

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2008 MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice Chair Peter Hadar called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Michelle Aranovsky, Ben Baranovsky, Hirsh Goswamy, Peter Hadar, Kelsey Hall, Killian Jackson, Sheridan Jones, Autefeh Sajjadi, Robert Van Unen

Commissioners Absent: Sydney Burns, Jessica Jolley, Brandy Pech, Nicky Robinson, Leslie Zanich, Amy Zhang

Alternates Absent: Paul Glenn, Alex Guyton

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hirsh Goswamy made a motion, seconded by Killian Jackson, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2008 meeting. **(Passed 9-0)**

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Presentation by Mayor Mike Wasserman

This was Mayor Wasserman's first official act as the new mayor for the coming year. He expressed his enthusiasm in working with the Youth Commission. He also expressed his desire to take Project Cornerstone into the community and make it a town-wide effort. A list of the assets, with results from a survey taken in Los Gatos in 2005, were distributed to the commission. The goal is to introduce and implement developmental assets in all of the service organizations, clubs and businesses in Los Gatos. Mr. Wasserman will ask each of these groups to choose a couple of the assets from the list of 41 and begin to implement them so that positive growth and influences in the youth of Los Gatos can be seen. Mayor Wasserman asked the Youth Commission to look at the list of 41 assets and select a few that they can focus on to help the young people in the community. He expressed that a joint effort from the community in incorporating these assets can make a difference in the lives of our youth.

Presentation and Discussion of Project Cornerstone – Anne Ehresman

Anne Ehresman, a representative from Project Cornerstone, addressed the commission. She explained the history and goals for this project. She stated that the project is about adults growing the next generation to be successful, strong and healthy. The project has identified that assets among youth decline in middle and high school years. It is the community's responsibility to support youth and to bring about changes in our world. Project Cornerstone is partnering with schools, other communities and youth commissions locally. They do training and action plans on the implementation of the assets. Anne expressed that Project Cornerstone is available to the Youth Commission as a resource. She can be reached at anne@projectcornerstone.org. Ms. Ehresman invited the commission to attend a presentation on "How to create a culture that cares for kids" presented by author and speaker, James Vollbrach who wrote the book, Stopping at Every Lemonade Stand. The presentation will be on Monday, January 26, 2009, 7-9 p.m. at the Los Gatos High School Theater. Admission is free.

Discussion Regarding Youth-Oriented Retail

The commission discussed this issue in light of asset #7 which is community values youth. Discussion included the idea of the Youth Commission sponsoring youth friendly stickers to be placed in windows of businesses in town to promote asset #7. The commission decided that it would be valuable to continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce and discuss youth-oriented retail in Town. To this end, Mayor Wasserman expressed that he could assist with giving this attention with the Chamber of Commerce. Staff will invite a Chamber of Commerce representative to speak at our December meeting.

Follow Up Discussion Regarding Future Sports Facility and Skatepark

The commission wanted to know whether a sports facility is an actual possibility for Los Gatos. Mayor Wasserman stated that the funds from the sale of the Vasona property have been specifically set aside and designated for a sports facility. No site has been selected but there is much work being done to identify prospective properties for this use. Does this include a skate park? A skate park could be included depending on the size of the land acquired. However, all sports activities are being looked at to see which ones would benefit the majority of users in the community.

Subcommittee Reports

Presentation of Results of Youth Survey

Autefeh represented her committee. She distributed copies of the proposed survey questions to the commission. She asked that the commissioners survey their friends and return the results to the committee. The commission made several suggestions regarding restating the questions. There was discussion about asking the questions in a broader or more positive context and felt that some of the questions were leading to a desired response. The subcommittee will rework, implement and manage the survey.

Website/Facebook

Chief Seaman reported that Sgt. Rimple spoke with the Town attorney regarding Facebook and the Brown Act. Facebook is an interactive program and the Brown Act prohibits a responsive dialogue. There is a very limited amount of information on the Town's website about the Youth Commission. Nicky will be speaking with the Town regarding a website for the commission.

Mini Grants

Amy, Robbie and Autefeh met and reported that this subcommittee needs to be publicized. A suggestion was made that mini grants applications should include areas to explore and that the grant amount be raised to \$200-300.

Commissioner Responsibilities

Peter reported that he and Brandy met to discuss commissioner responsibilities. He encouraged the commission to show up for all of the meetings. He also asked the subcommittees to set up dates for their meetings at our monthly meeting.

Holiday Parade

Mike Loya gave the particulars of the holiday parade. A subcommittee was formed to organize this event and includes Peter Hadar, Robbie Van Unen, Sheridan Jones, Autefeh Sajjadi, Ben Baranovsky and Kelsey Hall. Stacey Hall volunteered to help the commission with a car. The subcommittee will meet Sat., Nov. 22 at Starbucks at 1:00 pm.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Teen Activities and The Venue – Mike Loya

Mike reported that there are only 6 teen centers in the valley. He also reported that Los Gatos' Under 21 Club is the only one in Santa Clara County. Teen programs have increased 92% in Los Gatos over the last six years. Los Gatos currently provides the following services/activities for kids, to name a few:

- Four Under 21 Club events in the next year with free admission.
- Safe Rides – Doing very well but needs more teen involvement
- Saturday night concerts at The Venue
- The Venue hosting over 400 kids every day.

Funding has increased along with support. The Rec Department recently made an agreement with the school district to sponsor a middle school dance every time there is a home football game. The Department is also working on initiating an art program. Teens recently met with the council candidates for the first time and voiced their concerns. The Council would like to meet with teens every six months to continue the conversation.

COMMISSION MATTERS

Commissioner Orientation Event – Tabled

Form 700 – Statement of Economic Interest

Commissioners filled out the 700 forms for submission to the Town Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.