

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2008

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Jordan Kahler called the meeting to order at 7:04 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

Commissioners Absent:

Alternates Present: Peter Zou

Alternates Absent: Megan Lambert, Leslie Zankich

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman
Irene Shrier, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Nicky Robinson and seconded by Bronwyn Stone to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2008 meeting. **Passed (15-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Mr. Ray Davis commended Stanford Stickney and Jordan Kahler on their work and verbal communication regarding the skate board park. He also addressed overdevelopment of the Los Gatos Hills and a proposed 8,000 sq. ft. structure to be built on Kennedy Road. He voiced his discontent with the town policies and decision regarding this property and asked to Youth Commission to make a recommendation to the Town Council against the proposed structure.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Sub-Committee Reports

Youth Interest Awareness

Browyn and Brandy presented a survey that they recently took among 100 kids. It included such questions as:

- What do you care about?
 - Family and friends
- What do you do in your spare time?
- If given the opportunity, what is the one thing you would say to the Town Council
 - Better relationship between Town Council and youth
 - More concern for citizens and youth
 - Value youth feedback
 - Talk to youth about what they want; listen to them
 - Not enough for youth to do or places to go
 - Perception that kids are bad
 - Not enough youth-oriented stores in downtown Los Gatos
 - Have a cops and kids day and build the relationship
- If there was a piece of open land for teen use, what would you like to see there?
 - Skate board park, bowling alley, clothing stores, lounge, dance club

These were some of the responses provided from the survey. A copy of the detailed survey is attached.

Chamber of Commerce Visit

No action taken at this time.

Environmental

There was discussion about what role the Youth Commission would like to take in promoting a green environment and what is appropriate. The commission discussed the possibility of adopting a resolution in support of environmental issues. It was suggested that this action be postponed until the commission determines what are important issues to youth in the community. Chief Seaman explained that the Town Council is interested in environmental impact and has a strong interest in protecting the environment. He also explained that the proposed structure on Kennedy Road is a land use issue.

Environmental issues can be discussed and concerns can be conveyed to the Town Council through the staff liaison or directly. The commission can also invite Bud Lortz to a future meeting to get a better understanding of decisions that affect land use.

The commission is in support of an environmental day.

Discussion of Goals for 2008-2009

1. Continue survey of youth
2. Continue mini grant program - promote and publicize
3. Focus on environment - Bring awareness through website; support through mini grants
4. Skate Board Park - continue to advocate the need for a skateboard park
5. Revisit Curfew - investigate perception of curfew; survey kids; forum
6. Land use for youth building/recreational facility - work with town to understand sports facilities usages and opportunities for expansion. Sub-committee to research.
7. Youth/Police Department relationship - examine perceptions on both sides
8. Forums sponsored by Youth Commission

9. Things to do for youth - Discuss realities; become educated about the difference between the perception and the reality; partner with another city
10. Dance studio
11. Advertise website - make more accessible for youth, more creative.
12. Publicity – Pitch in front of classes at the beginning of the year
13. Commerce – work with Chamber of Commerce to increase opportunities for youth and shopping, perception toward youth and pricing
14. Help younger teens - DARE/Project Cornerstone - continue to insure youth commission guidelines and policies align with Cornerstone goals and that youth are valued.
15. Dog Park - establish a liaison with school and the community to determine what the issues are. Get input from youth. Invite Scott Downs.

Report on Council/Commission Retreat

A discussion regarding the parameters of communication with the Town Council was held. There was discussion on clarity concerning the Youth Commission's position on the skate board park. Several commissioner's were unclear about the role they can actively taken on an issue. Chief Seaman stated that the Town Council was clear on the fact that the Youth Commission was in favor of the park. The Town Council did not take a position on measure D, therefore the youth commission as a whole could not take an official position on that issue because they must be consistent with town policy and cannot advocate against it. This does not preclude discussion on the issue. The liaison takes the information and opinions of the commission and presents them to the Town Manager. Another acceptable way of communication would be in the form of a memo to the Town Manager regarding support and recommendations on an issue.

There were question about when it would be appropriate to make a resolution in support of an issue. The question was why would it be necessary to do a resolution when no official position has been taken by the Council on an issue. Chief Seaman explained that the more proactive approach would be to discuss and study issues. An in depth study is necessary to understand an issue and then to work and discuss with those who are involved.

Jordan reported back that the Town Council wants to work with the Youth Commission on issues and values feedback, discussion and learning from the dialogue. Avenues of communication with the Town Council are through the staff, in depth minutes of the meetings and the option to correspond with the Council when appropriate. The youth commission may or may not have the authority to make a resolution regarding issues. The Town attorney is being consulted.

COMMISSION MATTERS

Applications for next year's commission vacancies were made available.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.