

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**110 E. MAIN ST.**  
**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2010**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Ben Baranovsky called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Morgan Brost, Rodd Farhadi, Jacob Hershberger, Killian Jackson, James Marino, Doug McLeod, Avi Salem, Kiara Stickney, Julie Wiederhold

Commissioners Absent: Hirsh Goswamy, Matthew Mingrone, Zaul Moayedian, Nicky Robinson

Alternates Present: Jack Horan, Warren Nakazawa, Nikhil Patel, Thomas Wrappe

Alternates Absent: Adam Gramling

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair, Ben Baranovsky, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of November 16, 2010**

Rodd Farhadi made a motion, seconded by Doug McLeod, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 meeting. **(Passed 10-0)**

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION**

Chief Seaman expressed to the commission how impressed and inspired he is by all of them. He stated that the Youth Commission was started as a result of a teen death in the community involving alcohol. He expressed that what the commission does is very significant. The commission's involvement in, discussion and awareness of teen issues is impressive.

He explained the new voluntary Victim Services Unit, which is made up of a number of professional people and others with experience in this arena, who will be working with the Police Department to help victims of crime who would like assistance.

Chief also mentioned that the police department has been going to East Ming Quong, which is a residence for kids, for the past couple of years. They bring gingerbread houses, help the kids decorate them and bring treats.

These are just a few ways the police department is interacting with the community to make a difference.

## **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

### **2. Report on Council /Commission Confluence**

Ben reported that this was a meeting of all the commissions in town to discuss goals for the year. Every commission had 5 minutes to present their accomplishments and goals. The Library Commission invited the Youth Commission to come to their meeting on February 9 to give input on what they'd like to have in the new library. They have also been invited to have discussions with the parking commission regarding designated parking.

### **3. Teen Stress Issues**

- Ben, Zaul and Adam met with Mr. Autrey to discuss teen stress and possibly show the "Race to Nowhere". Mr. Autrey suggested that more students should watch it first and thought that because of scheduling it might be difficult to show it during classes. He will work with the Commission to look at teen stress and address issues related to it.
- Rodd spoke with Liz Schoeben at the high school and she is willing to have CASSY work with the commission on different ideas or ways to address teen stress.
- Nikhil reported on the different ways that Bellarmine helps students academically deal with pressure and stress. One of the ways is by teaching students how to focus and stay organized which includes time management.
- Mr. Autrey publishes "The Wildcat Lynx" which keeps students informed about happenings around school. The newsletter addressed what is being done for Freshmen with failing grades which requires them to attend an additional 2 hours of class per week focusing on work completion and establishing rapport to support a successful academic effort. Discussions are being held to extend this program to Sophomores.
- Nicky and Hirsh met with Ms. Offer at the high school and discussed the peer to peer program, freshman skills day and reasons for stress. Because of the community that we live in, Ms. Offer suggested that the kids read "The Price of Privilege".
- Avi reported that Ms. Shank teaches a class that deals with depression and stress.
- Nicky received an email from Peggy Dallas. A Place for Teens is planning a program that counteracts negative influences or high risk behavior in teens by providing quality interaction within the community, sustained time with caring adults, and the promotion of sense of place. The program will include creating a

diversity of activities in Town, providing volunteer activities where teens interact with adults in a relationship that is both peer and mentor focused and maintaining a teen resource website.

- The commissions came up with the following areas of focus: schools to emphasize tutorials and rotating schedules, address time management, approaches to homework and how to get it done, and study skills all of which would be taught in the freshman year. Uniformity among the different departments was discussed as it relates to the above topics and coordination of testing and project due dates. Other suggestions were after school classes to help with organizational skills, physical activities for stress reduction, intermural sports during lunch, early intervention by the school for struggling students, one-on-one tutoring, and AP students tutoring others.
- Morgan reported that studies have been done by specialists and doctors around teen stress and presented by the author of "Race to Nowhere". She will be presenting these studies to St. Francis where she attends school.

#### 4. **Youth Friendly Business Plan**

- The sub-committee met and discussed nominations that were presented. Ben read through the list that was presented. Recommendations were as follows: Radio Shack, Infiniti Boutique, Bianco, Los Gatos Bird watchers, Jamba Juice, Wooden Horse, Peet's Coffee, Trader Joe's, Nothing Bundt Cakes, T-Birds, Fantastic Sam's, Viva, Los Gatos Diner, Jigsaw, Mike's Bikes, California Café, Tandoori Oven, Kama Kura, Wells Fargo, Bank of America (2), U. S. Bank, Azadeh, Pedro's, Opa, Heidi's, Bunches, Lou's Café, Great clips, Noah's Bagels, Mr. Pickles, Starbucks (2), Maple Leaf Donuts, Teen Force, Pier 1, Gap and Banana Republic. The Commission took Hi-Tech Burrito off the recommendation list. There was a recommendation to take Aldo's off the list. Chief will speak with Aldo regarding concerns of the commission. A few commissioners will meet with the manager of Fleur de Cocoa and discuss their concerns with him as well. By unanimous verbal vote, the commission approved the abovementioned recommendations and letters of acceptance and congratulations will be sent out.
- The sub-committee will split up into groups and visit the YFB's. If the sticker is not displayed, they will give them another.
- Nikhil drafted a letter to those businesses who are YFB's but don't have their sticker displayed.
- A draft letter was also written to the schools seeking their approval to distribute this letter electronically to students asking for YFB recommendations with a link to the online application. Chief will make contact with the Principals.

#### 5. **Update on Holiday Parade**

Rodd reported that the Commission's participation in the parade went very well.

### **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

#### 6. **Library Board Discussion Invitation to YC on February 9, 2011 Meeting to Discuss Youth Utilization of New Library**

**DATE: 1/11/11**  
**ITEM NO.: 1**

Rodd, Morgan, James, Jack, Killian, Avi, Kiara and Ben all volunteered to attend this meeting. Further details will be provided as the information is forthcoming.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.