



## Staff Communication

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Agenda Date: 03/27/2018

Subject:  
Littleton Next Generation Advisory Committee

Presented By: Council Member Kyle Schlachter
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### **POLICY QUESTION:**

Does city council support creation of a Next Generation Advisory Committee with the goal to provide insight on community issues and policy initiatives from the perspective of this age group?

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **Types of Youth in Government Initiatives:**

- **Authority, Board, and Commission Liaisons**  
In communities such as Englewood and Durango, there are youth liaisons appointed to each board. These are typically 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, and in the case of Englewood, are recruited with the help of the schools.
- **Youth Commissions/Committees/Councils/Panels**  
This is the most common option and typically includes a group of 7-15 students in grades 8-12. Often these groups serve solely as youth advisory committees, but many organizations allow a larger role. For example, in Centennial they partner with the court for a teen court program. In Longmont they can issue grants of up to \$500, and in Westminster they are also a service group.
- **Next Generation Commissions/Committees**  
These are typically advisory committees with young adult or millennial membership. For example, Boston and Philadelphia have a millennial council and millennial advisory committee respectively. Aspen has a next generation commission that allows participants up to age 40, and Aurora mixes participants aged 21 and over into its youth commission.
- **Coordinated Service Groups**  
Some communities coordinate service activities for youth, which may or may not be in conjunction with their youth commission.

### **Common Issues:**

Interest and attendance are often issues for these groups. The interest issue can be mitigated through partnership with schools and community organizations, as well as through marketing of the group. In addition, interest is less of an issue for millennial or next generation groups than it is for groups targeting 13-18 year-olds (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students). Among the recommendations to encourage attendance could be less frequent meetings, (i.e. monthly rather than weekly), and including an attendance requirement in the by-laws.

Other recommendations to ensure the group adheres to its mission is to keep it relatively small, have a clearly defined mission with clear parameters, and include a sunset period where continuation of the program can be re

-evaluated.

**Littleton History:**

The most recent youth in government initiative involved a partnership with Littleton Public Schools (LPS) for a Youth in Government Day Scholarship Event. This required students to take a day out of school and significant time investment from staff to coordinate and participate. The program ended after its 2013 cycle due to low participation.

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

After reviewing the options, staff recommends creation of a Next Generation Advisory Committee with a sunset of two years, at which time council would re-evaluate and determine whether or not to continue the program.

The Littleton Next Generation Advisory Committee's mission as proposed in the attached draft by-laws is, "to advance the policy interests of the 17 to 34 year-old demographic who live, study, or work in Littleton by providing recommendations, insight, suggestions, and feedback on matters of City policy that directly impact the attraction and retention of young residents and workers."

The committee would be comprised of no more than 11 members, with three representing LPS, one representing Arapahoe Community College, and no more than seven at-large members aged 17-34 who either live or work in the City of Littleton. Council would appoint members and the committee would appoint officers including a chair, vice chair and secretary. Membership will include one and two year terms with term limits.

The committee would have the support of a council liaison and staff liaison as requested, but would primarily be self-reliant with minute taking and meeting coordination falling to the officers. City staff will post the minutes on the city website.

The committee would meet at least quarterly, but not more than monthly and provide recommendations to both council and staff concerning the creation of policies and programs.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

Participants will not receive any compensation for their service. However, the committee may determine that participation in certain events or trainings is important to meeting its mission and goals, in which case they would request funds for the event/training through the city manager's office. For example, the committee may wish to participate in the Rocky Mountain Youth Summit, recently held in Westminster.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends council consider creating the Littleton Next Generation Advisory Committee as a key step in meeting council's third strategic imperative, collaborative relationships. This advisory committee will allow council to build a relationship with a typically under represented portion of the community.

Staff also recommends council review the proposed by-laws and discuss the merits of the structure, such as inclusion of public comment.

**OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:**

Recommend staff bring a resolution before council for creation of a next generation committee as presented here.

Recommend staff bring a resolution before council for creation of a next generation committee with changes specified by the council.

Recommend staff does not bring a resolution before council regarding a next generation committee.