Bristol Hub Teen Center Community Advisory Board Meeting 6pm

9/5/2019

Members in attendance: Taylor Welch, Alex Mihavics, Chuck, Becca Kodis, Dave and Carol Rosen, Francis Geier

Attendees reviewed the results of a recent Community Feedback Survey about the Hub. A total of 30 responses were collected (used SurveyMonkey) over the course of several days. The survey was advertised on Front Porch Forum.

A few of the write in comments sparked discussion about the perception of the Hub:

“Word is drugs are traded there and seems boys only” and “The building itself doesn’t look very inviting. Very dark looking inside”

These comments highlighted two area’s that the Hub can focus on-> Getting more photos of the new and brighter/cleaner Hub out to the public. It is probable that some survey takers haven’t been inside the Hub since the latest round of painting. -> Remember that most people ‘hear about’ the Hub from other people and don’t necessarily seek out new information. Therefore if the Hub can continue to build community oriented activities, it can reach more people in different demographics (age especially) who will then be more likely to spread positive word of mouth about the Hub.

Another actionable item from this discussion brought up by Dave Rosen was for the Hub teens and staff to invite the Rec. Club to host a monthly meeting at the Hub. This would again allow more people to see the interior of the building and notice updates. Furthermore, a gesture from the teens such as a thank you card to the Rec Club would go along way towards reminding the board members how important the space is to teens in the area.

Discussion shifted towards new/different program ideas that the Hub could offer to attract more teens to the space.

Program Ideas:

Parkour, more physical activities like hiking, singing, rapping, writing lyrics, something in the space during the day to occupy the space. Bike repair/maintenance workshop for community.

Hub Greenhouse:

Taylor let the group know that the Hub has received permission from the Rec Club to move forward with a green house on the rec park near the Hub Building.   
Attendees discussed size, purpose, style and location of a potential Hub greenhouse. Size: 10x20 ideally to allow for raised beds on each side with an aisle down the middle. Purpose would be to teach teens and community members about the benefits of gardening and how a greenhouse works. Style should be something impermanent and easy to manage (no glass)

Discussion on people/groups to invite to future meetings:

Bruce Nason should be on the email list for future meetings. Taylor mentioned to the attendees that she has contacted the BPD and discussed having an officer come by on a weekly basis to say hello / hang out for a minute with the teens. The goal is to get kids comfortable being around the police officers and to try to create a healthy relationship early with law enforcement. Down the line, there could be more programming as had been organized in the past (interrogate the chief).

Upcoming Events

On Saturday September 7th, Middlebury College Freshman community volunteers will be coming to the hub to help paint the skatepark.

Grant Updates

The hub is getting a grant from RISE VT to encourage the community to have an active lifestyle to combat obesity. The Hub has requested funds to purchase new helmets, bikes, art supplies and more to be used during the school year during drop in hours and for camps over the summer.

Meeting Adjourned 7:15pm