

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2007

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Reeta Banerjee called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Ashley Yuki, Amy Zhang

Alternates Present: Rachel Carson, Kelsey Hall, Susan Kahng, Jason Louie, Lindsay Trone

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were amended to add: Commissioners Present, Liz Mellema and Nicky Robinson; Alternates Present – correct spelling of Lindsay; Youth Speak – correct spelling of Dylan Baker. A motion was made by Jordan Kahler and seconded by Stanford Stickney to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting. **(Passed 15-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Ray Davis encouraged the youth commission to have their meetings televised and urged that they bring the issue before the Town Council for discussion. He also urged the commission to add a disclaimer to their agenda which states that any item on or off the agenda can be addressed by the public.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Report and Discussion of National League of Cities Conference

- The idea of televising youth commission meetings was discussed. The youth forums are video taped but at a cost. Since the Town funds the commission, they would need to give approval for televising the meetings.
- There was a skate board park representative from Kaboom who spoke at the NLC conference. The idea was proposed that a representative from Kaboom meet with the skate board park committee to discuss their need. Kaboom does some funding but it is usually for playgrounds for impoverished communities or areas.
- Health Seminars were a topic of discussion at the conference. The commission discussed such things as a health initiative and walk to school or work day. The commission worked with Mr. LaTorre at Fisher Middle School last year and discussed a health fair which never materialized because of scheduling conflicts and time constraints. It was suggested that other organizations in town could focus on this issue since it is up to the youth commission to focus on what kids want.
- Sports fields were addressed. Some felt that there are a sufficient number of fields in Town while others felt that there are too many teams for the number of fields. Chief mentioned that this issue has been discussed extensively by the Town Council and they are very much aware of the issue. The problem is the lack of property on which to build new fields. **The commission requested that we have a representative from Town administration speak to them at the next meeting regarding sports fields.**
- **Reeta Banerjee and Jordan Kahler will meet with the Mayor and Vice Mayor to discuss issues that are of importance to the youth.**
- Jordan mentioned that one of the youth commissions at the conference presented that their success has been due to constant education and information gathering on the issues that are important to youth. They have done this by focus groups and surveys.
- The commission discussed presenting a Town initiative, drafted from parts of the NLC platform, to the Town Council. This initiative could be tailored to fit the Los Gatos community and would be youth specific. The commission would like to know how youth are addressed in the general plan. The commission felt that they would like to be part of the larger group and would like to know that there is a focus on youth addressed somewhere in the governing documents. **The issue of a Town platform or initiative addressing youth can be brought up at the meeting with the Mayor and Vice Mayor.**
- There was discussion regarding the creation of an advisory group to the Principals and superintendent of the school district. Liz mentioned that there is a group that meets with the school board. **Jordan is willing to attend a board meeting to investigate how it works and how recommendations are made.**

Discussion of Results and Actions from Youth Forum

Skate Board Park

Stanford and Bronwyn attended a Skateboard Park Committee meeting. Suggestions were made from the commission that students from grades 6-12 come to the Town Council meetings and represent the importance of the skateboard park to the youth in the community. The commission discussed having a community forum on the skate board

park with community members including parents, kids and town council members. Liz would like the youth commission to be facilitators of such a meeting and get people together who care about the skate board park in a less formal setting along the lines of a community unity collaboration. Suggestions were made to have donation envelopes available at school functions and to have a chart posted showing the monetary goal for the park and where we are to date. Other suggestions included going door to door to solicit funds for the park in return for community service hours and having a concert fundraiser. The commission was reminded that any commission of the town is prohibited from soliciting funds. The role of the youth commission is to be a voice to the Town Council on behalf of the youth in the community.

Bronwyn and the sub-committee will have a plan for a skate board park forum to present to the commission at the next meeting. Chief Seaman stated that the commission would need to meet with the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager before this goes forward to discuss the commission involvement as an official body of the Town.

Curfew

The commission discussed the possibility of having a document made for students that explains the curfew ordinance. Once the students are educated on the curfew, they could voice their concerns. **The curfew sub-committee is going to meet with Sgt. Rimple on Thursday, Jan. 11.** The commission was reminded that they are well-informed on the curfew and they could get information out to their peers and bring back the results to the next meeting for discussion.

Sub-Committee Reports

Publicity

Fisher Middle School was contacted and it will be possible to put our Youth Commission meeting dates on the calendar of events that is handed out to the students.

Website

Chief Seaman stated that we will be talking with the Town Webmaster, Jenny Haruyama, about the parameters of what can be put on the town's site. **Captain Gravel will help coordinate this process with the youth commission.** Nicky passed out a draft of the design and proposed content.

Mini Grants

The Police Foundation has \$1000 that they will give to the youth commission for this purpose. Chief Seaman would like to see a proposal of the guidelines and focus for the mini grants. Amy reported that everything is done and in place and they just need approval. **The sub-committee will get the material to Irene for review.**

Project Cornerstone

Olivia reported that the sub-committee is still in the process of talking with this organization. They would like to propose a family-oriented day where the community comes out to play and socialize. This could be a once a month activity.

COMMISSION MATTERS

Chief Seaman brought attention to the Conflict of Interest Forms (Form 700) that were distributed to the commissioners. He gave an explanation of the purpose of the form and relayed that all commissioners of the Town are required to fill these out on a yearly basis. **These forms MUST be filled out, signed and returned to the staff at the February Youth Commission meeting.** The filing deadline is April 15.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.