

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2006

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Reeta Banerjee at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Reeta Banerjee, Hallie Barnes, Jonathan Berthet, Olivia Colliver, Peter Hadar, Zach Hershberger, Jordan Kahler, Liz Mellema, Nicky Robinson, Ellen Rockdale, Stanford Stickney, Bronwyn Stone, Jan Van Bruggen, Amy Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Ashley Yuki

Alternates Present: Kelsey Hall, Susan Kahng, Jason Louie, Lindsey Trone

Alternates Absent: Rachel Carson

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman
Captain David Gravel
Mike Loya, LGS Rec. Dept./A Place for Teens
Irene Shrier, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion made by Jordan Kahler and seconded by Bronwyn Stone to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2006 meeting. **Passed (14-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

None this evening.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Skate Park Sub-Committee Report

Stanford Stickney stated that the skate park project is in dire need of volunteers and donations. Karen Deloumi spoke on behalf of the organization and said that there needs to be a detailed plan for funding, as well as people to carry out the plan. The town has set aside \$125,000 in state funding and land on Miles avenue for the park and Monte Sereno has pledged \$100,000 to the project. The Planning Commission has recently extended a

conditional use permit for one year that allows for construction of the project. Jordan volunteered to set up a sub-committee to advocate for the skate park.

Presentation on Project Cornerstone & Developmental Assets

Marla Rodriguez, Director of Student Support Services for the Los Gatos Union School District, introduced Linda Silvius, School Partnerships Director for Project Cornerstone. Ms. Silvius spoke to the group about Project Cornerstone and explained that this is a Santa Clara County initiative focused on young people. The goal of this initiative is to make sure that kids feel valued and respected and that they know their dreams can come true. Much research has been done in this arena which has been valuable in creating an awareness of how kids can thrive. Currently, there are workshops county-wide designed for parents, teachers and students. Project Cornerstone has 5 paid staff members and approximately 1000 volunteers. The Youth Commission can become involved by advocating for a town-wide initiative. They could also create a sub-committee working with and looking at public policy within the town of Los Gatos. Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Silvius volunteered to come to the first sub-committee meeting. **A motion was made by Jordan Kahler and seconded by Bronwyn Stone to create a sub-committee to support Project Cornerstone. (Passed 14 to 0)** The sub-committee will consist of Hallie Barnes, Bronwyn Stone, Stanford Stickney, Jordan Kahler, Olivia Colliver, Peter Hadar and Nicky Robinson. If the sub-committee would like to contact Ms. Silvius, they can email Ms. Rodriguez at rodriguez@lgusd.k12.ca.us.

Presentation and Discussion of Town's Economic Vitality Program

Danielle Surdin, Economic Vitality Manager for Los Gatos, gave a presentation on what economic vitality is and what it entails. Economic vitality focuses on quality of life, community conscious business development, sustainable goods and services in town, accessible community transportation, things to do culturally, and ecological stewardship. Ms. Surdin presented the many facets of economic vitality accompanied by handouts that outlined her presentation. She asked the commission to think locally when it comes to making purchases and how that affects the town environmentally, culturally, socially and economically. The commission wondered how they can help make economical shopping for kids in town a reality. She asked them to give her a list of the type of stores kids can afford and want. Suggestions were: Target, Urban Outfitters, drive through Coffee Bean and student discounts at some of the stores in Town.

A motion was made by Jordan Kahler seconded by Stanford Stickney to create a sub-committee to further study economic vitality as it relates to kids. (Passed 14-0)

Youth Commission Liaison to Other Town Commissions

The Youth Commission decided that they would like to have a liaison to the other town commissions. Volunteers were solicited and they are as follows:

Transportation and Parking – Jan Van Bruggen

Parks – Amy Zhang

Planning Commission – Liz Mellema

Community Services – Olivia Colliver

The function of the liaison will be to build a relationship with their commission and to get the agendas for each meeting to see if there is a need to attend and give input.

Presentation of Town's Curfew Ordinance

Chief Seaman introduced Officer Jim Wiens who spoke on the curfew ordinance which was established in 1968. The main purpose of the ordinance is to keep youth safe and out of harms way. Curfew in Los Gatos is 10:00 p.m. In most cases, when a youth is stopped after curfew and there is no justification for being out past curfew, the parents will be called. If a crime is being committed, the youth will be cited and parents will be called. Officer Wiens answered questions from the commission. Chief Seaman explained that there is a difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. He said that there is some leniency when a teen is on their way home from an event after curfew.

Jan Van Bruggen and Zach Hershberger gave a power point presentation of the establishments in Town that are most visited by teens and their hours of operation.

Sub-Committee and Liaison Reports and Discussion

Youth Forums Sub-Committee

Olivia Colliver said that the sub-committee had nothing to report at this time. It was suggested that posters and fliers be made for the December Forum. Suggestions were made for items of discussion: a) Do you feel valued in the community, and; b) What would you like to see on the North 40? Everyone was encouraged to bring friends to the forum and to get the word out. Olivia was encouraged to contact Sgt. Rimple so that a press release could be done informing the community of the December Youth Forum. After the sub-committee meets, they will forward the minutes of their meeting to Irene.

Jan Van Bruggen and Stanford Stickney joined the sub-committee.

Website Sub-Committee

Liz Mellema passed out the Youth Commission mission statement, as well as a brief history which will be posted on the website. She also distributed a short bio form to each commissioner/alternate and asked that they be returned to her as soon as possible. Additional postings to the website will include Youth Commission agendas, minutes, work plan, information on Safe Rides and The Venue. It was suggested that a blog be set up with the commission chair and vice chair. Mike Loya will bring a camera to the next meeting for those who don't have a picture for web posting.

Mini Grants Sub-Committee

Amy Zhang reported that the commission has \$1000 in funds to be distributed for projects. Grants of \$200 each can be given to students from 7th to 12th grade. The projects have to benefit the community in some aspect and will be non-profit. The deadline for using allocated grant money is May 8. A presentation on mini grants will be give at the youth forum. Amy distributed an application for use in the process.

Skate Park Sub-Committee

Stanford, Jordan, Liz and Zach will continue to work with the Skate Park Committee.

Student Government Liaisons

They will report back at the next meeting. They will make sure that fliers are posted in the school offices prior to each meeting.

Planter Box Committee

Lindsay Trone passed around a sign up sheet, as well as pictures of the planter box. She suggested that clippers and rakes be brought when doing maintenance. The box has a broken sprinkler and Kelsey's dad has been stopping by and manually turning on the sprinklers.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

January Community Conversation Regarding Youth and Alcohol Issues

Chief Seaman presented that the Alive...and Loving Life group will be having a meeting in January (date, time and location to be announced) to discuss the issue of alcohol and drug use in the community. He encouraged the Youth Commission to come and take part in the discussion.

Democracy in Action

There was a flyer in the packet announcing this event. The new mayor will be formally announced and there will be a reception in his honor. The Youth Commission is encouraged and welcome to attend. It will be on Monday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. in The Town Council Chambers.

National League of Cities "Youth as City Leaders" Naming Contest

There was an attachment in the packet for those who wish to participate in this event.

COMMISSION MATTERS

Holiday Parade Planning

Liz Mellema will bring her car to be used in the parade. Bronwyn Stone volunteered to be the lead person for this event. Those interested in participating need to contact her as soon as possible. You can work with Sgt. Rimple to firm up the details. He can be reached at 354-6843.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.