

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2012

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Ben Baranovsky called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Commissioners Absent: Morgan Brost, Chloe Scolari

Alternates Present: Stefan Montana, Alisha Nagendran, Henry Strickland

Alternates Absent: Michael Daboll

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rodd Farhadi made a motion, seconded by Jack Horan, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting. **(Passed 13-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

- Assistant Town Manager Pamela Jacobs addressed the Youth Commission regarding a proposal to have the commission host a reading flash mob during the opening of the Library on February 11. The commission would select a book and a short passage from the book that the participants would read at the same time. Suggestions for the book were Romeo and Juliet and a Dr. Seuss book. At least 20 people would be needed to participate. Participants will get community service credit for helping with this. Laura LaBombarda agreed to coordinate/chair this project and work in conjunction with Ms. Jacobs on details. Ms. Jacobs also solicited ideas about a TV show or movie that would be shown in the teen room of the Library on Sunday, Feb. 12. Suggestions for TV shows were "How I Met Your Mother" and "Modern Family"; movies were "Transformers 3" and "The King's Speech". The commission also suggested "Princess and the Frog" and "Tangled" for younger kids.

- Stanford Stickney, former youth commissioner, addressed the commission and encouraged them to take a more active role in government, work hard to make a difference, host youth forums, and gave insight on how to get more teens to participate in monthly meetings and make the youth commission known in the community.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Update on The Venue and A Place For Teens

Amy Eilts, manager of The Venue, gave an update on the implementation of feedback that was given by the commission at their last meeting. The Venue/A Place for Teens will be creating a digital arts and media center, reinstating a recording studio, expanding the café, and updating and making The Venue relevant to kids so that it becomes a community center for youth.

A Place for Teens wants to stay just that. Amy asked the commission what Los Gatos can do to make ensure that teens feel their voice is heard and that they are valued and appreciated. Suggestions were that teens are treated like adults in the community as well as training and helping kids find jobs. APFT will be working with Teen Force to do job training and placement for teens and will be working with APFT to employ teens for the café. If the commission has any further feedback, contact Amy at amy@apft.org.

Emergency Preparedness Presentation

Sgt. Kerry Harris introduced himself and stated that he has been involved in emergency management for the Town for a number of years. Emergency preparedness preparation is a very high priority for the Town. The goal is to be to prepare residents to be able to take care of themselves and their neighbors for 72 hours after a significant disaster as public safety agencies may be so impacted that they won't be able to provide immediate assistance to everyone.

The Town is in the process of preparing the community by offering the following:

- Personal emergency PEP program offered by the fire department
- CERT (community emergency response team) Program – a 23 hour training program
- Los Gatos Prepared – a 72 hour emergency preparedness kit checklist which was distributed to each commissioners. The commissioners were asked to take the information/resources home and ensure that their families are prepared. The checklist has items that will be needed in the event of a major disaster, tips on preparedness, a family emergency communication plan and a family reunion plan. There is also a resources guide for more information on disaster preparedness.

There was a discussion about limited use of telephone land lines which precipitates the need to have a family emergency communications plan in place. There are three designated shelters in Los Gatos and Monte Sereno which are the Los Gatos High School, the Jewish Community Center and the Latter Day Saints Church. The Town website has information on preparedness classes.

Youth Friendly Business Subcommittee Update – Postponed until next meeting.

Update on Facebook Page

Adam and Nikhil have been working on the Youth Commission Facebook page. Meetings and agendas can be posted. There were questions about getting feedback from polls or surveys. The page can be set up so that once a person has responded they can't respond again. Detective Jamie Field said that she could work with the commission to post teen stress and cyber bullying information and resources. Information regarding emergency preparedness and The Venue could also be posted. Facebook is also a valuable tool to make meeting information available as well as invitations to attend. There was further discussion about an effective way to get friends and teens involved in the youth commission meetings.

Drug Free Community Committee Partnership with MADD (Mothers' Against Drunk Drivers)

A representative of MADD will be attending the next Drug Free Community Committee meeting on Wed., Jan. 11 at 7:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers. Chief Seaman invited the commissioners to attend. He expressed that he has been working with the Drug Free group for almost 10 years. The group discusses teen issues and challenges in the community. MADD would like to partner with Drug Free to look at the challenges and dangers of drinking and driving. MADD is a national organization which was created to increase awareness of and reduce likelihood of drunk driving accidents.

Only two commissioners were aware of MADD. The commissioners thought it would be valuable to have age-appropriate speakers who have been drunk drivers or those who have been physically impaired by drunk drivers come to school and do a presentation. It was also suggested that simulations are an effective tool in the getting the point across.

Chief Seaman asked the commissioners if kids are driving while intoxicated. Many have friends who have designated drivers if they are planning on attending a party. Some kids say that they sober up before they get in their cars to drive home. There is a perception that driving under the influence doesn't happen in Los Gatos but kids don't always talk about it so this isn't an accurate assessment. Chief stated that there is a negative effect of starting to drink at a young age. Statistics show that there is a greater chance of alcoholism in those who participate at younger ages.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Chief Seaman announced that Officer Leyton Howard is the new SRO to the schools. Please feel free to stop and introduce yourselves to him.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.