

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF

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, Killian Jackson, Laura LaBombarda, Matt Mingrone, Zaul Moayedian, Nikhil Patel, Kiara Stickney, Claire Strickland

Commissioners Absent: Erin Hughes, Alisha Nagendran, Henry Strickland

Alternates Present: Michael Daboll, Stefan Montana

Alternates Absent: Morgan Brost

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Adam Gramling made a motion, seconded by Rodd Farhadi, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting. **(Passed 12-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Nicole Williams, A Place for Teens, gave an update and input for the youth forum which will be held at the March 13 Youth Commission meeting. A survey of suggested activities and services for APFT, with the most popular among youth, was distributed to the commissioners. This sheet will be distributed to the participants in the youth forum at the next meeting. The youth commission will facilitate the forum with the goal of getting input for how APFT can best serve the youth in the community. Nicole will post the information on the forum on the windows of local business. Kiara Stickney volunteered to work with Ms. Williams to get teens to the meeting. If the commission has ideas or suggestions, please contact Nicole Williams at annicole@gmail.com.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Introduction of School Resource Officer Leyton Howard

Officer Howard introduced himself and gave a brief history of his years as an officer and his involvement in the community and at the schools as a prior SRO. His goal is to build and strengthen positive relationships with teens and the schools. He will have an office at the Los Gatos High School soon and encouraged the commissioners to drop in if they have concerns or just want to talk.

Youth Forum Discussion

- The commission discussed how they will conduct the teen forum for next month. They discussed how to publicize the meeting which included putting information on the Facebook page with the top 10 suggestions for The Venue from the survey, inviting at least two friends each, getting an article in the Weekly and possibly distributing fliers.
- There were many suggestions on how to process and facilitate the forum. Chief Seaman suggested that the commission foster more of a discussion with teens rather than a question/answer session. He encouraged the commission to think about how they will encourage discussion and talk to the teens. It would be beneficial to give an overview of APFT, as well as a brief history. Chief suggested that the commission could start by asking kids what would or would not bring them to The Venue and get relevant input. The commission will act as a resource for input for The Venue.
- There will be food, most likely pizza, prior to this meeting. The board for APFT teens will attend.
- There was further discussion about having a follow up meeting to the forum in a group setting where kids could come for extra credit and give their ideas and lend their voices to teen issues. It was suggested that this could happen at the Library.

Youth Friendly Business Subcommittee Report

- The subcommittee met and discussed ways to follow up on the program and make it known in the community. Suggestions included a discount day for teens at the YFB's accompanied by balloons or t-shirts worn by employees at the stores, a banner between the trees on the high school lawn, visiting the businesses and offering decals to those YFB's that don't have it in the window and promoting two or three businesses weekly on the YC Facebook page.
- Other suggestions for a YFB day included a day on the lawn at the high school or the park area downtown for YFBs to advertise, give samples and coupon. Also, make YFB sticks more noticeable, have Facebook participants vote on YFB of the year and get word out through the Weekly.
- Chief Seaman voiced that the challenge of this program is to keep it going. He suggested visiting and talking with the YFB's once a year to keep the connection. He also suggested that the commission work with the Chamber of Commerce and discuss how to keep the program going and their ideas. Ben and Rodd will contact the Chamber of Commerce.
- Blendz, Borders, Cold Stone and Happy Yogurt will be removed from the YFB list as they are no longer in business in Town. Panera and J. Crew will be added.

The commission will take a second look at Let Me Be Me as a youth friendly business.

Facebook Page Update

Nikhil and Adam have been keeping the Facebook page up to date. Irene will convert the meeting agendas and minutes to PDFs or JPEG format so that they can be posted. The commission would like a current picture of the Youth Commission for posting. Irene will contact Detective Jamie Field for the link to her presentation on cyber bullying and sexting.

Library Flash Mob Update

Laura has been working with Pamela Jacobs on the details for the flash mob reading at the grand opening of the Library on Saturday, Feb. 11. All involved will need to be at the Library in the foyer no later than 1:15 p.m. The reading will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will be from I Can Read With My Eyes Shut. There will be a practice on Wed., Feb. 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Library. Zaul, Michael, Killian, Ben, Rodd and Nikhil agreed to participate in this event.

Sustainability Committee Youth Commission Representative

Nikhil Patel and Matt Mingrone volunteered to be youth representatives to the Town's Sustainability Committee.

Future of the Youth Commission

Ben asked the commission how they would like to move forward and asked for ideas. The following were suggestions:

- Continue to be a resource for The Venue
- Continue to promote the Youth Commission possibly through KCAT
- Visit other youth commissions, look at their ideas and develop a plan

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

YAC Attack

YAC Attack is a one-day conference designed by youth for youth. The conference will offer educational sessions, thought-provoking debates, quality networking opportunities and innovative ideas to bring back to the community. It will be on March 3 from 8:30am-4:00pm at the Santa Clara Teen Center, 2446 Cabrillo Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051. A sign-up sheet was passed around so that Irene can register the group for the conference.

COMMISSION MATTERS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.