

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

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
Sgt. Randy Rimple
Mike Loya, LGS Rec. Dept./A Place for Teens
Irene Shrier, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion made by Bronwyn Stone to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting. **Passed (15-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

None this evening.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Presentation of Town's General Plan – Randy Tsuda

Randy Tsuda, Assistant Director of Community Development, gave the general plan overview. In the state of California, the general plan is a mandatory document and it is the town's constitution for the physical development of the community. It also expresses the vision and philosophy of the town's development. The general plan is comprised of seven elements: land use, housing, transportation, open space, conservation, noise and safety. Optional elements may be added. The Los Gatos general plan was adopted in

July 2000 and this year the Council will begin the process of updating the plan which will be a multi-year process. It can be accessed on the town website.

Some of the optional elements of the plan deal with human services, senior services, youth services, cultural services, performing arts and the library. The general plan is very broad and general in scope and doesn't deal in specifics. The Town Council will discuss where they want to see the greater focus. A town facilitator will be hired to work with schools, the recreation department and the various other departments.

Reeta Banerjee and Jordan Kahler will discuss with the Mayor and Vice Mayor the possibility of incorporating a town platform for youth.

Update on The Venue and Partnership with Kaboom

Mike Loya reported that The Venue is having financial problems. They have recently cut their hours of operation due to lack of funding. The Town has offered to provide resources to help train board members to become an effective fundraising body. Mike will be writing grants in the next few weeks. Contributions from individuals and the community keep these types of programs going. Community involvement and awareness are crucial. There are still many activities planned with Saturday nights being booked for concerts and other activities. The recording studio is doing very well and to date 19 bands have made recordings.

The commission wanted to know how they could support The Venue. Mike suggested that they continue to encourage the community to support teens and teen programs. He would also appreciate any suggestions for summer activities.

We don't qualify for a partnership with Kaboom.

Discussion Regarding Creation of an Archive of Commission Activities

The commission is interested in creating a summary of what they have done in the last three years so that the work will not be forgotten and can be used as a reference for future commissioners. A subcommittee consisting of Olivia Colliver, Jordan Kahler, Amy Zhang, Peter Hadar, Reeta Banerjee, Jan Van Bruggen and Zach Hershberger was created to address this need. Reeta will chair the subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Skate Park

Bronwyn Stone reported that the committee had met and decided to have a Skate Park Community Forum on Tuesday, May 1, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Neighborhood Center, Large Room. The goal of the meeting will be to bring members of the community together, adults and kids, who are interested in seeing the skate park become a reality and to generate possible sources of income. The subcommittee will put out invitations to the community and will include businesses. The Skate Park Committee will be there to explain the fundraising effort. The Youth Commission asked if they could present the Skate Park Forum to the Town Council at one of the meetings. They could present information during verbal communication. Chief suggested that the commission do a

press release on the forum. Olivia will make contact with her press connections. Fliers will also be created and presented at the next meeting for approval.

Mini Grants

The revised mini grant application was distributed to the commission. A few minor changes will be made to this draft and it will be ready for distribution. It was suggested that several high school teachers be asked if they would be willing to distribute these in their classes. Other methods of distribution were discussed as well. The 40 developmental assets of Project Cornerstone will be attached to the applications. The commission voted 14 to 1 to get these out in the next month or so. Chief Seaman thanked Amy for her many hours of work on this project and for a job well done.

Curfew

Jordan Kahler handed out a proposed 2-sided document that explains the curfew ordinance in Los Gatos. Much discussion followed about format and content. Some felt that the prior format with the “myths” and “busted” section was good and valuable. There was discussion about educating teens on the letter of the law and about enforcement. Chief Seaman explained that this is not a black and white ordinance and that there are many gray areas. He also stated that in the presentation of such information, it is important that it be written in an objective voice. Sgt. Rimple stated the importance of understanding how officers are trained to enforce the law and that it is a balance between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. There is still much work to be done on the brochure in order to achieve the objective of better educating youth on the subject.

Planter Box

Lindsay Trone reported that three showed up for the last maintenance day. The box is looking great. She will email the group in advance of the maintenance days. There will be a 1st Annual Planter Box Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 21 at 9:00 a.m. which is sponsored by the Town.

Website

Nicky Robinson has emailed the Youth Commission website information to the Town webmaster. The Youth Commission does have an email address which will be posted on the website, along with emails addresses for the Los Gatos schools, Under 21 Club and Safe Rides. It was suggested that the curfew ordinance, mini grant application and skate park forum information be posted also. If you have other suggestions, please email Nicky.

Publicity

Olivia Colliver will work on getting publicity out regarding the skate park forum and mini grants. The Saratoga Youth Commission will be coming to our next meeting in April.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Council/Commission Retreat Matrix

The commission reviewed the matrix and there were no additional suggestions. The commission retreat will provide the chair and vice chair the best opportunity to address teen issues and present them to the Council. The retreat date is April 14.

Project Cornerstone Award Breakfast

Mike Loya was presented, at the breakfast, with an award for his excellent, extensive work with teens to provide healthy activities and outreach to them through The Venue. Kudos to Mike!

Teen Access to Tobacco Coalition

The coalition would like to come and speak to the Youth Commission. It will be scheduled through the chair and vice chair.

COMMISSION MATTERS

A vote was taken on whether the commission wanted the next meeting to include a youth speak forum. The suggestion was declined.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.