

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2008

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Jordan Kahler called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Alternates Present: Leslie Zankich, Peter Zou

Alternates Absent: Megan Lambert

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were amended to read, "sub-committee leaders have to give a 1 week notice of the meeting prior to the meeting". **For the following to apply:...** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting. **Passed (15-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Ray Davis spoke about the results of the Measure D election and voiced his disappointment at its failure to pass. He commended Jordan on his presentation to the Town Council.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Welcome New Commissioner

Cheryl Chapman was welcomed as the newest member of the commission. She will be fulfilling the term of office until June 2008.

Presentation on Los Gatos Unleashed

Jonathon Knowles, Arts Commission representative for Los Gatos Unleashed, did a power point presentation to the commission. He gave a background on the committee which was formed in 2004 with Kim Daly as the project lead. In August 2007, a petition was launched to see what the interest was in a dog park. A site survey and local research was

done as well. The information showed that a large part of the community is made up of dog owners. The proposed area for a dog park is a parcel of land between Los Gatos High School and Highway 17. At present, this land is unused and unkept. The committee would like to get the youth involved and seeks their suggestions, recommendations or questions. If you would like to give input, you can email Kim Daly at kim@losgatosunleased.org. The cost of the park would be approximately \$400,000. This would be made up of donated and Town funds. The impact of parking in the area was a concern to the Youth Commission. This is an issue that would be addressed by the Town Council. The Youth Commission voiced that Los Gatos Unleashed could count on their support once parking issues are addressed or resolved.

Presentation on Teen Dating and Violence – Captain Alana Forrest

Captain Forrest is the Chair of the Domestic Violence Council in Santa Clara County. She reported that teen dating and violence in this country is unreported. It is about power, control, disrespect, and emotional and verbal abuse. The DV Council will be doing a workshop on this subject this spring and Captain Forrest asked the commission for the best possible timeframe. The commission felt that April, after spring break, would be the best time. The workshop would be held in the evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and would be open to youth and their parents. It will be educational and provide resources. The Youth Commission will help market the workshop. The following commissioners agreed to provide input and feedback on how the workshop will be put together: Brandy Pech, Sydney Burns, Olivia Colliver, Hirsh Goswamy and Killian Jackson.

Verbal Report on Chair/Vice-Chair Meeting with Mayor & Vice Mayor

- Jordan and Liz met with the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Town Manager and Chief to discuss some of the issues of youth in Town. The skate park was discussed and Jordan and Liz presented the three points that were agreed upon by the Youth Commission.
- They also addressed retail in town and the attitude toward teen patrons. The commission would like to meet with the Chamber of Commerce in a couple of months to discuss this issue.
- The perception that police target teens in town was also discussed. Chief Seaman called in Corporal D'Antonio and Officers Kauwelo and Coddington to address this perception. The goal was to understand and educate the commission on this issue. Corporal D'Antonio stated that officers are not allowed to single out or target a specific group. When a traffic violation occurs, the party is either warned, given a courtesy citation or a citation for a moving violation. It is the intent of the officers to help educate the person as well as enforce the law.
- El Gato will contact the Chief to discuss the relationship between the police and teens.

Discussion of Results of Measure D Election

The measure was defeated and will not be funded by the town. A brief discussion was held about the youth commission's role in the future of the skate park. The following information came out of the discussion:

1. The idea of a proposed skate fee which was presented by Mrs. Jackson
2. A less expensive design
3. Raising awareness for future fund raising

4. Discussion with youth about their involvement in the process

Subcommittee Reports

- The committee on developmental assets reported that they held a meeting. The outcome was that it would benefit youth to be more involved in the community, have a youth forum on assets, use mini-grant money to fund other programs, and promote a green community. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Discussion Regarding Future Goals of the Youth Commission

Tabled until next meeting.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Form 700

The form was distributed to those who had yet to fill them out. Forms were filled out and collected at the end of the meeting.

National League of Cities Youth Leadership Opportunity

Commissioner's reviewed a handout regarding a youth leadership opportunity to participate at the national level in matters pertaining to youth, education and family. There are three openings and anyone wishing to be considered for an appointment to the YEF can do so by applying.

COMMISSION MATTERS

YAC Attack

Information was provided regarding youth workshops to be provided by the San Mateo recreation department. This event will happen on Saturday, March 8. If anyone is interested, please contact Irene.

Institute for Local Government

This organization will be hosting an online forum for youth commissions. It will occur February 19-26. You can go online to register if you are interested. Irene will email the information to the commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.