

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2010

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Nicky Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Rodd Farhadi, Hirsh Goswamy, Erin Hughes, Doug McLeod, Matthew Mingrone, Zaul Moayedian, Nicky Robinson, Avi Salem

Commissioners Absent: Morgan Brost, Jacob Hershberger, Killian Jackson, James Marino, Kiara Stickney, Julie Wiederhold

Alternates Present: Jack Horan, Warren Nakazawa, Nikhil Patel, Thomas Wrappe

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair, Nicky Robinson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of October 12, 2010

Ben Baranovsky made a motion, seconded by Rodd Farhadi, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting. **(Passed 9-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Newly elected Mayor Joe Pirzynski addressed the commission and expressed his interest in working with them. He also expressed the Council's appreciation for the work the Youth Commission has done. The Mayor explained his professional experience as a therapist which aligns with the commission's issues/interests and is looking forward to a discussion with them. He complimented the Youth Commission on their award from the League of California Cities for the Youth Friendly Business program. He expressed that this is an outstanding example of youth leadership.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. Teen Stress Issues – Update on Initial Surveying and Next Steps

- Nicky spoke to the commission regarding Freshman Skills Day and Students-to-Students. They will be a resource for the Youth Commission if desired.
- A discussion was held regarding the value of the recent Challenge Day.
- Zaul, Rodd and Ben reported on their peer mediation training with CASSY. Ben provided a brief overview of how the conflict mediation process works. He has been querying students as to the source of their stress and determined that homework is a consistent theme. Nikhil voiced that pressure to succeed drives stress through homework. Doug cited college applications as a source of stress. Avi suggested that stress reduction strategies be explored. Rodd felt that focusing on the sources of stress was more desirable than management techniques. Discussion was held that the sources may not be able to be reduced and that appropriate next steps need to be determined.
- Chief suggested meeting with Los Gatos High School to discuss the issue. Nicky spoke regarding involvement in Students-to-Students and how a lot is already known about sources of stress and what has and is being done. He thought it might be appropriate to take what Los Gatos High School is doing out to other schools. Nikhil suggested talking to Los Gatos High groups, teachers and administrators to see how the Youth Commission can leverage existing efforts. John Hogan suggested having school show “Race to Nowhere” in English classes and holding discussions. Discussion followed regarding how to show the movie given other pressures and schedules.
- After discussion, a suggestion was made to contact school administration to understand the context of all that is already being done and seek opportunities to leverage existing efforts. Commissioners not attending LGHS will discuss this issued with their schools. Adam and Zaul agreed to speak to Mr. Autrey. Hirsch and Avi will speak with Ms. Schenk. Erin will speak with Mayor Pirzynski and Rodd, Zaul, Ben and Jack will discuss this with Liz Schoeban. Rodd suggested showing the movie instead to teacher and parents. Chief challenged the commission to evaluate their discussions against Project Cornerstone developmental assets: community values youth and creative activities as a way to relieve stress. Nicky will prompt an outreach and next month’s discussion via email.

3. Youth Friendly Business Plan

The phone bank was not discussed due to the unclear impact. A discussion was held regarding recruitment of nominations for youth friendly businesses. Chief suggested that the commission subcommittee review the list and make their own recommendations. The commission agreed to review the list and bring recommendations forward at the next meeting. There was further discussion regarding how to approach Fleur de Cocoa since input was not favorably received. Doug will be meeting with Jessica von Borck on Wednesday regarding ASB discounts from some of the businesses in Town.

4. Rally for Addiction Candlelight Vigil

Chief reported on the vigil that took place. He discussed and explained the intent of the vigil and the police department's intent to broaden its ability to address youth high risk behavior and solicited feedback and input from the commission. No action was taken.

5. Use of Social Networking Sites

Chief committed to reviewing viability of Facebook/Twitter.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

6. San Mateo County Youth Bill of Rights

Chief reviewed and explained a handout on the San Mateo County Youth Bill of rights which was presented by the National League of Cities. He suggested that the commission not take any action on this but use it as a resource for ideas.

7. Holiday Parade

Officer Michelle Gonzalez will be the department contact for the parade and Rodd Farhadi will take the lead on this. Those participating are Rodd, Doug, Avi, Hirsh, Jack, Warren, Zaul, Ben, Adam and Erin. Options for a vehicle were Nicky's SUV, Doug's trailer and Jake's SUV. These will be discussed with Officer Gonzalez.

8. Pledge of Allegiance

Chief asked the commission if they would agree to come to the Town Council meetings once a month to lead the pledge. Yes, they will do this.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.