

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Ben Baranovsky called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Rodd Farhadi, Hirsh Goswamy, Adam Gramling, Jack Horan, Killian Jackson, Matthew Mingrone, Zaul Moayedian, Kiara Stickney, Claire Strickland

Commissioners Absent: Morgan Brost, Erin Hughes, James Marino, Nikhil Patel, Chloe Scolari

Alternates Present: Stefan Montana, Henry Strickland

Alternates Absent: Michael Daboll, Alisha Nagendran, Laura La Bombarda

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rodd Farhadi made a motion, seconded by Adam Gramling , to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 meeting. **(Passed 10-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

- Chris Tanimoto, the vice chair and chair elect for 2012 for the Transportation and Parking Commission, thanked Rodd Farhadi for attending the last meeting. She extended an invitation to the Youth Commission to partner with the Transportation and Parking Commission. The T&P commission is interested in addressing issues regarding parking and traffic in and around the high school and would like a youth commission representative to attend whenever they meet with the high school.
- Kia Fariba, from the Saratoga Youth Commission, along with two other commissioners and the staff liaison, introduced themselves to the commission. They were in attendance to observe our youth commission as they do with other youth commissions in the area.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Grand Opening of Teen Room in Library

Heidi Long, from the Library, asked the youth commission for their ideas for the teen room at the new Library. Suggestions were to add the high school AP class reading list books, ensure that computers for teens are available, hosting teen activities with food and snacks, have tutors available for a few hours after school and a weekly book club. The commission also provided ideas for publicizing the grand opening and ongoing activities. Already planned activities included study halls with pizza, drinks and snacks, as well as stations that will be made available for listening to music. The Library has all of the high school text books in stock.

Cyber Bullying/Digital Safety/Sexting Presentations

- Officers Jamie Field and Erin Lunsford did an informative power point presentation for the commission. Cyber bullying can be illegal and is different from how people have previously thought of face-to-face bullying. Officer Field provided this definition for cyber bullying: “Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices. The use of electronic means by a person to torment, threaten, harass, humiliate, embarrass, or otherwise target another.” Also, “Having something posted of you or referring to you on a social media website (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube) that is not appropriate or receiving email and/or IM (instant messaging) that is upsetting.
- The laws on cyber bullying were reviewed and there was a discussion on how they have had to change in response to use of social media as a bullying tool. Modifying images and postings, false Craig’s List ads and false Facebook profiles used to embarrass a victim are all ways to manipulate and bully. A video was shown which demonstrated types of and impacts of cyber bullying. Girls are twice as likely as boys to be victims. Fifty-eight percent of kids say they’ve been victimized by bullying. It used to stop at 3:00 p.m. when school let out but that is no longer the case with social media.
- Sexting can be child pornography with serious consequences. There was a review of the laws as well as an e-presentation regarding harassment, cyber-stalking and child pornography. A new bill is being proposed as an addition to the education code which, if approved, would mandate the expulsion of students found sexting.
- Questions asked by the commissioner included:
 - A definition of cyber-stalking which is an act that demonstrates a person is being followed and watched.
 - Is use of Formspring discouraged by the police; the answer being yes.
- The commission thought it would be valuable for Officer Field to get this type of information out in general. It was suggested that this information be posted on the Youth Commission’s Facebook content which was followed by a discussion on process. Commissioners also suggested that Officer Field get involved with Students-to-Students next year.

A Place for Teens

- Nicole Williams, the President of A Place for Teens, and Chelsea Hamner, a high school student, introduced themselves to the commission. They provided

- background and information on APFT including its history, current status and their mission and vision including the values of the new leadership and future plans. APFT is seeking alliances and solicited youth commission feedback on current perceptions and suggestions for programming and activities. Suggestions were to fix the air hockey table and expand gaming and tournaments, concerts with local rappers, make use of the stage for performances, i.e. cabaret night/Under 21 club, movie nights, bring in food vendors and restaurants, distribute an anonymous survey through the high school, reinstate the capability for a recording studio, and allow high school clubs to have their meetings there.
- Past activities at The Venue included Safe Rides, garage sales, food fest, Under 21 Club, freshman orientation Bandstand Boogie, swim nights, classes and programs. Under the new leadership, perhaps APFT could provide opportunities for the county's alternative sentencing program.
 - The next APFT board meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Update on Facebook Page

There was a discussion regarding the Youth Commission Facebook page which is for posting information only. The commission would like to be able to post links to other pages, i.e. cyber bullying, commission meeting updates/minutes, etc.

Youth Friendly Business

Ben Baranovsky will set up a meeting with the subcommittee prior to the next meeting.

Update on Holiday Parade

Rodd Farhadi reported that the turn out this year was lower than expected. There was discussion about making the parade mandatory for the commissioners. The Monte Sereno youth commission all participated in the parade and had a float.

Update on Council/Commission Forum

Ben Baranovsky gave a brief update on the forum.

Update on Traffic Commission Meeting

Rodd Farhadi attended the last meeting of the Parking and Transportation Commission meeting. The commission sees high school traffic as one of the most pressing issues and would like to collaborate with the high school and youth commission on this.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

The Bicycle Advisory Committee asked via email if anyone from the Youth Commission would be able to attend the next meeting on 12/21/11 in place of Alisha Nagendran. That week is finals week and none of the commissioners were able to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.