

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice Chair Peter Hadar called to order at 7:05 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Michelle Aranovsky, Ben Baranovsky, Paul Glen, Hirsh Goswamy, Peter Hadar, Kelsey Hall, Killian Jackson, Jessica Jolley, Sheridan Jones, Brandy Peck, Nick Robinson, Autefeh Sajjadi, Robert Van Unen, Amy Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Sydney Burns

Alternates Present: Alex Guyton

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ben Baranovsky made a motion, seconded by Autefeh Sajjadi, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting. **(Passed 14-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Ray Davis encouraged the girls on the commission to learn to speak in public. He also informed the commission that the Town Council passed a resolution accepting \$470,000 in grant funds from the state for repair of sidewalks, curbs and gutters on Camino Del Cerro.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Sustainability in Focus Community Project Presentation – Nicole Williams

Ms. Williams was not present so Chief Seaman gave an explanation of the project. The purpose of the project, “Sustainability in Focus”, is to creatively get teens in the community actively involved and aware of sustainability using photography. The photography will be used in displays along with a presentation exploring sustainability and will be presented at the elementary schools.

The project will promote developmental assets, encourage creativity and interaction with peers, will act as a community resource and demonstrate responsibility. Ms. Williams would like to involve the Youth Commission in the project. Contact information was distributed with the meeting packet.

Youth Survey

The survey was sent to each commission member and they were asked to survey 25 students and return the results to Brandy. Only four students returned information. The commission was asked to participate to promote a successful outcome.

Youth Commission Input for General Plan

Chief Seaman addressed the commission regarding the general plan. Bud Lortz will soon become the Deputy City Manager and will be directing the work of the general plan. He has requested that a few youth commission members work with him and Chief Seaman to review the youth element of the general plan and provide feedback. Brandy Pech, Peter Hadar, Ben Baranovsky and Nicky Robinson agreed to take part in the process.

Update/Discussion of Youth Friendly Business Project

There was much discussion around the idea of posting “youth friendly” signs/decals in businesses around Town that are youth friendly and concepts on how to accomplish this. The commission discussed the definition of a youth friendly business, levels such as gold, silver or bronze and the criteria for each, duration of the signs/decals, how to handle renewals, how businesses are surfaced for consideration, does the business apply or are they nominated or both and by whom, who decides and by what process, complaint resolution and how that would be handled, are there limits on how many businesses would be designated, sticker design, and who would administrate this program and for how long. There were many varied ideas and suggestions around each of these topics.

Chief Seaman encouraged the commission to do some research to see if such a program has been developed by other cities and how it was accomplished. Alaska has such a program and the information was part of the packet for the December 2008 Youth Commission meeting. Chief also suggested that the commission come up with a plan and then present it to the Chamber of Commerce for suggestions and support.

Retreat Questionnaire for 2009

The commission came up with a list of accomplishments of the past year, proposed projects for the coming year, issues specific to the commission, training that would be beneficial to the commission and questions and comments for the Town Council. The ideas were captured will be presented by Brandy and Peter to the Council on March 26.

Parking and Transportation for Teens in and around the High School

Chief Seaman addressed a question about having an officer direct traffic at the intersections around the high school at lunch time. He stated that it would be unrealistic to have officers direct traffic at peak hours around the high school because the police department doesn't have the manpower or resources to do so. There was also concern about the inadequate number of spaces available to the high school. A suggestion was

made to research how many parking permits are given out versus the number of parking spaces available for use at the high school. It would also be prudent to keep in mind sustainability in regard to the number of cars and traffic concerns. Carpooling/town transit would be a viable option.

There was also concern about VTA cutting the route taken by Bus 48 in front of the high school. Michelle will draft a letter expressing her concern and how it will affect other students at the high school.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.