

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2010

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Jacob Hershberger, Sheridan Jones, Doug McLeod, Alissa Miller, Matthew Mingrone, Nicky Robinson, Autefeh Sajjadi, Robbie Van Unen, Andrew Yang

Commissioners Absent: Rodd Farhadi, Paul Glenn, Hirsh Goswamy, Killian Jackson, Avi Salem

Alternates Present: Zaul Moayedian, James Marino, Noel Painter

Alternates Absent: Julie Widerhold

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Robbie Van Unen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

TOUR OF THE POLICE OPERATIONS BUILDING

Sgt. D'Antonio gave the commissioners a tour of the new police operations building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of December 8, 2009

Autefeh Sajjadi made a motion, seconded by Ben Baranovsky, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2009 meeting. **(Passed 10-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

There was no verbal communication

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

4. Update on Town's Plans for Sports Facility – Todd Capurso

Todd Capurso, Director of Parks and Public Works, introduced himself. He addressed the property which the town purchased for a sports facility at 930 University Avenue. The property is 2-1/2 to 3 acres and has two current structures on it. There will be a town wide process with community meetings to discuss and seek input on interest in what type of sports activities and uses of the property

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. **Youth Forum**

Autefeh and Robbie co-chaired the forum. Autefeh addressed the group and asked for feedback on the youth friendly business program that the commission is working on as well as input on interest in a skate park option as part of the recreation center that will be developed at the University Avenue property.

Youth Friendly Businesses

There was discussion and an explanation of what the youth friendly business program is and how the commission plans to implement it. An audience participant suggested that the commission initiate a secret shopper type evaluation process. Another suggestion was that businesses in town give student shoppers with ASB cards a discount on their purchases. Students thought that the 7-11 store and Blendz were youth friendly businesses.

Skate Park Interest

Discussion continued around the idea of a skate park at the property on University Avenue. Audience participants thought this would be a place for kids to hang out without getting into trouble and a great asset to the community. One student mentioned that the United Methodist Church might be building a skate park on their property. Chief Seaman added that the Town will be going through a process and discussion with input from the community to address what will be put on the property in a meeting in March or April of next year. Mr. San Juan, president of the Los Gatos Youth Soccer League, was concerned that the meeting was to voice opposition to more soccer fields in Los Gatos. He said that there are 1850 soccer players in Town and the existing fields are booked from early morning until dark. There was no opposition to more soccer fields in Los Gatos.

Curfew

There was discussion about the town curfew. One participant thought the curfew was an infringement on the rights of youth and one thought it should be 11 pm instead of 10 pm. A participant was concerned about a rumor that officers were following kids home that had LGHS parking stickers on their vehicles. Sgt. D'Antonio assured the student that there was no truth to that rumor. Sgt. D'Antonio and Corporal Accardo addressed other issues that the students had and let them know that the job of the officer is to make sure that kids in Town are safe. Curfew brochures were available in the lobby for those who wanted more information.

Youth Jobs Program

One participant wanted more information regarding a youth temporary agency. Mr. John Hogan spoke to the issue since he is working on a youth jobs program. The idea is to create a non-profit jobs program for 13-19 year olds and place them in jobs within Los Gatos. The goal is to place 100 teens in jobs for no more than 15 hours a week and to have the program functional by next summer. Mr. San Juan offered that he hires students for \$15 an hour year round to help with clean up of the soccer field.

Teen Parties

Sgt. D'Antonio and Corporal Accardo addressed the issue of teen parties and informed the students how a teen party can be registered with the police department. They explained the advantage of registering a party in that if a noise complaint is received, the department will make a phone call as a warning. If a call is received that alcohol is present, officers will respond to the residence. There were many questions related to teen parties that the officers addressed such as circumstances of arrest, search warrants, and probable cause to name a few.

3. Update on Youth Friendly Business Plan

There was nothing new to review.

4. Discussion Regarding a Skate Park at the University Avenue Property

- The commission discussed the benefits of doing a survey to determine the interest among youth in Los Gatos for a skate park. The majority of the commission was in favor of doing a survey. Many different ideas and suggestions were made as to how this could be done.
- A commissioner suggested that a skate park would positively affect businesses in Town as skaters and families would be eating and visiting the down area while in town.
- Chief Seaman suggested that surveys are difficult and require a great deal of work to be credible. He stated that there is more value in inviting people to discuss what is important to them. It would be a benefit to discuss this with the Town Manager so that he can speak with the Council. The Town Council will take suggestions into account. The Director of Parks and Public Works knows that the commission is interested in providing input on this property. Chief Seaman also gave the commission some history on the past efforts of a skate park.
- A student who had intended to participate in the forum came in late and was asked to share his concerns with the commission. He addressed the issue of a skate park and was adamantly in favor of having a skate park in Los Gatos. Many unsubstantiated and general comments were made regarding past efforts at a skate park. Chief Seaman addressed some of the comments and encouraged the student to speak with Asst. Town Manager Pamela Jacobs regarding the process and efforts of the past which include studies and factual information. Chief offered the student his card and asked him to call and set up a time to further discuss this.

5. Holiday Parade Update

The parade was a great success and those who participated were happy with the outcome. Special thanks to Alissa Miller and Rodd Farhadi for organizing the event and getting everyone together.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.