

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

1. Chief Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Rodd Farhadi, Hirsh Goswamy, Adam Gramling, Jack Horan, Erin Hughes, Killian Jackson, Zaul Moayedian, Nikhil Patel, Chloe Scolari, Kiara Stickney, Claire Strickland

Commissioners Absent: Morgan Brost, James Marino, Matthew Mingrone

Alternates Present: Michael Daboll, Stefan Montana, Henry Strickland, Laura LaBombarda

Alternates Absent: Alisha Nagendran

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ben Baranovsky made a motion, seconded by Killian Jackson, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2011 meeting. **(Passed 12-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

John Hogan introduced himself as a resident of the town who is involved in a teen jobs program called "Teen Force". The business is 16 months old and has employed 107 teens at 50 different businesses/services in Town. The youth commission was instrumental in helping write the business plan for this business. Mr. Hogan encouraged the commission to help teens get to know Teen Force. He also commended the commission on the good work they are doing.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. **Review of the Commissioner's Handbook**

- Chief Seaman explained the roles and responsibilities of a commission member. A commissioner has the power to recommend and advise council on matters of importance to teens. The Town Council relies on the youth commission to bring information and input forward. The commission can also hold community forums and make recommendations on policies and procedures.
- 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. Be prepared for each meeting by reviewing the minutes of the previous meeting and bring the agenda and supplemental materials with you.
- Chief explained the Conflict of Interest policy to the commission.
- The roles of the chair and vice chair were explained. Each month prior to the meeting, the chair and vice chair meet with Chief Seaman to set the agenda. It is the role of the Chair to moderate the meeting. Respecting the office of the chair and the opinions and thoughts of others is requested.
- The Chief and the police department are the staff liaison to the youth commission. From time to time, someone from the department may attend the meeting in Chief's place if he has a prior commitment. Officers may attend the meetings in order to give expert advice that pertains to youth commission inquiries or issues.
- 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).

3. 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 Ben Baranovsky, Chair, and Rodd Farhadi, Vice Chair, for the 2011-2012 year. The newly elected Chair, Ben, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

4. Discussion of Youth Friendly Business Nominations

Two nominations were received for Hoop Starz Basketball and Los Gatos Ace Hardware on Los Gatos Blvd. After discussion and input, a vote was taken by the commission and it was unanimously decided that these two businesses met all of the criteria for a Youth Friendly Business. They will be sent a letter of congratulations along with a YFB window decal.

5. Youth Commission Core Services

Last year's youth commission developed what they saw as core services or areas where they could give input. Core services are a guide to provide direction for this year's commission to work with or change. Suggestions were made for possible additions.

- Increase teen safety and helmet use.
- Develop a youth commission Facebook page. Because of the Brown Act, there would be limitations on its use, however, it could be used for posting information. The Monte Sereno youth commission has a Facebook page. Hirsh, Killian, Adam, Laura, Zaul, Rodd and Nikhil will do research on a Facebook page. They will also need to meet with the Town Attorney regarding this subject. Commissioners be sure to check your emails for dates and times for a meeting.
- More advertising/marketing of the YFB program to get teens involved.
- Support the Town sustainability efforts.

6. Discussion of Drug Free Community Committee Strategic Focus

Chief Seaman reported that once a month the department hosts a Drug Free Community Committee meeting. The meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9:00 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Members of the community that are involved with and have an interest in the success of kids in the community attend this meeting. The first item on the agenda is climate check in to discuss what is being seen as trends in the community among kids, what they are involved in and any progress that is being made. Chief asked if anyone on the commission might be able to attend this meeting. He asked that those interested check with their school about being excused for this meeting. Information from the meetings will be brought back to the youth commission by the Chief.

Laura suggested that to be proactive the commission get information regarding drugs and alcohol to the freshman skills classes.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- 7. Commission Recognition Event – Monday, Sept. 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Civic Center Fountain**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.