

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2007

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Reeta Banerjee at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Commissioners Absent: Hallie Barnes, Liz Mellema

Alternates Present: Kelsey Hall, Lindsay Trone

Alternates Absent: Rachel Carson, Susan Kahng, Jason Louie,

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman
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 January 9, 2007 meeting. **Passed (13-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Ray Davis spoke on the general plan and its function as a land use document. He stated that information on the Youth Commission would not be found in the general plan but would be available in the Youth Commission resolution.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Shift Coalition Presentation

Alicia Barton, a representative of the Shift Coalition working with the Los Gatos High School District, gave a presentation on the purpose and goals of the coalition. SHIFT stands for safety and health first. This organization was awarded a grant of \$225,000 with the purpose of reducing under age drinking. The focus of the environment around school, at home and in the community was addressed with the goal of changing those environments that facilitate drinking. Social norms regarding drinking were discussed.

The coalition is looking at what it would take to change or shift what is viewed as normal behavior. A survey was done at Los Gatos High School among teens and parents and data was collected. Posters addressing the subject of teen drinking will be posted around the high school in the months to come.

The question was raised about how Project Corner Stone and the SHIFT Coalition are connected? The attitudes toward student drinking affect the developmental assets that determine a student's success.

The Youth Commission decided that they will not become actively involved in the coalition at this time but they definitely support the efforts of this group. Those interested in participating can do so individually.

Verbal Report from Chair and Vice Chair on Bi-Annual Meeting with the Mayor and Vice Mayor

Reeta Banerjee and Jordan Kahler reported back to the commission on this meeting. They learned the most helpful way and proper channel to communicate with the Town Council is through the Town Manager and the Mayor. They also learned that the council is interested in factual evidence rather than individual examples or hearsay. The commission has the power to advise the Town Council on issues that are important to teens. It is the unofficial policy of the Town that commissions of the Town cannot fund raise for a cause.

Subcommittees

Skate Park

The Skate Board Park Committee is responsible for raising funds for the building of the skate park. The Youth Commission's role is to promote or generate interest in the community for this project. The Committee in conjunction with the Youth Commission would like to set a late April date for a community meeting. The commission will need to discuss a potential date with Assistant Town Manager Pamela Jacobs. The goal of the meeting is to continue to generate interest in the project and the planning committee would like to invite parents, businesses, service organizations, the Town Council, skaters, school representatives, Boy Scout troops, Project Cornerstone, and others to attend. The Sobrato Developer will donate \$50,000 in matching grant money to the Skate Park.

Project Cornerstone

Olivia Colliver proposed the idea of a sports day on a Saturday where all ages in the community would come together to play and promote the developmental assets of Project Cornerstone.

The commission decided that they would rather focus on the skate park instead of creating a sports day at this point.

Curfew

The curfew subcommittee met with Sgt. Rimple. Ashley Yuki distributed a subcommittee update on the work they have done so far. Their goal is curfew education which can be done in a number of ways as outlined on their update. Chief Seaman

suggested that we could also do a press report with the weekly or daily. There was much discussion around how the commission should proceed on this issue. Jordan Kahler made a motion, seconded by Olivia Colliver to simultaneously create an informative educational sheet on the curfew in conjunction with a survey to get feedback. Discussion followed about educating first and doing a survey later. Chief Seaman addressed the group and encouraged them not to rush the process of education and feedback because it is a process that takes time. He asked the group to consider what they are ultimately working toward. Is it education or trying to change the curfew ordinance, or both? He suggested that surveys can be valid or invalid depending on how they are done. This might not be the means to accomplish what they are working toward. A vote on the motion followed. **(Failed 8 to 5).**

Mini Grants

Amy presented a mini grant draft for everyone to look at. The proposal still needs some fine tuning. The commission agreed that they would like information on the mini grant program to go out to students this school year but wouldn't be considering applications until the next school year. This would allow students to be planning and working on their proposal over the summer. The subcommittee will fine tune the application with the help of the Police Department and fliers will be posted at school or given to teachers for presentation to their classes.

Website

Nicky Robinson had a meeting with webmaster, Jenny Haruyama. Our site will have a similar design as the Towns. We can redesign and reorganize the content to appeal to teens. We could also design a logo for the Youth Commission. It was suggested that we have a link to the National League of Cities website, as well as information on the curfew ordinance and frequently asked questions. Nicky will make changes and develop some ideas and bring them back to the commission. Most commissioners have filled out a personal profile to be posted. If not, please get them to Nicky.

Planter Box

Lindsay Trone sent an email to the commission recently and had a great turn out for planter box maintenance. The planter box now looks really good. The commission set the first Saturday of each month for work on the box and Lindsay will contact the commission by email as a reminder of the date and time.

Publicity

Olivia Collier reported that the Saratoga Youth Commission will be attending the April 17 meeting.

Student Government Liaison

At the last meeting, the discussion centered around the Community Unity Award from the National League of Cities and senior citizens. Jon Berthet mentioned that to access the NLC website he will need to send some information on the commissioners.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Update on Opening of The Venue's Recording Studio

Mike Loya gave a very brief update on the opening of the recording studio. He mentioned that The Venue will have to cut its hours due to lack of funding. There is only enough funding left for two more months of operation. Last Saturday, The Venue hosted the largest concert yet.

Update from Recreation Department on Kaboom Playground Proposal – Tabled until next meeting.

Update on Alive...and Loving Life Community Focus Group

Chief Seaman reported that the ALL Core Group will be hosting a focus group on March 6 or 8. Please let Irene know if you are interested in attending.

Economic Interest Statements

Commissioners turned in their Form 700s.

Update on Commission Handbook

Handbook inserts were distributed.

Project Cornerstone Breakfast

Mike Loya will be recognized and honored at this event for his work with kids in the Town. The breakfast will be on Thursday, March 1 at the Fairmont Hotel from 7:00-9:00 a.m. If you would like to attend, the Town will pay your fee. You will need to find transportation to and from the event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.