



MEMORANDUM

TO: Hampton Planning Commission

FROM: Henry Godfrey, Senior Youth Planner

DATE: June 18th, 2026

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Planning Commission Memo

For a recap of the year, the Hampton Youth Commission has done a lot of great work, and contributed to make Hampton a better place. Here are some of the highlights of each month for the 2025-2026 school year.

During the month of August, commissioners kicked off preparation for the 2025-2026 school year with their annual retreat. They learned more about civil and commission processes, crafted out what the year would look like, got officially appointed by City Council, voting of the Executive Committee, and the Stakeholders Jamboree.

In the month of September, Commissioners had their first commission meeting of the school year, where they discussed an issue that happened at Kecoughtan, and were given a space to express their true emotions and possible solutions. New members appointed by City Council were approved by the Commission in matter of voting and of motion, which officiated the commissioners being in their respective roles. Commissioners would also vote for their respective Neighborhood Commission representatives who would serve on both commissions simultaneously.

In the month of October, Commissioners worked in their respective committees, with Community Participation Committee working on planning for future events such as recruiting, making the budget, as well as social media, and Youth Voice's main focus being on the Youth Master plan and creating surveys towards it. The Commissioners also explored the Capital Improvement Plan where they learned all about what goes into budgeting for the City every year, and how they can learn to practice it at their respective ages. They also took a more extensive dive into the Youth Master plan, with how it will be planned, updated, and implemented in the future.

In the month of November, the Commissioners planned and scheduled their outreach for Compassion Night, was an opportunity for the Commissioners as well as other organizations to brand themselves at New Life Seventh-Day Adventist Church. One crucial event for that month was our Stakeholders Meeting, where the commissioners met with staff from the school board, conveyed their opinions, and presented solutions for helping the youth at their respective schools. These issues were very relevant and the solutions made a direct impact within our schools. The Youth Voice committees' Teen Town Hall would also be a meeting where they would establish clear goals related to the youth master plan, and moving forward.

During the month of December, the Commission held their annual Grants Hearing, where they heard from different groups that presented their projects on a variety of topics, the Commission was in charge of funding those projects to make a positive impact on youth within the Hampton Community. There were many groups that stood out, and the Commission thoroughly enjoyed them, and this would be the defining event of the month before transitioning into Winter Break.

In the month of January, this would officially begin recruitment season, where commissioners would talk to students throughout their respective high schools and talk to students who are interested in government and want to help out their community about continuing the legacy of the Commission and the great work that it does. Another prominent event would be the Youth Climate Action fund, which is an international program that gives youth the opportunity to propose different ideas in order to improve climate change.

In the month of February, this marked the youth commissions' annual reset. This reestablished the norms that were set within the bylaws, kept the commission on track for the remainder of the year, and set the precedent for how the commission. In the respective committees, the Community Participation Committee began working on the overall review of the Grants, as well as future trainings, and questions for the Grant Site visit, while Youth Voice was continuing working on the Youth Master plan with goals 3+4.

In the month of March, one site visit provided by the Urban City Impact group would be the Skate No Hate event. This was where commissioners as well as staff got to enjoy a night of fun and doing it for a positive cause. Another significant event in March would be the Youth Orchestra, where the Peninsula Youth Orchestra as well as soundscapes provided a wonderful listening experience for Commissioners to stretch out of their comfort zone.

In the month of April, the Youth Commission lead another Teen Town Hall where stakeholders such as the Chief of Police, Hampton Police and Fire department talked directly to the Youth Commission, as well as youth led organizations about how they can make their schools safer and a better learning environment, as well as creating relationships and bridging the current gap between adults and youth. This month would also be the start of new Commissioner interviews where we got to learn more about the candidates.

In May, we had concluded our interviews, finished recruiting, and had our official onboarding meeting which marked the end of the Commission year. As the Commission concludes for the summer, they would like to thank everyone who supported and helped the Commission make a difference throughout their community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Henry Godfrey, Senior Youth Planner at henry.godfrey@hampton.gov or 757-728-5225.