

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2009

ROLL CALL:

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

Commissioners Absent: Paul Glenn, Sheridan Jones

Alternates Present: James Marino, Zaul Moayedian, Noel Painter, Julie Wiederhold

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Robbie Van Unen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of September 15, 2009

Ben Baranovsky made a motion, seconded by Nicky Robinson, to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2009 meeting. **(Passed 15-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

John Hogan introduced himself to the commission. He is working on non-profit business plan for a teen job placement service involving merchants and residents. Teens would work between 5-15 hours a week. The goal is to build the relationship between adults and teens and to assist teens with good work habits and skills.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. Presentation/Discussion of Youth Friendly Business Program & Next Steps

Mike Loya addressed the youth friendly business program which is unfinished from last year. The subcommittee last year worked on criteria which included: 1) treating youth customers with respect, 2) hiring youth and encouraging their school success and prepare youth for future careers, and 3) support community and school activities for youth. Mike worked as the staff advisor last year on this project and will continue with this.

Needs:

- Time line for the project
- Funding for stickers
- Information needs to be very specific
- Determine how nominations are accepted
- Develop a check list for criteria

Jessica von Borck, Economic Vitality Manager, addressed the commission and encouraged them to define what a youth friendly business is. It is important to have a clear goal in mind before you start approaching businesses. The business community will need to know what the benefit is for them and how you are going to help them.

Ronee Nassi, President of the Chamber of Commerce, addressed the commission and encouraged them to start small. Get started with businesses that are easy to identify. The Chamber of Commerce will be publishing a newsletter in December/January and she suggested that details of the program could be announced to the businesses through this media. Ms. Nassi suggested that the commission make a list of those businesses they think are teen friendly. They are: Jamba Juice, The Apple Store, Yokohama Sushi, Cold Stone, Delatti's, Pizza My Heart, Café de Flora, Una Mas, Borders, Studio Kicks, NC and In and Out Burger.

There was a discussion on what type of businesses teens would like to see in Los Gatos. Suggestions were clothing stores for teens, a better movie theater and a Target.

The commission created a subcommittee to work on the youth friendly business plan. The subcommittee members will be Ben Baranovsky, Hirsh Goswamy, Killian Jackson, Nicky Robinson (chair), Rodd Farhadi, Zaul Moayedian and Alissa Miller.

3. Report/Discussion and Possible Action from Chair/Vice Chair Meeting with Mayor/Vice Mayor

Robbie and Nicky reported on the meeting that they had with the Mayor and Vice Mayor. They are very much interested in the commission's youth friendly business project and made some suggestions. They also discussed the North 40 and would like input and recommendations from the commission. They encouraged the youth commission to select a few issues or projects and follow through on those.

4. Review and Discussion of Developmental Assets and the Youth Commission's Two Adopted Assets

The commission reviewed the two developmental assets that they selected last year to incorporate into commission activities. They are #7-community values youth, and #17-creative activities.

5. Discussion of Mini Grant Program

The program has been in existence for the last two years. It was established to provide \$200 grants for teen projects that help improve the community. There was discussion regarding whether to continue this program or not. Consensus was to keep the project as the Under 21 group may apply for the grant but the commission will not publicize the

program. Chief Seaman reported that there is currently no money dedicated to this program.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

6. Article on Youth Dialogues

An article on youth dialogues was distributed to the commission. A discussion followed regarding past youth forums which were sponsored by the commission. The commission thought there is value in the forums which allow teens in the community to bring forward issues they are concerned with. The commission discussed having a forum this December which could focus on youth friendly businesses in town but would also be open to other issues of concern to youth. A subcommittee was formed to decide the logistics and agenda for a December youth forum. Members are Autefeh Sajjadi (chair), Julie Wiederhold, Noel Painter, Avi Salem and Mike Loya who will be the staff advisor.

COMMISSION MATTERS

7. Proposed Youth Commission/Town Council/School Board Reception – January 2010

The youth commission and their parents have been invited to a dinner to meet town and school board members. It will be held in January 2010. Several commissioners pointed out that January 11-14 is finals week. This information will be taken to the Town Manager. Most commissioners said that they would be able to attend with their parents.

8. Holiday Parade

The holiday parade is on December 5, 2009 and starts at 11 a.m. Alissa Miller, Rodd Farhadi and Nicky Robinson will oversee preparations for this event. Mike Loya will make sure that the application gets turned in by October 19.

9. Sustainability Committee

Chief Seaman gave an explanation of the sustainability committee and their function. This committee would like a youth representative and has asked for a volunteer from the youth commission. Julie Wiederhold will be the primary representative with Noel Painter being the alternate.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Autefeh Sajjadi, seconded by Ben Baranovsky, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.