

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2012

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Ben Baranovsky called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Rodd Farhadi, Hirsh Goswamy, Adam Gramling, Killian Jackson, Laura LaBombarda, Matt Mingrone, Alisha Nagendran, Kiara Stickney, Claire Strickland, Henry Strickland

Commissioners Absent: Erin Hughes, Jack Horan, Zaul Moayedian, Nikhil Patel

Alternates Present: Stefan Montana

Alternates Absent: Morgan Brost, Michael Daboll

Staff: Sgt. Kerry Harris, Irene Shrier

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rodd Farhadi made a motion, seconded by Adam Gramling, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting. **(Passed 11-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

No verbal communication.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Youth Forum

Ben introduced A Place for Teens Director Nicole Williams to the audience. In turn, Nicole introduced Karla Albright, Assistant Director of APFT, as well as board members Chelsea Hemness and Chuck Nordheim.

Ms. Williams showed a video presentation of A Place For Teens which included the history of the organization which began in 1988 with the building of the current facility,

how APFT has evolved over time, some of the many events that have been sponsored for teens, community participation and the vision statement.

The forum began with Kiara Stickney moderating the session with Rodd Farhadi documenting input and suggestions on as they were voiced.

The first questions asked was, "Who has been to the Venue?" 28 participants had. The following question was, "Have you participated in any activities at The Venue in the last 3-4 years?" 12 participants had.

Other questions asked were as follows with the input from the audience.

What programs have you gone to at The Venue? They included Amigos de Las Americas, Fiesta de Arts, Food fest, freshman orientation and skills day, football banquet, Safe Rides, concerts, high school club events, Under 21 Club, air hockey, watching videos, hanging out, after school homework, class parties, drop off and pick up for summer camp.

What kind of programs or projects do you want to see at The Venue?

These included open mic night, freshman skills day, more concerts, study sessions after sports, homework area, a teen 12-step program, a student union, café, provide jobs, food, use of ASB cards at The Venue for discounts, open before school in the morning for coffee, connectivity (wifi), movie nights (could partner with Netflix), center open from 7am to 10pm, teachers using facility for special classes, middle school dances, black light dance, mixers with a DJ, comedy nights and grade nights.

What resources are needed?

Suggestions included volunteers, books, free coffee and food, computers, advertising to include school announcements through English classes, students to students, Los Gatos Weekly, high school newsletter, Facebook or Twitter, school website, El Gato and fliers, extra-credit, getting groups or wide variety of kids to use the facility, school and service clubs participation.

There was a discussion that there is a stigma associated with The Venue because of the perception that only certain kinds of kids go there. The need to break the stigma was suggested.

A question about how The Venue is funded was asked? \$150,000 is needed and funding can come through grants and fundraising.

What creates a youth friendly atmosphere where youth feel welcome and want to get involved?

Suggestions were music that appeals to everyone, food, furniture, lighting, larger tables for homework, bean bags, text books and café.

Would you be willing to make these ideas happen?

Several volunteered and a sign-up sheet for participants at the forum was circulated.

Facebook Page Update

Adam reported that he has been posting updates to the FB page. The YFB for the week is selected and posted weekly.

YAC Attack Report

Adam, Ben and Zaul attended the one day conference which was comprised mostly of youth commissions from around the Bay area. Ben stated that it was informative with classes and was really great for networking with other youth commissions in the area. He suggested that next year the commission make this a priority and would like to see the entire commission attend. Some of the other commissions had t-shirts so they were identifiable and it was suggested that our commission do so next year.

COMMISSION MATTERS

The Form 700 was distributed to the commissioners and time was spent explaining the need for the form. The commissioners were walked through the process and filled out their forms.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.