

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 E. MAIN ST.
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2006

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Reeta Banerjee called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Reeta Banerjee, Hallie Barnes, Jonathan Berthet, Zach Hershberger, Jordan Kahler, Liz Mellema, Nicky Robinson, Ellen Rockdale, Stanford Stickney, Bronwyn Stone, Jan Van Bruggen, Ashley Yuki, Amy Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Olivia Colliver, Peter Hadar

Alternates Present: Rachel Carson, Kelsey Hall, Susan Kahng

Alternates Absent: Jason Louie, Lindsay Trone

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman
Captain David Gravel
Mike Loya, LGS Rec. Dept./A Place for Teens
Irene Shrier, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were amended to read, Youth Commission Liaison to Other Town Commissions, Transportation and Parking – Jonathan Berthet. A motion was made by Jordan Kahler and seconded by Amy Zhang to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting. **Passed (13-0)**

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Barbara Kreider, Teen Librarian, addressed the commission and informed them that the library is forming a Teen Advisory Council. The council will help plan programs of interest to teens, choose materials of interest to teens, and decorate the library teen zone. They will also make suggestions of book titles, subjects and authors, as well as CD titles or music by recommended artists. The first meeting of the Teen Advisory Council will be Thursday, December 14 at 3:30 p.m. in the library.

Ray Davis addressed the commission on an aspect of the Brown Act. He encouraged the Los Gatos Youth Commission to allow any person to speak to any issue not on the

agenda during Verbal Communication and suggested that the commission add that language to the posted agendas.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Welcome Mayor Joe Pirzynski

Reeta introduced Mayor Pirzynski to the Commission. Mayor Pirzynski gave an overview of his background. He was elected to the Town Council in 1998, and re-elected in 2002 and 2006 and is currently serving his 3rd term. He is a senior counselor and psychology teacher at Archbishop Mitty High School and does marriage counseling in his off-duty hours.

Mayor Pirzynski spoke to the fact that the Commissioners are the leaders of the youth in our community with a direct influence and are representatives that allow every voice of every young person to be heard. He asked the group to think about what each one can do to help other kids in the community. Mayor Prizynski made himself available to the commission to discuss issues and items of concern. He is very interested in working with them to create a cohesive unit that works to address issues that are important to teens in our community. He also asked the group to consider how the Town Council and Commission can work together to educate the people in our community on processes. One resource that is available is the Town website where anyone can access previous Town Council meetings. The Mayor would like to work with the Youth Commission to make sure that every young person in the community is aware of this commission. He can be reached through the Town Manager's office. He would also like to be invited to sub-committee meetings if applicable.

Chair Reeta and Vice Chair Jordan presented the keys to the city of Flagstaff, Arizona to the Mayor which were given to them by the Flagstaff Youth Commission at the National League of Cities Conference.

Youth Speak

- **Concerts at The Venue** - Katie Saunders and Chris, board members at The Venue, addressed the commission regarding concerts which are currently sponsored by The Venue. Concerts aren't typically as well attended or promoted as they would like. They have been approached by a member of a local band who offered to help them promote these events. The terms of an agreement would be that after reaching a \$500 profit, a 40/60 split would happen; forty percent going to The Venue and sixty to the promoter. Some voiced concern that a promoter wouldn't be in touch with what the kids want. On the other hand, a promoter would bring new and better exposure. This is still in the talking stage and a decision has not been reached at this point.

The Youth Commission is interested in partnering with The Venue to help promote them. Commission alternates can be part of the board. Olivia is currently representing the commission at The Venue. The meetings are the first Tuesday of every month and start at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.

- **Curfew** - Dylan Baker spoke to the issue of the curfew. He didn't think the curfew was instated for any practical reason and that teens should be allowed to be out after 10:00 p.m. if they are not causing a problem. He would like the Town to consider revising its current policy. Several commissioners spoke to the issue since this was previously addressed at the last forum. It was explained that there is a higher risk to teens after 10:00 p.m. Chief Seaman was asked to address the issues as well and explained that the law was created in 1968. It currently has a general application and is a resource for Law Enforcement if needed. To make a change to the law would be a Town Council matter. It would be helpful to put an article in the newspaper about the curfew to help educate the public. **Officer Sam Wonnell will work with high school students to get a monthly column in the Weekly that addresses concerns and questions of youth which would include curfew.**
- **Skate Park** - Pilar Svendsen addressed the issue of the skate park. She raised the question of how enough money can be raise to get the skate park finished. She suggested the benefit of approaching businesses and parents in the community encouraging them to support and donate to the project. She also enumerated on the benefits of a skate park for the community and teens. Pilar addressed grants that are available through some skateboarding organizations.

Dennis Byron addressed the group and stated that he is working on getting private funding for the skate park. He is close to getting a letter of intent to fund this project and will be working with organizations in Town and around the state. He can be reached at dennis@byronandassociates.com. **The Youth Commission will jointly facilitate a meeting with the Skate Park Committee that will be open to the community.**

Actions by Youth Commission

- 1) **A motion was made by Liz Mellema and seconded by Bronwyn Stone to create a sub-committee to jointly work with the Skate Park Committee to convene a community meeting to discuss support and funding. (Passed 13-0)** The sub-committee will consist of Zack Hershberger, Jan Van Bruggen, Stanford Stickney, Jon Berthet, Jordan Kahler, Liz Mellema and Bronwyn Stone. Bronwyn and Stanford will lead the group.
- 2) **A motion was made by Jan Van Bruggen and seconded by Ashley Yuki to create a sub-committee to discuss the Town curfew and to distribute the curfew policy. (Passed 13-0)** Sub-committee members will consist of Ashley Yuki, Ellen Rockdale, Hallie Barnes, Jan Van Bruggen and Stanford Stickney. Ashley and Stanford will lead the group.

National League of Cities Conference Report

Fourteen Youth Commission members attended the conference in Reno on December 6-9. They reported that they came back with many new and different ideas and did networking with other youth commissions. They will take a look at some of the ideas that will work for us and see how we can incorporate these. A suggestion was made to

make a youth commission video and send it out to other schools or cities. The Flagstaff Arizona group will try to implement a program similar to our Safe Rides program.

The commission will speak with the mayor about implementing a city platform for strengthening families and improving outcomes for children and youth which was developed by the National League of Cities. Jonathon Berthet volunteered to work with youth and city leaders via the NLC website.

Palo Alto Community Meeting Relating to Youth and Alcohol Report

Recently, Palo Alto hosted a community meeting relating to youth and alcohol use. Captain Gravel, Stanford Stickney and Olivia Colliver attended. The goal was to get a cross section of the community, adults, kids and leaders, together to dialogue about the issue of teens and alcohol use.

Sub-Committee Reports

Skate Board Sub-Committee

The Venue would like to host a fundraiser to benefit the Skate Park. It will be held on April 15 and will be \$40 a person and will include a spaghetti dinner and art show. **A motion was made by Jan Van Bruggen to transfer the Youth Forum sub-committee to a Publicity Committee to promote the Skate Park. (Passed 13-0)**

Website

Liz and Nicky are working on getting the bios done so that they can be posted. It was suggested that we have a link to the Youth and Cities Leaders website.

Due to time constraints, the liaisons and other sub-committees will report back at the next meeting.

Holiday Parade Update

There was a good turn out by the Youth Commission and it went very well. Anyone desiring a 50th anniversary holiday parade pin can get one from Liz Mellema.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at 110 E. Main Street.