

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chief Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Rodd Farhadi, Paul Glenn, Hirsh Goswamy, Jacob Hershberger, Killian Jackson, Sheridan Jones, Doug McLeod, Alissa Miller, Matthew Mingrone, Nicky Robinson, Autefeh Sajjadi, Avi Salem, Robbie Van Unen, Andrew Yang

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier,

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Wasserman administered the oath of office to the youth commission. Following the oath, he addressed the commission and expressed the unique opportunity that the commission has to work with the Chief of Police.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of May 12, 2009

Ben Baranovsky made a motion, seconded by Robbie Van Unen, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting. **(Passed 15-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

No verbal communication.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. Mayor Wasserman's Welcome and Comments

The Mayor took the opportunity to encourage the commission to select a responsible chair. He said that as a chair, it is the chair's roll to encourage the commission and to listen as there are many different perspectives represented. As youth commissioners, you will be representing yourselves and your peers. It is your job to listen and respect the opinions of others. You were chosen because you are exceptional kids. The Town

Council is very interested in hearing from you as appointed members of the Youth Commission and representatives of the youth in the community.

Mayor Wasserman spoke of Project Cornerstone. Nine months ago, he took on the task of educating adults in the community about Project Cornerstone assets and how these assets help kids be happier, healthier and successful. To date, 67 groups in town have agreed to incorporate some of the assets into their businesses, clubs, schools and churches. The Mayor invited the Youth Commission Chair and Vice Chair to the September 21 council meeting which will officially recognize "Los Gatos Values Youth". If you are interested in participating in the Project Cornerstone project, you can visit www.projectcornerstone.org or email mwasserman@losgatosca.gov for more information. There are partnerships all around town dealing with this project. If you hear of issues or what your friends think, bring those things forward so that we can work on making Los Gatos a better place.

3. Review of Commissioner's Handbook

The Town Council created the commissioner's handbook for all of the commissions in town as a tool to know how to conduct business as a commission. Chief Seaman discussed the structure of the town, the different departments, principles, mission and future focuses. He also discussed the governance structure which sets policies of the town and follows through on these. There are different policies and guidelines that govern each department and commission.

Chief Seaman addressed the purpose of boards and commissions. It is the responsibility of these bodies to demonstrate leadership, gather information, learn the issues and problem solve. The Town Council is very interested in what is happening with the youth in the community. Their job is to set policies and it is the commission's responsibility to follow the policies. The Youth Commission meets twice a year with Town Council members to give input and make recommendations. Business can be transacted with Town Council in writing in the form of a memo. The Council receives and reads the monthly minutes of each Youth Commission meeting. You can attend public meetings and you can speak to issues as an individual but those views are not representative of the Youth Commission.

The Brown Act and operating procedures were addressed with the commission. The Brown Act is rules for how business is conducted in government. Only items on the agenda can be addressed at the meetings. A majority of a commission cannot meet together outside of a meeting to discuss official Youth Commission business. However, it is appropriate for subcommittees to be established and to work on business but they cannot be made up of a majority. In the case of the Youth Commission, there may only be 7 or less on a subcommittee. Making a motion is appropriate for an official transaction, with opportunities for discussion before the vote is taken, and a quorum must be present (7 or more).

Information on how commissioners are to conduct themselves was presented. Please call Irene (354-6840) if you need to miss a meeting. We also need to stay current with email addresses as this is our primary form of communication with you. If you have an address change of any kind, please let us know. If you miss 4 meetings in the course of a year,

you will be removed from the commission and an alternate will be appointed to fill that term. No homework or texting will be allowed during a meeting. You will be required to sign in at the beginning of each meeting and it is necessary to be on time to the meeting which starts at 7:00 p.m.

4. Review of Prior Year's Youth Commission Initiatives

Teen Friendly Business

Los Gatos High School leadership is promoting youth friendly businesses in town. There was discussion regarding the Youth Commission's interest in youth friendly businesses from the previous year. A rather informal survey was conducted last year by the Youth Commission among their peers at school regarding youth friendly businesses and their perception of youth being valued in the community. A nomination form for youth friendly businesses was created by the YC for possible use.

5. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations for chair and vice chair were solicited and each candidate was given an opportunity to explain why they would be a good candidate and what their platform was. A vote was taken by secret ballot and the Commission elected Robbie Van Unen, Chair, and Nicky Robinson, Vice Chair for the 2009-2010 year. The newly elected Chair, Robbie, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

6. Discussion of Current Year's Initiatives

- The commission would like to move forward with the youth friendly business project and will discuss this with the leadership at the LGHS who is also working on this issue. The commission will invite ASB president to a meeting to discuss ideas and possibly partner together on this project.
- The commission will review the two Project Cornerstone assets that they selected last year and will investigate implementation in the youth friendly business project.
- Mini grant program will be reviewed.
- Drug problem among teens to be discussed.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

7. September 21 Town Council Meeting/Project Cornerstone
Chief Seaman invited the new Chair, Robbie Van Unen, to attend the Monday meeting. Robbie agreed to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Autefeh Sajjadi, seconded by Paul Glenn, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.