

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**110 E. MAIN ST.**  
**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2010**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chief Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Morgan Brost, Rodd Farhadi, Jacob Hershberger, Erin Hughes, James Marino, Doug McLeod, Zaul Moayedian, Nicky Robinson, Avi Salem, Kiara Stickney, Julie Wiederhold

Commissioners Absent: Hirsh Goswamy, Killian Jackson, Matthew Mingrone

Alternates Present: Jack Horan, Nikhil Patel, Thomas Wrappe

Alternates Absent: Adam Gramling, Warren Nakazawa

Staff: Captain Alana Forrest, Sergeant Steve Walpole

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Oath of office will be administered at the next meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of May 18, 2010**

Nicky Robinson made a motion, seconded by Ben Baranovsky, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2010 meeting. **(Passed 12-0)**

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION**

John Hogan talked to the board about "Teen Force" a jobs program for high school aged kids in the area.

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

**2. Captain Forrest's Welcome and Comments**

Captain Forrest took the opportunity to encourage the commission to select a responsible chair. She said that as a chair, it is the chair's roll to encourage the commission and to listen as there are many different perspectives represented. As youth commissioners,

you will be representing yourselves and your peers. It is your job to listen and respect the opinions of others. You were chosen because you are exceptional kids. The Town Council is very interested in hearing from you as appointed members of the Youth Commission and representatives of the youth in the community.

### **3. Review of Commissioner's Handbook**

The Town Council created the commissioner's handbook for all of the commissions in town as a tool to know how to conduct business as a commission. Captain Forrest discussed the structure of the town, the different departments, principles, mission and future focuses. She also discussed the governance structure which sets policies of the town and follows through on these. There are different policies and guidelines that govern each department and commission.

Captain Forrest addressed the purpose of boards and commissions. It is the responsibility of these bodies to demonstrate leadership, gather information, learn the issues and problem solve. The Town Council is very interested in what is happening with the youth in the community. Their job is to set policies and it is the commission's responsibility to follow the policies. The Youth Commission meets twice a year with Town Council members to give input and make recommendations. Business can be transacted with Town Council in writing in the form of a memo. The Council receives and reads the monthly minutes of each Youth Commission meeting. You can attend public meetings and you can speak to issues as an individual but those views are not representative of the Youth Commission.

The Brown Act and operating procedures were addressed with the commission. The Brown Act is rules for how business is conducted in government. Only items on the agenda can be addressed at the meetings. A majority of a commission cannot meet together outside of a meeting to discuss official Youth Commission business. However, it is appropriate for subcommittees to be established and to work on business but they cannot be made up of a majority. In the case of the Youth Commission, there may only be 7 or less on a subcommittee. Making a motion is appropriate for an official transaction, with opportunities for discussion before the vote is taken, and a quorum must be present (7 or more).

Information on how commissioners are to conduct themselves was presented. Please call Irene (354-6840) if you need to miss a meeting. We also need to stay current with email addresses as this is our primary form of communication with you. If you have an address change of any kind, please let us know. If you miss 4 meetings in the course of a year, you will be removed from the commission and an alternate will be appointed to fill that term. No homework or texting will be allowed during a meeting. You will be required to sign in at the beginning of each meeting and it is necessary to be on time to the meeting which starts at 7:00 p.m.

### **4. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**

Nominations for chair and vice chair were solicited and each candidate was given an opportunity to explain why they would be a good candidate and what their platform was. A vote was taken by secret ballot and the Commission elected Nicky Robinson, Chair,

and Benjamin Baranovsky, Vice Chair, for the 2010-2011 year. The newly elected Chair, Nicky, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

**5. Announcement of “Ruth Vreeland Engaging Youth in Government” Award**

Sergeant Walpole advised the commission that the League of California Cities has selected the Town of Los Gatos as a 2010 Helen Putnam Award winner. The Town of Los Gatos won the Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government for its Youth Commission - Youth Friendly Business Program.

**6. Discussion of Current Year’s Initiatives**

- Youth Friendly Business Subcommittee: A subcommittee was formed for the current year which consists of commission members who expressed interest in joining. The new subcommittee members are: Nicky Robinson, Rodd Farhadi, Zaul Moayedian, Ben Baranovsky, Erin Hughes, Nikhil Patel, and Kiara Stickney
- Town land use issues will be reviewed, which will include the new park being built north of Vasona Lake and the “North Forty” property south of Hwy 85.
- The problem of stress among teens will be discussed. Ben Baranovsky stated that it would advantageous to get someone from CASSY to attend the next meeting to provide information to the commission.

**ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

7. None

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Nicky Robinson, seconded by Benjamin Baranovsky, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.