

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2011

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Ben Baranovsky called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Morgan Brost, Rodd Farhadi, Hirsh Goswamy, Erin Hughes, Killian Jackson, James Marino, Doug McLeod, Zaul Moayedian, Kiara Stickney, Julie Wiederhold

Commissioners Absent: Jacob Hershberger, Matthew Mingrone, Nicky Robinson, Avi Salem

Alternates Present: Adam Gramling, Warren Nakazawa, Nikhil Patel, Thomas Wrappe

Alternates Absent: Jack Horan

Staff: Captain Alana Forrest, Irene Shrier

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice-Chair, Ben Baranovsky, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of December 14, 2010

Rodd Farhadi made a motion, seconded by Doug McLeod, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting. **(Passed 11-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

No verbal communication.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. 2011 Summer Reading Program for Youth

Heidi Long and Jennifer Laredo made a presentation to the commission regarding the summer reading program. They explained that the theme of the program is about family, community and history and is extended to kids, tweens and teens. Each participant will be issued a passport and will work to collect stamps as they read books. The idea is to collect stamps from youth friendly businesses in town through a series of clues much like a scavenger hunt. This will be an opportunity for the businesses to become engaged with the kids in the community. Heidi and Jennifer solicited ideas from the commission which included:

- Asking local businesses to design the passport
- Study groups for certain required reading
- Ask businesses to pay for the advertising they will get through the program with proceeds to go to the library
- Involve/invite more teens to help plan programs for kids
- Give community service credit for kids that join the summer reading program or help with the marketing
- Enter participants names, each time they read a book, for a chance to win a prize in a raffle
- Ice cream coupons could be used as an incentive
- Initially, have each participant read the same book, age appropriate, and then allow them to choose their own books
- Friendly competition for reading the most books

Heidi and Jennifer thanked the commissioners for their suggestions and asked them to contact Jennifer with any other thoughts or ideas. Jennifer distributed her business card to the commissioners.

3. Teen Stress Issues

- Hirsh reported that he spoke with Nancy Offer at the high school and they discussed the issue of teen stress with the main offenders being homework and peer influences.
- Erin reported that she spoke with Mayor Pirzynski. He suggested that the commission check with the systems that are in place to get a perspective on teen stress. He thought it would be beneficial to help kids who turn inward and don't want help.
- Ben polled each commissioner on the one thing that they thought to be the biggest stressor for kids and the results are as follows: too much homework, pressure to succeed, stress that kids put on themselves, no one available to help them get good grades, time management skills/organization, teachers giving unnecessary homework, expectations, testing, balancing extra-curricular activities and homework and building a resume for college applications.
- Programs that help kids deal with stress locally are CASSY, SCORE, which is peer-to-peer mediation, and TLC at the middle school.
- Ben asked the commission about ideas on how to proceed with this issue. It was suggested that individuals deal with stress in different ways and that stress isn't necessarily a bad thing because it can fuel one to do better. One suggestion was to put on an after school seminar that deals with stress. Another was to talk to the

school to see what can be done in this arena. There was further discussion about whether the commission could effectively do anything to make a difference. Capt. Forrest said that because some of the commissioners are already involved with organizations that deal with teen stress, they are learning and making a difference and that it might be beneficial to continue to do this. Some of the commissioners thought they should proceed on an individual basis instead of trying to discover a way for the Youth Commission deal with this issue. Ben asked the commission for a vote on whether they wanted to continue to investigate this or drop it. Eight commissioners out of fifteen voted not to go forward with this. A suggestion was made to take the information that the commission has learned about teen stress and pass it along to others who can use it.

4. Youth Friendly Business Plan

- The subcommittee has been visiting the Youth Friendly Businesses greeting them and checking to see if they are displaying their decals. If not, they are offering them another.
- YFB's should be mentioned in the El Gato and through other organizations at school.
- James reported that El Gato did an article on the award the Town received for the Youth Friendly Business program.
- Irene reported that on the Town website under Boards and Commissions/Youth Commission there is link to the listings of all of the Youth Friendly Business as well as a link to the YFB nomination form.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5. Youth Commission Reception Canceled for February 1, 2010

Ben let the commission know that this reception was canceled due to a scheduling conflict with the School Board members.

6. Library Board Discussion Invitation to YC on February 9, 2011 Meeting to Discuss Youth Utilization of New Library

This meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Morgan, Hirsh, Killian and Doug agreed to attend and give input.

7. Youth Commissioners Pledge of Allegiance at Council Meeting

James will be leading the February 7 pledge. Rodd committed to April 4 and Morgan and Erin have volunteered as well.

8. Discussion with Transportation & Parking Commission Regarding High School Parking – February 10 at 7:30 a.m., Town Council Chambers

Zaul, Adam and Doug have volunteered to attend the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.