

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**110 E. MAIN ST.**  
**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2008 MEETING**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Brandy Pech called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:** Michelle Aranovsky, Ben Baranovsky, Sydney Burns, Hirsh Goswamy, Peter Hadar, Kelsey Hall, Killian Jackson, Jessica Jolley, Sheridan Jones, Brandy Pech, Nicky Robinson, Autefah Sajjadi, Robert Van Unen, Amy Zhang

**Commissioners Absent:** Leslie Zanich

**Alternates Present:** Paul Glenn, Alex Guyton

**Staff:** Chief Scott Seaman  
Mike Loya, Director, A Place for Teens  
Irene Shrier, Recording Secretary

**OATH OF OFFICE & WELCOMING COMMENTS**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Nicky Robinson made a motion, seconded by Peter Hadar, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting. **(Passed 14-0)**

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION**

Ray Davis commended past commission members on their ability to speak publicly. He encouraged the commission to take this opportunity to practice their communication skills. He also briefly addressed the Skate Board Park issue and encouraged the commissioners to speak out regarding their opinions.

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

**Skate Board Park Update – Steve Leonardis**

Steve gave a very brief history of the skateboard park. His question was how do we go forward and promote the skateboard park in the future. He addressed the need to

overcome negative stereotypes about skateboarders. He stated that funding was an issue during the Measure D campaign and it failed. Donations for the skateboard park were returned to the donors.

He also said that if the Youth Commission wanted to start a skateboard park subcommittee he would be glad to lend his experience and help. He addressed the possibility that a skateboard board park could be part of a youth sports complex.

Mr. Leonardis expressed that fundraising efforts would be needed to support such an effort. He proposed a grass roots funding effort which could include can recycling, mowing lawns, and babysitting. He also mentioned starting a non-profit organization to support such an effort. He offered his services for coordinating this effort. Town money is no longer available for a skateboard park but Monte Sereno money might still be available. Steve would like to see such an effort run by the kids but they would need to go about it in a positive way, with a fresh start and would need to do some of the fundraising.

#### **Curfew – Officer Sam Wonnell**

Officer Wonnell explained what the curfew ordinance is to the commission. The main purpose of the ordinance is to keep youth and the community safe and to make sure that parents are doing their job. Curfew in Los Gatos is 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. It was initiated in 1968. Each student received a curfew brochure that was put together by the Youth Commission in 2006/2007 which answers questions regarding the curfew.

#### **Retail for Kids**

The Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce was unable to attend the meeting. Chief Seaman explained that 2 or 3 years ago the Youth Commission did a survey regarding the shopping habits of teens in Town. Last year, two commissioners attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting to discuss retail opportunities in Los Gatos, as well as an unwelcome attitude toward teens by some stores. The goal was to start communication between teens and businesses.

#### **Survey of Youth**

Brandy Pech and Bronwyn Stone conducted a youth survey at the end of the last school year. It was an informal survey among 100 students and was targeted at what kids see as important and what they would like to see in Los Gatos. A discussion followed regarding doing another youth survey and what the commission what like to accomplish through the survey.

Chief spoke to the fact that the real value of doing a survey is information gathering that can be presented to the Town Council.

#### **Incentive for Good Grades Research**

Tabled until next meeting.

## **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

### **Safe Rides**

Brandy report that a high school group is working with the Safe Rides Program. If anyone is interested, they can participate individually.

### **Website Enhancement**

Tabled until next meeting.

## **COMMISSION MATTERS**

### **General Plan Meetings**

Fliers were distributed to all commission members inviting them to be part of the upcoming community workshop to learn about the General Plan Update and to share their ideas for the future of Los Gatos.

Chief Seaman gave a brief synopsis of the general plan. He encouraged the commission to attend the meeting since one of the focus areas will be on youth services. There will be a total of five meetings over the next 18 months. This is an opportunity for the commission to give valuable input.

### **Identify Sub-Committees**

#### Youth Interest Awareness

This sub-committee will deal with youth concerns. Members will be Autefah Sajjadi, Nicky Robinson, Peter Hadar and Brandy Pech who will chair the committee.

#### Skate Park/Sports Facility Sub-Committee

There was discussion regarding participation in a skate board park sub-committee. Chief Seaman cautioned the commission about their participation in this type of sub-committee in light of the Council's stand. As individuals, they could be involved in a community based skate board park committee. He also stated that as a commission of the Town, fundraising is prohibited. The Council sets the policy for what the Town is going to do. It is the youth commissions function to inform the Town Council of issues related to youth. The Council is very aware of the position that the youth commission has taken on the skate board park in the past. The idea for going forward with this sub-committee was tabled.

#### Environmental Sub-Committee

Peter Hadar has been in contact with the sustainability committee in Town and recommended that we go forward with this committee. Members will be Peter Hadar, Chair, Robbie Van Unen, Autefah Sajjadi, Sydney Burns, Sheridan Jones and Paul Glenn.

#### Mini Grant Sub-Committee

Amy gave a brief explanation of what this sub-committee is and what it has done in the past. A vote was taken on whether to proceed with this sub-committee. There were 9 votes in favor and 5 against. Members will consist of Amy Zhang, chair, Paul Glenn, Autefah Sajjadi, Peter Hadar, Robbie Van Unen and Sydney Burns.

Publicity Sub-Committee

There was discussion on whether to appoint a designated head of this committee to oversee the publicity for all function of the commission. After a vote of 2 in favor and 12 against, this sub-committee will not go forward.

Retail Sub-Committee

No decision will be made on this sub-committee until the Chamber of Commerce can come and speak to the issue.

Subcommittees please come back next meeting with a report from your meetings.

**Orientation Event**

Brandy mentioned the idea of having a day or evening event bringing the commission together to get to know each other better. She has several ideas and will email a plan to the commission.

**Holiday Parade**

Mike Loya will submit the application for the Youth Commission for this event. Ideas for participation will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.