

MINUTES

REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chief Scott Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Michelle Aranovsky, Sydney Burns, Hirsh goswamy, Peter Hadar, Kelsey Hall, Killian Jackson, Jordan Kahler, Liz Mellema, Brandy Pech, Nicky Robinson, Stanford Stickney, Bronwyn Stone, Amy Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Olivia Colliver, Zach Hershberger

Alternates Present: Lerslie Zankich, Peter Zou

Alternates Absent: Cheryl Chapman, Antonio Garcia, Megan Lambert

Staff: Scott Seaman, Chief of Police
Mike Loya, LGS Rec. Dept./A Place for Teens
Irene Shrier, Exec. Asst./Recording Secretary

OATH OF OFFICE

Chief Seaman administered the oath of office to the commissioners and alternates.

ACTION ITEM

Nominations were taken for the Chair and Vice Chair. Each commissioner nominated had a chance to explain why they were a good candidate. A vote was taken by secret ballot and the Commission elected Jordan Kahler, Chair, and Liz Mellema, Vice Chair, for the 2007-2008 year. Our newly elected Chair, Jordan, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brandy Pech made a motion, seconded by Peter Hadar, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting. **(Passed 13-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Ray Davis brought to the commission's attention an ad for American Apparel that was displayed in the Palo Alto Metro. He suggested that the youth commission should give their input on a new Town Manager to the Town Council. He further brought up the subject of the 13 acres in Vasona Park which belong to the Town and suggested that the land be used for sports fields.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Presentation/Comments by Mayor Pirzynski

Mayor Pirzynski was not able to attend so he will be put on the agenda for the October meeting.

Review of Commissioner Handbook

Chief Scott Seaman explained and highlighted information on policies and procedures of a Town commission, as well as roles and responsibilities. He explained the role of the youth commission, as defined by the Town Council, as being an advisory role to the Council on issues affecting the youth of Los Gatos. Some of the ways this can be done is by research, analysis, committees, discussion information and making recommendations. If you have an issue that you would like to have on the agenda, you can contact Jordan or Liz prior to the meeting.

Chief Seaman briefly explained the Brown Act and the rules of meeting associated with this act. He cautioned that only those items on the agenda may be discussed at the meeting. At no time, can 8 or more commissioners or alternates discuss youth commission business unless it is at a public meeting. This includes emails, phone conversations, etc. Subcommittees can work on youth commission business if there are not more than 7 commissioners/alternates present. Commission agendas need to be publicly posted 72 hours in advance of the meetings. If you have questions on any of the policies and procedures, please be sure to ask a staff member. The police department staff is always available if you are seeking advice.

He explained that any public officials or employees of the Town cannot accept gifts, gratuities and rewards from community members or establishments while they are serving their term or employed by the Town.

Commission Effectiveness

It is important to clearly understand your role to the Town Council who make policy decisions. Your input is always taken into consideration. Your primary responsibility is to advise the Town Council about the concerns and issues of kids in Town. There are guidelines for being an effective commissioner in the handbook. Some of these include treating everyone with respect and dignity, honoring and listening to other's opinions and speaking with integrity and honesty.

Chief briefly explained the conflict of interest statement in the handbook. He also let the commission know that they will be required to fill out a Form 700 which is required for all town commissioners.

The rules of attendance state that a commissioner who is absent 4 times in a 12 month period shall be released from their duties as a commissioner/alternate. Commissioners/alternates need to contact the Chair or Irene Shrier at 354-6840 if they are unable to attend a meeting. Should you opt to no longer serve on the commission, you will need to call the office at the above number. When you are called or emailed by Irene Shrier, you need to respond promptly.

Review of 2006/2007 Commission Accomplishments/Activities/Committees

- Skate Park – Last year we hosted a community forum on the skate park. The commission felt that this was valuable and they would like to continue to keep this on the agenda.
- Curfew – The commission created an easy to understand brochure that has frequently asked questions and answers about the Town curfew. Chief Seaman explained the letter of the law versus the spirit of the law for the new members of the commission as well as how the ordinance came about.
- Mini Grants – This program was explained to the new commissioners and alternates. Grants of up to \$200 can be issued to any middle or high student who has a project that would benefit Los Gatos. There is an application process to be awarded such a grant.
- Website – The website was completely updated last year. Nicky will continue to update it after each meeting.
- Youth Forums – We hosted two youth forums last year that were felt to be very helpful and successful in knowing the issues of the kids in Town. A suggestion was made that we continue with these but make them topic related.

Discussion of Commission Focus/Activities/Initiatives for 2007/2008

The commission viewed an attached list which was created at the Youth Commission orientation of possible issues and projects for the coming year. The following were recommended additions:

- Place for teens to practice and play golf. Possibly acreage in Vasona or partnership with the high school.
- Establishing a partnership with the associated student body.
- Additional sports facilities. The commission would like to hear about this from a Town representative.
- Foster arts involvement.
- Better facilitation of before and after school traffic.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Overview of Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Partnership – Mike Loya

Because of time restraints, this was tabled until the October meeting.

National League of Cities Conference

Chief Seaman explained that the National League of Cities conference will be held in New Orleans this November. We will be sending six youth delegates who are Bronwyn Stone, Kelsey Hall, Liz Mellema, Olivia Colliver, Peter Hadar and Stanford Stickney. They will be accompanied by Mike Loya, Sgt. Randy Rimple and Irene Shrier. This year we have been awarded a booth because of the relationship between the police department and the youth commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **October 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Council Chambers at 110 E. Main Street.