

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Morgan Brost, Rodd Farhadi, Jack Horan, Erin Hughes, Zaul Moayedian, Nikhil Patel, Kiara Stickney, Claire Strickland

Commissioners Absent: Adam Gramling, Hirsh Goswamy, Killian Jackson, James Marino, Matthew Mingrone, Chloe Scolari

Alternates Present: Michael Daboll, Alisha Nagendran, Henry Strickland, Laura LaBombarda

Alternates Absent: Stefan Montana

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rodd Farhadi made a motion, seconded by Killian Jackson, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2011 meeting. **(Passed 9-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

- Officer Jamie Field, Juvenile Detective, introduced herself to the commission. Officer Field explained that she deals with juvenile crimes and the diversion program for misdemeanor crimes or lesser charges in the community. The diversion program offers the benefit of a 6 month in-house probation, which is community service related, rather than sending the case to the County Juvenile Probation Department which could potentially negatively affect the future of the juvenile.
- She briefly explained the issue of sexting and cyber-bullying among teens. There are laws in place to protect juveniles, ages 17 and under, against cyber-bullying and sexting. Officer Field would like to come to the next meeting to discuss these two topics and to education the commission on them and to discuss ways to get the information out to the community and to get feedback.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. Update on the North 40 – Joel Paulson

- Mr. Paulson did a power point presentation on the development of the North 40 and gave a progress report on the process. He explained that the strategic plan is a regulating document for a specific area. It captures the vision for the area, establishes land use and circulation policies, addresses architecture and plans for infrastructure.
- There have been two community workshops, as well as a number of advisory meeting and study sessions, to get input on the development of the North 40. Brainstorming has been part of the process which addressed residential housing, merchandising and retail, a hotel, office space, entertainment, restaurants and cafes and a food specialty market.
- Building heights would be 1-4 stories with the exception of a 5-story hotel.
- The next step will be an Advisory meeting on November 3, from 6-9 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Mr. Paulson encouraged the commission to attend the meeting and to give input.
- The Town Council is the decision making body for the town. However, the Planning Commission and Advisory Committee make recommendations on matters like the North 40.
- Mr. Paulson addressed question regarding drive-thru establishments. These are prohibited in Los Gatos today.
- There is a timeline in place for the North 40 project. The specific plan will be completed by the end of summer or fall 2012.

3. Presentation of the Town Tobacco Grant – Bradley Olin

- Bradley introduced himself and explained that he is working on special projects for the Town Manager's office one of which is the tobacco grant. The Town was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the County to support the tobacco prevention policy, program and enforcement efforts. The Town will need to adopt policies and regular enforcement procedures addressing the following issues: smoke free housing, smoke-free outdoor air, and reducing sales of tobacco products.
- The Town will need to come up with realistic ways to put their resources into action. One of the goals will be to partner with existing organizations to encourage tobacco prevention or awareness in kids under 18.
- A brainstorming session was held with the commissioners for ways to implement the grant. Suggestions were partnering with Peer to Peer Support at the high school, as well as CASSY (student counseling program); having special speakers, who have realistically dealt with the tobacco issue and who are age appropriate, relatable and engaging for teens speak at the schools; educate sports teams on the effects of smoking on health; CASA sponsored March drug free week; have kids do research on effects of smoking and make it a competition for a prize; and,

prohibiting smoking in the downtown and park areas with a designated smoking areas only.

4. Update on Drug Free Community Committee Meeting – Chief Seaman

- Chief reported that the committee meets monthly to discuss drug and alcohol use and other high risk behaviors among teens in the community. The committee does an assessment of the climate in the schools regarding these issues. At the last meeting, the School Resource Officer gave a presentation of the physical effects of tobacco and marijuana use which are very similar. Marijuana stunts emotional growth and causes underdevelopment in users. Chief also discussed medicinal marijuana use. Only two commissioners knew of other high school students who have medicinal marijuana cards. The committee is seeking a way to share information more effectively and would appreciate any suggestions from the commission on how to help with these issues.

5. Discussion on Promoting the Youth Commission and Youth Friendly Business Program

- The commission had a discussion on how to be more visible in the community. The goal is to make the community more aware of the youth commission, who they are and what they do, as well as promote the Youth Friendly Business program.
- Suggestions were as follows: promote YFB's that provide jobs for teens in the community; send out a school wide email regarding those businesses that are youth friendly; incentives for shopping YFBs; have a YFB day and provide t-shirts to the supporting merchants on the list; have commissioners wear t-shirts with the YFBs listed on the back; get more information to the middle schools; do a presentation or have a booth at the community services fair at Fisher; do a video announcement at Fisher; have Los Gatos Patch do a link to a Youth Commission website; do a presentation on Club Day at the high school; do a mailing via letter that is age/grade specific; have a booth at the Farmer's Market on Sundays; ask Chamber of Commerce to discuss with businesses to get visibility; check to see if the YFB stickers are posted in the business windows; and promote YFBs on a possible Facebook page.
- The commission decided to create a subcommittee to discuss a plan of action. Members will be Saul, who volunteered to chair the committee, Alisha, Henry, Michael, Morgan, Laura and Erin.

6. Facebook Page

- Chief Seaman checked with the Town Attorney regarding a Facebook page for the Youth Commission. It would be acceptable only if it is an informational page. The subcommittee will meet to discuss the formation of a Facebook page.

7. Participation in the Annual Holiday Parade

- The commission agreed to be participants once again in this year's holiday parade. The committee will consist of Rodd, Erin, Claire, Morgan, Jack, Zaul, Laura and Ben.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

8. Council/Commission Forum November 28, 2011

- The chair and vice chair will attend this meeting with the Town Council. The Council will be presenting the budget overview and best practices. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers on November 28 from 6-8 p.m. All commission members are invited to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.