

**City of Peachtree City
Joint Meeting of the City Council
and the
Commission on Children and Youth
Saturday March 21, 1992
8:00 a.m.
Peachtree City Library (Floy Farr room)**

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by the Commission on Children and Youth Chair, Karen Davis. City Council members present were Mayor Lenox, Richard Parlontieri, Robert Brooks and Annie McMenamin. Commission members present were Bonnie Campbell, Tom Ellis, Karen Hansen-Guerrero, Skip Rickerson, and Eleanor Russey. Also present was City Manager, Jim Basinger, Commission Coordinator, Dawn Oparah, Esteem Team Chair, John Hicks and Youth Advisory Board representative, Danielle King. Also in attendance were youth from the middle schools and the high school.

Karen Davis, presented the survey results of two surveys given last June in the high school and middle school students living in Peachtree City. (Survey results attached).

Mr. Parlontieri requested that national statistics be made available to compare Peachtree City youth with national norms. He also wanted the statistics broken down by age and sex for each category.

Mrs. McMenamin was concerned about the number of youth who did not answer the questions about their personal experience with the issue or that of someone they know. She was concerned about what the silent majority was saying by their silence. A suggestion given was that some students might have felt that there might be some way to trace the answer back to the student.

Mr. Parlontieri suggested that this survey be done again this school year and work hard to assure the students that the survey is anonymous and there is no way of knowing who made what responses.

An interesting note from the survey results was that 74% of the respondents said there was a need for a peer helper program where trained peers help others with their concerns and problems. The students in attendance seemed to think that there were very few places students can go for help. For a number, their parents and the school counselor is not seen as a viable option to take their problems and concerns.

Of the students surveyed 77% said they would use a teen center from once a month to over 5 times a month. Of the respondents, 74% said they would attend monthly band nights. The survey reported that 51% of the students responding would help run the center and 53% said they would help plan activities for the center.

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Mrs. Bonnie Campbell briefly described the Teen Center that she and two other Commission members went to visit in Connecticut. She reported that the 7 year old teen center was student run and a self supported entity. It began as a grant, but now the students either raise or earn all the money needed to run the center. She mentioned that the center sponsored dances for the schools with their own DJ's and plugged the money back into the center. The students put in many hours of service to the center but did not earn a salary, the money collected went back into running the center.

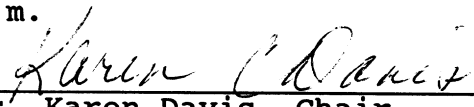
There was some discussion about why the students do not attend the Glenloch teen nights. The students felt that it was not well publicized and that other than band nights there was not much to do there, thus not being an attractive place to go on the weekends.

City Council members asked the students what got them to attend the meeting and how could they get their friends involved? Almost all the students in attendance were there because of a letter they received personally inviting them to the meeting. They said if another forum was offered they could get their friends to come. They said that generally they did not read the newspaper.

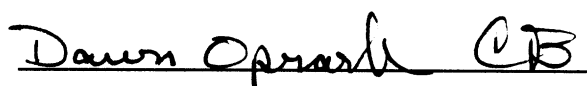
Dawn Oparah mentioned that she, along with the Recreation Department, were coming up with a summer brochure of activities available for the young people. The goal was to put a brochure in each student's hand before the end of the school year. Mr. Parlontieri suggested that instead of giving it to each student it would have a much greater impact if it was mailed to each student and that addresses could probably be obtained from the school system.

The meeting ended with City Council members applauding the efforts of the students that were present and told them that the City Council was willing to listen to them and their needs in another forum setting. However, the point was made that whatever it was that the youth wanted to propose, they would have to solicit the support and help of their peers. The council did not want to commit to another facility or any other thing without the active interest and participation of the youth who would be the target population served.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.


Mrs. Karen Davis, Chair

Attest:

 CB