

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2008

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Jordan Kahler called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Michelle Aranovsky, Sydney Burns, Hirsh Goswamy, Peter Hadar, Kelsey Hall, Killian Jackson, Jordan Kahler, Brandy Pech, Nicky Robinson, Stanford Stickney, Bronwyn Stone, Amy Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Cheryl Chapman, Olivia Colliver, Liz Mellema

Alternates Present: Megan Lambert, Leslie Zankich

Alternates Absent: Peter Zou

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Bronwyn Stone and seconded by Nicky Robinson to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting. **Passed (12-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Bronwyn Stone announced that the sophomore class at Los Gatos High School is sponsoring a yard sale on April 26 from 8am – 2pm. The event will include a barbecue and frisby tossing. For more information, contact Bronwyn Stone at 497-0646.

Ray Davis commended the Youth Commission for their support of the skate board park. He asked that each commissioner support Michael Kane who will be running for Town Council because he is a proponent for the skate park. He also commended Stanford Stickey and Jordan Kahler on their verbal skills in support of the skate park.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Annual Budget Presentation – Town Manager Greg Larson

Mr. Larson gave an overview of the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. He explained that a budget is a numerical representation of an organizations goals and priorities. Los Gatos is fiscally sound and the budget will remain status quo with no cut backs or decreases in service. The town will, however, be hiring a new maintenance work as well as a School Resource Officer to work in the elementary, middle and high schools. This would be a joint position with 1/3 funding coming from each of the following: elementary/middle school district, the high school district and the Town.

Goals and priorities are established by the Town Council through the General Plan. They are based on looking ahead and projecting what the Town would like Los Gatos to look like in 2020. The council has set the following four priorities: climate change and environmental sustainability, adult and youth recreation, youth and youth services, and senior services.

Youth input is valued in the planning process. The General Plan committee will be appointing 10 new members who will serve two year terms. Anyone may apply through the town website. Copies of the budget can be viewed at the library and on line and will be available the second week of May.

Mr. Larson also addressed ways the Youth Commission can provide information and input to the Council. He handed out the latest update to the Commissioner's Handbook regarding communication with the Council. He stated that it is the role of the Youth Commission to advise and make recommendations to the Town Council which can be done through the staff liaison. He addressed an issue that was discussed at the last youth commission meeting which was not properly agendized. He explained that only items on the agenda may be discussed at meetings. He also advised that taking an official position regarding other Town commission matters is generally not done. The Commission expressed a desire for more training regarding the process.

Volunteer opportunities for Teens – Monica Renn, Volunteer Services Coordinator

Ms. Renn coordinates all volunteer services for the Town. There has been an increase in the number of youth who have volunteered but there is still a need for more, especially in the summer. She distributed a list of all volunteer opportunities and expressed the need for youth to participate on a Library Youth Advisory Board which will select books for children and write book reviews as well as other duties.

A Volunteer Recognition Event will be hosted by the Community Services Department on April 30 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. All commissioners and alternates should have received an invitation and it is necessary to RSVP.

If you are in need of a volunteer, you can go to the website under Community Unity, services groups, and fill out an application for the service that you need. Green bags were distributed to those desiring one.

Sub-Committee Reports

Sub-Committee to Form Sub-Committees

Peter Hadar, and sub-committee, envision sub-committees relating to the environment, social justice issues, immigration and the arts.

After some discussion, two sub-committees were formed. The Youth Issues Awareness committee was formed with Bronwyn Stone as the chair and includes Nicky, Jordan, Kelsey, Peter, Brandy, Leslie and Megan. The other is the Environmental Committee with Peter as chair and includes Stanford and Amy. Both sub-committees will report back at the next meeting in May.

Chamber of Commerce Visit

Jordan and Bronwyn attended an early morning Chamber of Commerce meeting by invitation. The intent was to establish a relationship between the youth commission and the chamber. Some of the issues that were of concern to youth were discussed. The commission would like to keep in contact with the Chamber with the assistance of town staff.

Skate Board Park Sub-Committee

There was a short discussion about a smaller, less expensive design for a park. This item can be incorporated in the Youth Issues Awareness Sub-Committee.

Discussion of Ways Youth Commission Can Provide Information and Input to Council

Chief Seaman addressed this item and reiterated that it is the role of the Youth Commission to act consistent with the Town Council. Staff is the liaison to the Town Council, however, the commission does have some direction with the Council via scheduled meetings. It would be appropriate to ask the Council what they would like input on. It is more effective to have a dialogue on issues with the council rather than taking an official action.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Peter Hadar volunteered to be the representative from the Youth Commission to the Sustainability Commission.

COMMISSION MATTERS

The Council-Commission Retreat is on April 26, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.