

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Brandy Pech called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners Present: Michelle Aranovsky, Ben Baranovsky, Hirsh Goswamy, Paul Glenn, Peter Hadar, Kelsey Hall, Brandy Pech, Nicky Robinson, Robbie Van Unen, Amy Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Sydney Burns, Killian Jackson, Jessica Jolley, Sheridan Jones, Autefeh Sajjadi

Alternates Absent: Alex Guyton

Staff: Captain David Gravel, Irene Shrier

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Amy Zhang made a motion, seconded by Ben Baranovsky, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2009 meeting. **(Passed 10-0)**

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION**

McKenna Everett and Nicole Williams spoke on project Sustainability in Focus. They invited the Youth Commission to join the project as a representative and resource to the community. Pictures taken by Los Gatos youth will be on display in the Civic Center so that the community can see sustainability in action in Los Gatos through photography.

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

**Presentation by Mayor Wasserman on the Youth Commission Survey and Project Cornerstone**

Mayor Wasserman referenced a handout that he provided on Project Cornerstone. He generally explained the benefits of developmental assets and is encouraging the town to participate in this project in order to make a positive difference in the lives of the youth of Los Gatos. The more developmental assets that our youth have the less likely they will become involved in high risk behaviors.

Many town organizations have already responded favorably to this effort. They value youth and many have offered to participate. Mayor Wasserman meets with 5 or 6 groups a week which include adults, businesses, coaches, and faith bases organizations to name a few. He encourages those groups to sign a pledge to take positive steps to increase developmental assets by selecting five assets that they will focus on.

The Youth Commission will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss a youth friendly business project. The commission is conducting a survey that addresses youth interests, needs and concerns and should be completed by the April meeting.

### **Discussion Regarding Youth Friendly Business Project**

The commission discussed a draft document that will be the framework for the youth friendly business project. The following criteria were the consensus of the group.

- There will not be a gold, silver, bronze ranking.
- The commission will reassess the youth friendly award each year.
- Nominations and applications will be accepted from people in the community. The nomination/application will be posted on the website. Contact name and information will be included on the form.
- Criteria for acceptance will be that the business is youth friendly. A definition for youth friendly will be specifically defined.
- The subcommittee will review nominations/applications, evaluate and decide who qualifies for the award. The awardees will be asked to attend a commission meeting, meet the commissioners, speak with them and receive their award.

Brandy will draft a document on the project to present to the Chamber of Commerce for their input. The subcommittee will be meeting on March 17. The subcommittee includes Peter Hadar, Brandy Pech, Ben Baranovsky and Nicky Robinson.

### **Update on Chair and Vice Chair Meeting with Mayor Wasserman**

The Chair and Vice Chair reported that their meeting with the Mayor included a discussion on Project Cornerstone, the VTA route that stops at the high school, and discussed what the Council would like to see the Youth Commission accomplish.

After the update, the Commission decided that they would like to adopt five developmental assets and will work to model these and incorporate them into the commission dealings.

A motion was made by Ben Baranovsky, seconded by Peter Hadar, to adopt the following five developmental assets. **(Passed 10-0)**

3. Other Adult Relationships
7. Community Values Youth
8. Youth as Resources
17. Creative Activities
30. Responsibility

**Mini Grants**

Amy Zhang has all of the information on the mini grant program which she will pass on to the commission before the end of the school year. The application for the program is on the website and she will forward a copy of the flier to Brandy.

**COMMISSION MATTERS**

Michael Fitzgerald, Director of Behavioral Health Services, El Camino Hospital, would like a representative from the Youth Commission to be part of a task force to explore acute mental health needs of the Los Gatos community. Peter Hadar agreed to contact Mr. Fitzgerald and represent the Youth Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.