

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

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Rodd Farhadi, Paul Glenn, Hirsh Goswamy, Jacob Hershberger, Killian Jackson, Doug McLeod, Alissa Miller, Matthew Mingrone, Nicky Robinson, Autefeh Sajjadi, Avi Salem, Robbie Van Unen, Andrew Yang

Commissioners Absent: Sheridan Jones,

Alternates Present: Zaul Moayedian, , Julie Wiederhold, James Marino, Noel Painter

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier, Mike Loya

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Robbie Van Unen called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of November 9, 2009

Ben Baranovsky made a motion, seconded by Rodd Farhadi, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting. **(Passed 14-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Alan Feinberg, past president of the Los Gatos Silver-Tongued Cats Toastmasters Club addressed the commission. He stated that the club is a non-profit organization that teaches leadership and communication skills. Toastmasters has a youth leadership program and the club would like to make this available to any youth commission member. The program consists of eight one-hour sessions over a 16 week period which will be offered after the first of the year. The goal of the program is to help young people build their communication and leadership skills so they may become tomorrow's leaders in business, industry and the community.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. Youth Forum

Autefeh and Robbie co-chaired the forum. Autefeh addressed the group and asked for feedback on the youth friendly business program that the commission is working on as well as input on interest in a skate park option as part of the recreation center that will be developed at the University Avenue property that was purchased by the

Town. There was discussion and an explanation of what the youth friendly business program is and how the commission plans to implement it. An audience participant suggested that the commission initiate a secret shopper type evaluation process. Another suggestion was that businesses in town give student shoppers with ASB cards a discount on their purchases. Students thought that the 7-11 store and Blendz were youth friendly businesses.

Discussion continued around the idea of a skate park at the property on University Avenue. Audience participants thought this would be a place for kids to hang out without getting into trouble and a great asset to the community. One student mentioned that the United Methodist Church might be building a skate park on their property. Chief Seaman added that the Town will be going through a process and discussion with input from the community to address what will be put on the property in a meeting in March or April of next year. Mr. San Juan, president of the Los Gatos Youth Soccer League, was concerned that the meeting was to voice opposition to more soccer fields in Los Gatos. He said that there are 1850 soccer players in Town and the existing fields are booked from early morning until dark. No one voiced opposition to more soccer fields in Los Gatos.

There was discussion about the town curfew. One participant thought the curfew was an infringement on the rights of youth and one thought it should be 11 pm instead of 10 pm. A participant was concerned about a rumor that officers were following kids home that had LGHS parking stickers on their vehicles. Sgt. D'Antonio and Officer Accardo addressed the issues with the students and let them know that the job of the officer is to make sure that kids are safe. Curfew brochures were available in the lobby for those who wanted more information.

One participant wanted more information regarding a youth temporary agency. Mr. John Hogan spoke to the issue since he is working on a youth jobs program for the town. The idea is to create a non-profit jobs program for 13-19 year olds and place them in jobs within Los Gatos town limits. The goal is to place 100 teens in jobs for no more than 15 hours a week and to have the program functional by next summer.

4. Holiday Parade Update

Alissa is taking the lead in participating in the parade on December 5. Seven commissioners have committed to participate. Alissa will drive her SUV while some will walk with a banner. Further details will be forthcoming closer to the actual date.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.