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MINUTES

Name of Organization: **Community Partnerships Subcommittee** of the
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
(STEM) Advisory Council

Date and Time of Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2017, 2:00 P.M.

Place of Meeting: Governor's Office of Science Innovation and
Technology (OSIT)
100 North Stewart Street, Suite 220
Carson City, NV 89701

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- I. Call to Order/Roll Call.
Brandolyn H. Thran, Chair

Chair Thran called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Members Present: Brandolyn H. Thran, Pom Jintasawang, Cheryl Wagner

Members Absent: Kelly Barber, Richard Knoeppel, Jeanenne Hartner David
Philippi, Michele Lewis, Mike Jackson

Staff Present: Debra Petrelli (OSIT)

Staff Not Present: Brian Mitchell (OSIT)

- II. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

There was no public comment.

- III. **Welcoming Remarks.**
Brandolyn H. Thran, Chair

Chair Thran welcomed everyone.

- IV. **Approval of the Minutes from the March 14, 2017 meeting** (For possible action)
Brandolyn H. Thran, Chair

Chair Thran asked for approval or changes to the March 14, 2017 Minutes. The Minutes had not been reviewed by all members. They can be found on the Office of Science Innovation and Technology (OSIT) website at <http://osit.nv.gov/>. Chair Thran suggested they be reviewed for approval at the next meeting.

- V. **Review and Discuss Roles and Responsibilities of Subcommittee** (For information only)
Brandolyn H. Thran, Chair

Chair Thran said the next three agenda items all go together, as we are still trying to identify our role and responsibility as a subcommittee. She said we as a group, will continue to discuss operational responsibilities. Eventually all of this information will be captured in the White Paper, which will pull all of this information together and be put into one place.

- VI. **Review and Discuss Operational Definitions.** (For information only)
Brandolyn H. Thran, Chair

Chair Thran discussed further this subcommittee's role and information she received from Brian Mitchell, Director of OSIT and Camille Stegman, member of the STEM Advisory Council, giving her a better understanding. She said the plan is to continue to develop this subcommittee's White Paper and develop our combined thoughts which will ultimately help in the direction we need to move, along with our responsibilities to the STEM Advisory Council. Our ultimate responsibility is to provide recommendations to the STEM Advisory Council in regards to community partnerships, how to form them, make them better, and evaluate their added value to existing systems. We need to grasp onto community partnership groups that are currently in place, by looking at them to see what is working well, what is not working and provide actionable recommendations to the STEM Advisory Council. This process will ultimately help to move the state forward in STEM education.

Ms. Jintasawang asked whether other states had any sort of framework for a community partnership, perhaps a document or process they currently might

be working on and who we might reach out to for this information. Chair Thran agreed and pointed out perhaps we could learn from other states. She said research has been done recently on how to evaluate community partnerships. She suggested reaching out to Ohio, Maryland and possibly North Carolina, since they currently have some innovative STEM programs happening. She said she will continue to research these states for more information.

Chair Thran referred to a network analysis document posted on Google Docs, for strengthening partnerships. She pointed out this may be a good starting place, possibly we can pull from that research as far as evaluation.

Ms. Wagner commented she is trying to figure out who the audience actually is for this subcommittee. Chair Thran said once we nail down some of our actual duties, we can continue to grow and become more pointed in our direction. We must work towards the goal of presenting actionable recommendations to the STEM Advisory Council.

Chair Thran said in doing research, she has found there are three different types of education; formal, informal and non-formal. She said she would like to contrast those types of education with learning. She suggested this group come up with some operational definitions for those three types of education. She added there is another subcommittee; Informal STEM Learning Environment, also working under the STEM Advisory Council. She said it would be beneficial to get their definitions of these types of education as well. She said there is overlap within formal, informal and non-formal education. She said perhaps Community Partnerships is a much broader area, not only in education but also on the learning side. I would like to develop a diagram that demonstrates how community partnerships may be informal, non-formal and informal with regards to education. She said she believes the subcommittee is more about the learning versus education. She asked that members of this subcommittee think about a diagram figure that would demonstrate and capture the complexity of the issue we are dealing with in the linking of professionals and an education system and the learning that happens because of those connections and how those connections appear to act with one another. She said sometimes the informal group believe they are the community partnership, and I believe they are a form of community partnership, however community partnership is much larger than informal education. We need to articulate this information for the STEM Advisory Council, that we are not only informal education, but rather a different type of interaction. She said informal education may very well be a form of community partnership, but there are other types of education valuable to learning. The key is going back to the learning versus education and where the student is relative to these complex relationships we form to try and make learning happen.

Ms. Jintasawang said the definition of learning or education has changed significantly with the internet and other resources available. She pointed out that looking at it from the traditional perspective, we may not capture learning in what it is today. She added what we are doing here needs to be for the next generation. We need to look at how learning is going to be in the future and capture that in this White Paper document that we are preparing, otherwise when it is completed, the information will be obsolete.

Chair Thran agreed they need to look at what the future of learning looks like, not necessarily what it looks like now. She said the question is how community partnerships support future learning. Ms. Wagner commented she believes informal STEM learning environments are actually a part of community partnerships. She asked what is being done in the informal learning area that is different than what this subcommittee is doing. Chair Thran replied that is a question we will need to answer. Ms. Wagner said that is a big piece of this subcommittee. She said non-formal education would be more likely centered around structured programs. The group continued a discussion on the three types of education; formal education being traditional, as in the school system, informal education, such as museums and non-formal being learning that happens outside of those areas, ie. family, community or virtual learning. The group discussed the differences of self-guided education versus structured education.

Chair Thran said informal education is definitely a community partnership and has a role, but is all-encompassing which is why we are now separated in each of our roles. Where is the dividing line and how do we want to divide these two groups. Ms. Wagner said we need clarification. She said her role is all non-formal, not classroom. She commented that outside of the classroom and teacher setting, it was always called informal education. If there is another group doing work on those informal partnerships, she asked what the role of this Community Partnerships Subcommittee is. Ms. Jintasawang commented it would be good to categorize, it would help create the framework for the White Paper document we are creating.

Ms. Wagner led a conversation on Connecting Hands Offering Lifelong Learning Adventures (CHOLLA) consisting of partners in education and informal education, visiting museums, and venues like Red Rock, Shark Tank at Mandalay Bay and organizations that provide informal learning opportunities. She said CHOLLA started out as being environmental but now it includes anything that is informal education at low to no cost field trip opportunities. She said they will eventually be branching into art and social studies. Chair Thran said this is an example of a group that is currently managing community partnerships effectively and have been for quite some time. We should create a list of community partnerships that are actively working in Nevada. There will be different types of partnerships. She commented that information could be found from meeting minutes and agendas for the STEM Advisory Council's subcommittee, Informal STEM

Learning Environments, which can also be viewed on the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) website:

<http://osit.nv.gov/Meetings/STEM/2017/Meetings/>

- VII. Discuss Draft Partnership White Paper (shared on Google Drive). (For information only)

Brandolyn H. Thran, Chair

Chair Thran said the White Paper document this subcommittee has been working on has not changed dramatically. She said hopefully more time can be dedicated to the White Paper this summer and asked members of the subcommittee to take a look at the document and come back with feedback and comments.

- VIII. Discuss Next Steps for Subcommittee. (For information only)

Brandolyn H. Thran, Chair

Chair Thran said we will meet in another month and in the interim, she will meet with the Informal STEM Learning Environment Subcommittee and talk about their role and what they are doing. She said this Community Partnership Subcommittee will continue to go forward towards some of these goals and try to provide productive work and flush out issues that currently exist. Ms. Wagner asked if the subcommittee had been tasked for specific recommendations from the STEM Advisory Council. Chair Thran said there has not been a specific question asked of this subcommittee. She said most information this group has received so far has come from the STEM Advisory Council's Strategic Plan. It provides an understanding of what they are working towards and moving forward on within the state.

Ms. Jintasawang commented that with so many STEM activities in Las Vegas and so many organizations trying to promote STEM, profit and non-profit, whether there is a list of programs endorsed by the State of Nevada or by the school district. She said even to just to make a list available to teachers to look at for accredited, time-tested STEM outreach programs. Ms. Wagner responded that a school district cannot vet or endorse a program, but rather an individual administrator or teacher would take that role and decide if they felt a program would help them as a teacher with STEM education. A school district does not endorse, they can only offer programs as opportunities for teachers to choose.

Chair Thran suggested the subcommittee not do the vetting but rather provide the tools to teachers and let them do vetting. Perhaps a short questionnaire could be given to teachers to help them identify their needs. She said we need to articulate to the STEM Advisory Council that we are not only informal education, we are actually a different type of interaction. She added informal education may very well be a community partnership, but there are other types that are important and valuable to learning. She said she believes the key is going back to learning versus education and where the student is

relative to these relationships. Ms. Jintasawang commented on a recent science fair in Las Vegas, where several parents were seeking information on new STEM programs available. She explained without having any information on individual programs, parents are becoming overwhelmed.

Chair Thran suggested this subcommittee not necessarily advertise for different programs but rather make recommendations to the STEM Advisory Council and they can in turn disseminate how information on valuable STEM programs will be provided to parents, students and teachers. Our job is to identify good programs and help the STEM Advisory Council by making recommendations for those programs.

Chair Thran said to plan on the next meeting taking place on the second Tuesday of June, 2017 at 2:00pm

- IX. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

There was no public comment.

- X. **Adjournment.**

Chair Thran adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.