

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chief Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Michelle Aranovsky, Ben Baranovsky, Sydney Burns, Hirsh Goswamy, Peter Hadar Killian Jackson, Sheridan Jones, Brandy Pech, Nicky Robinson, Robert Van Unen, Leslie Zanich, Amy Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Kelsey Hall

Alternates Present: Paul Glenn

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman
Captain Alana Forrest
Mike Loya, Director, A Place for Teens

OATH OF OFFICE & WELCOMING COMMENTS

Jackie Rose, Senior Clerk Administrator, administered the oath of office to the commissioners and alternate.

Chief Seaman introduced himself and the staff to the commissioners and gave each commissioner/alternate a chance to introduce themselves to the group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brandy Pech made a motion, seconded by Killian Jackson, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2008 meeting. **(Passed 12-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Judy Glickman, Executive Director of the Safe Rides Program, addressed the commission. She gave a brief history and stated that the program has been in operation for the past three years. Days and hours of operation are Fridays and Saturdays from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. and the program is based at the teen center. Mrs. Glickman specifically asked for three things: 1) the need for volunteers for this year and next, 2) the need for someone to run the program as she will no longer be able to do so, and 3) the need for a long term plan to keep the program functioning. A sign up sheet was circulated among

the commissioners to help with dispatching, giving rides, and coordination. The purpose of the program is to get teens home safely. Brandy Pech will check with the "Be Safe" program located at the high school to see if they are available help. The Youth Commission was asked to consider their involvement in the Safe Rides program.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Presentation/Comments by Mayor Spector

Chief Seaman introduced Mayor Barbara Spector to the Youth Commission. She in turn introduced Town Councilmember Steve Glickman and Town Manager Greg Larson. The mayor welcomed the commission and commended them on being selected to serve in this capacity. She encouraged them to use this experience to learn about local, state and national government as it will be a valuable tool on all levels. She also encouraged them to get to know the Police Department staff and to work with them. Mayor Spector distributed her business cards and stated that she is always available for phone calls.

Presentation by Town Manager Greg Larson

Mr. Larson briefly told the commission that his career in government started when he was appointed to his youth commission as a student. He stated that he is looking forward to working with the commission for the rest of the year and will return to give a budget update at a future meeting.

Review of Commissioner Handbook

Chief Scott Seaman explained and highlighted information on policies and procedures of a Town commission, as well as roles and responsibilities. He explained the role of the youth commission, as defined by the Town Council, is to advise the Council on issues affecting or pertaining to the youth of Los Gatos. He stated that the new commissioner members are expected to read the commissioner handbook which is necessary to carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with commission rules and regulations. Commissioners don't make policy decisions but they can advise and offer input.

Alternates are not voting members of a commission but they can freely participate in discussions and be part of sub-committees. In the event that a commissioner cannot fulfill their term of office an alternate will be chosen to replace them. The rules of attendance state that a commissioner who is absent 4 times in a 12 month period shall be released from their duties as a commissioner/alternate. Commissioners/alternates need to contact the Chair or Irene Shrier at 354-6840 if they are unable to attend a meeting. Should you opt to no longer serve on the commission, you will need to call the office at the above number. When you are called or emailed by Irene Shrier, you need to respond promptly.

Please read roles and responsibilities. Information defines the commission's relationship with the Town Council among other items of educational value in conducting a commission.

Chief briefly explained the conflict of interest statement in the handbook. He also let the commission know that they will be required to fill out a Form 700 which is a requirement for all town commissioners.

Election of Officers

Nominations were taken for the Chair and Vice Chair. Each commissioner nominated had a chance to explain why they were a good candidate. A vote was taken by secret ballot and the Commission elected Brandy Pech, Chair, and Peter Hadar, Vice Chair, for the 2008-2009 year. The newly elected Chair, Brandy, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Discussion of Commission's Focus for the Year and Review of Prior Year's Work

The commission discussed the list of goals which were addressed at the last meeting in May 2008. Following is the list that the commission finds to be of value and may pursue in the coming year.

1. Survey of youth
2. Mini grants – The commission will view the video project that was finished at the end of last year at a future meeting.
3. Environmental issues
4. Skate Park – Conduct one informational meeting; Sports facility
5. Curfew and relationship with Police Department
6. Website – Publicize Youth Commission, mini grants, curfew brochure
7. Shopping opportunities for kids in the downtown area
8. Project Cornerstone – developmental assets – Have representative discuss them at one of the upcoming meetings.
9. Youth forums

Other items mentioned were the dog park, Safe Rides, a place for middle school kids to go after school and possible incentives from the school board for good grades.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.