

**Briefing in preparation for September 27 board time discussion of
Youth Commission policy assignment.**

Purpose: To inform the Clark County Council of the subject area (aka Policy Assignment) that the Youth Commission will study and provide recommendations to Council regarding for the 2017-2018 term. Each year the County Council approves/assigns a topic area (usually in July) that it asks the Youth Commission, as its citizen advisory board, to study in the upcoming term (August-July) and come back to it with some recommendations.

Description of topic area: Clark County's Sense of Place as it relates to the outdoors and open spaces. Particular areas of study and work could include:

- Visioning and supporting the development of the Lewis and Clark trail
- Visioning regarding the future uses and development of Camp Bonneville
- Possible input into the development of parks
- Study and understanding into PIF districts and how they can help fund parks and open spaces
- Studying the benefits/necessity of access to nature and the outdoors as a remedy to stress and depression.
- Human physiology in general and the relationship with connection with nature.
- Understanding the CREDC work on Sense of Place and developing youth input into the sense of place.
- Researching and recommending youth desires around livability in Clark County. I.e. what resources, parks, trails, etc, will draw young people back to build their lives here.
- Study economic development concepts that are relevant to discussion/topic

Topic Selection Process:

- On July 24, 2017, Chair Boldt and Councilor Olson met with Elizabeth Hill, Youth Commission Coordinator, Christopher Belisle, Youth House Program Assistant and Emily Weil, Youth Commissioner, to discuss and brainstorm ideas for a good policy assignment. Discussion included topics that are timely and relevant to the Clark County Council and to the Youth Commission and that lend themselves to research and discussion over the course of the Youth Commission term. The conversation concluded with a shared agreement about the topics in the Sense of Place description above.
- Youth Commission staff sought feedback from the broader Youth Commission who responded favorably to the topic area.
- The Youth Commission began work on the topic at their orientation retreat August 22-24.
- On August 29, a team of 5 Youth Commissioners (along with Elizabeth Hill) met with Chair Boldt and Councilor Olson to discuss initial impressions and work thus far and identify future steps.

Next Steps:

- Brief entire County Council on topic area and seek their added input on the topic and any direction and/or related areas of inquiry they may have for the Youth Commission regarding this topic area.
- Youth Commission set to tour Camp Bonneville and sites along the Lewis and Clark Trail on October 21. Chair Boldt and Councilor Olson have expressed interest in attending.