asking for input, but they could always contact the CentCom front desk.*

Councilmember Clay informed IT that the menu bar was blocking part of the presentation.

Mr. Girdler stated that the sample program could be posted on the website which would allow people to view it as a PDF.

Councilmember Clay commended Mr. Girdler and his staff for this well-thought-out program, and questioned whether scholarships were ever offered in the past? Mr. Girdler stated while scholarships are possible to implement, some consideration would have to be given as to how they would be awarded.

Councilmember Tieman agreed that this was a very impressive program. He stated literary arts have shown a real impact on literacy, so he was wondering if Fine Arts Week was only centered on visual arts at the Art Museum? Mr. Girdler stated he and his staff are open to suggestions, so they could probably add literary arts into that week.

Councilmember Fuller posed the following questions to staff:

**Q. If scholarships were offered, where would the funds be derived from?**

A. *(Mr. Rose): More than likely, the funds would come out of reserves in the General Fund.*

**Q. Will this program offer before and after-care?**

A. *(Mr. Girdler): With this being the pilot year, the concern is about the ability to hire enough staff to offer that type of service. However, if enough interest is shown this year, it's something they might do next year for an additional fee.*

Q. Will parents have the option of enrolling their kids for only one or two weeks?

A. *(Mr. Girdler): If you take the \$700 per student and divide it, it's the equivalent of \$3.00 an hour; which compared to other programs is very affordable. So, while they could break it down, at this price it would really complicate things.*

Mr. Rose stated part of the criteria when preparing this program was to keep it simple, gain knowledge and experience, and then expand it in the future.

Councilmember Smotherson stated something that has been done in the past, is to accommodate the summer school students, which he believes is only a half-day program. Has that been considered for this year? Mr. Girdler stated it is not their intention to address that this year. Summer school is four weeks so it would be a bit burdensome to accommodate them at this cost.

Councilmember McMahon stated he thinks Camp U, which is sponsored by the school district is a full-day program that runs from June 9th to July 3rd. School starts around August 9th, so there are about four weeks where folks will have to find other resources for their kids and less than two weeks with the City's summer camp. But, that's a problem that parents face every year because summer programs typically don't match up perfectly with the start of school. Perhaps, as this program moves forward staff will be able to address some of these issues, but for now, he thinks this enrichment camp provides parents with coverage for almost the whole summer at a reasonable price. So, he thinks staff has done a good job.

Councilmember McMahon asked if Council needed to take any action before Mr. Girdler and his staff could start advertising? Mr. Rose stated there may be a budget allocation needed to cover some of the costs, but that can be addressed at the February 10th meeting. So, since it appears as though there is a consensus to move forward, he thinks they can confidently start their advertising campaign.

Mayor Crow thanked Mr. Girdler and his staff for making this program much more affordable and encouraged them not to get bogged down with folks who want to tweak it this year. So, let's get this out to our citizens with a clear, cogent message.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - *(Roll call vote required)*

Motion to go into a Closed Session according to Missouri Revised Statutes 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action, or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives or attorneys.

Councilmember Tieman moved to close the Study Session and go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Fuller.

Roll Call Vote Was:

**Ayes:** Councilmember Tieman, Councilmember Smotherson, Councilmember McMahon, Councilmember Fuller, Councilmember Clay, and Mayor Crow.

**Nays:** None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and closed the Study Session at 5:58 p.m. to go into a Closed Session on the second floor. The Closed Session reconvened in an open session at 6:30 p.m.

LaRette Reese  
City Clerk, MRCC