

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2007

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Jordan Kahler called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Michelle Aranovsky, Olivia Colliver, Hirsh Goswamy, Peter Hadar, Zach Hershberger, Killian Jackson, Jordan Kahler, Bronwyn Stone, Amy Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Sydney Burns, Kelsey Hall, Liz Mellema, Brandy Pech, Nicky Robinson, Stanford Stickeny

Alternates Present: Megan Lambert, Peter Zou

Alternates Absent: Cheryl Chapman, Antonio Garcia, Leslie Zankich

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman
Captain Alana Forrest
Mike Loya, LGS Rec. Dept./A Place for Teens
Irene Shrier, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were corrected to read Seaman under staff present. A motion was made by Bronwyn Stone and seconded by Peter Hadar to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2007 meeting. **Passed (9-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Mr. Davis encouraged the Youth Commission to take on the 13 acres in Vasona Park as a project and urged them to become informed on the issue.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Welcome by Mayor Joe Pirzynski

Mayor Pirzynski welcomed this year's Youth Commission. He wanted the commission to know that they will have his and the Town Council's full support. He stated that the commission represents the youth of the town and their views. He spoke to the fact that they need to appreciate every teen in the community. He stated that the Town Council wants to be advised as to youth matters in the community. The Mayor encouraged the commission to look at all the other aspects of our community and spoke to the fact that the community needs to have the youths' perspective as well. He recommended that the

commission take on the task of developmental assets which would present the opportunity to discern the needs of the youth. He asked the group to challenge themselves so that this would be a great year.

Presentation on Developmental Assets Survey of Los Gatos High School

Superintendent Cary Matsuoka, Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District, was introduced to the commission. He said that developmental assets are a community effort to raise healthy teen awareness. He gave a brief history of how the assets came about and passed out information on the 40 assets as well as a survey that was taken at Los Gatos High School. He stated that there are external assets which deal with family, community and organization and internal assets that deal with motivation and self-esteem. He generally went over the survey results for Los Gatos High School and how those results compared to the national averages. The survey showed that overall students have 18.6 assets in their lives. This was directly on track with the national average. Kids that have between 31-40 assets generally have positive attitudes and are protected from high risk behaviors. Those with 0-10 assets are at risk. We were below the national average in the area of teens feeling like the community values youth.

The commission asked Mr. Matsuoka what they could do to get the community to value youth. He said that when a group speaks it is a strong voice in the community. The data from the survey can be used to get the attention of adults. He encouraged the commission to talk to the Town Council about the issue. He said that we live in a very generous community and to ask for time from the adults. Look at the information and see which of these results speaks the loudest to you as a group. Figure out what you want to focus on. There needs to be more awareness in the areas of alcohol abuse and suicide. Substance abuse climbs during the 11th and 12th grades. The commission asked about the possibility of the middle school taking the survey. The superintendent of the elementary schools would make that decision. Hirsh Goswamy will look into this.

Planning for December Forum

The commission will be sponsoring a youth forum at the December 11, 2007 meeting. A subcommittee was formed to handle publicity. The chair of the subcommittee is Olivia Colliver and the other members are Jordan Kahler, Megan Lambert, Bronwyn Stone, Killian Jackson, Hirsh Goswamy, and Amy Zhang.

Update on Curfew Brochure

A finalized version of the brochure was handed out to the committee. We will need a time line to get them out. Irene will contact Jordan when they are ready. When the brochures are distributed, the commissioners will let the teens know about the December forum and invite them to come. If there is a large negative response to the curfew, a follow up survey may be warranted.

Planning for Mini Grants

Amy Zhang has not publicized the mini grant program this year. Forms are available in the Library and at the High School. She will work on publicity and try to get middle school approval for flier distribution. We will set rolling deadlines for the applications. Chief Seaman said that we will do a press release. A sub-committee was formed to help with publicity. They are Amy Zhang, Peter Hadar, Michelle Aranovsky, Bronwyn Stone and Peter Zou. We will coordinate with Jordan to get information to the paper.

Update on Skate Park

Bronwyn felt that we need to stay involved with the Skate Park Committee. Chief will check with the Interim Town Manager to see if the Youth Commission can publish information on the skate park. Chief Seaman spoke to the issue that this is a community-based initiative and the Skate Park Committee is responsible for putting out information. When a commission of the town publishes a document, it is on behalf of the Town. It is the purpose of the Youth Commission to take the concerns of the teens in the community to the Town Council.

Update on Website

Youth Commission meeting dates aren't published on the website. Captain Forrest will get them published on line.

Overview of Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Partnership

Mike Loya is the recreation supervisor for the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department which provides recreation services to teens in the community. There is a collaborative effort with the Recreation Department among organizations in the community dealing with youth. Mike passed out a list of activities for teens in the community which goes through June 2008. The new item on the list is events at Fisher Middle School. If there is an event that you would like to see happen, contact him at The Venue.

Update on NLC New Orleans Conference

Six commissioners are going to New Orleans in mid-November for the National League of Cities. The NLC awarded our Youth Commission a complimentary booth where we will display our unique relationship with the Police Department as well as accomplishments.

Girltalk-Choices and Consequences of Underage Drinking

This website has a video clip talking about the consequences of underage drinking for girls. It is an educational campaign and is information based.

Every 15 Minutes

CASA will be doing a video version of Every 15 Minutes at the High School this year.

Coordination with ASB Officers

The Youth Commission is available for the student body and it is important to keep in contact with them. It was suggested that we pursue communication with all of the schools in Los Gatos. Another suggestion was made that we draft an email and send it out to the schools. Peter Hadar and Jordan Kahler will draft and send out the email.

Holiday Parade

The Youth Commission will need to fill out the application to be in the parade and get it to the Town Clerk before the deadline on November 1. Olivia Colliver will file the application.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.