



*Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services*

## YOUTH COMMISSION

---

# **Commission Meeting Minutes**

## **April 27, 2009**

The Youth Commission of the City of San José convened in regular session on April 27, 2009 in the City Council Chambers of San José City Hall at 6:07p.m.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioner Loo, Trevino, Taxera, Uzoh, Hawn, Polussa and Tu

Not Present: Commissioner Shankar and Commissioner Carrera

Late: Commissioner Aldama

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINTUES**

March meeting minutes was approved

### **III. CEREMONIAL ITEMS**

None

### **IV. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Sally Casas from People Acting in Community Together (PACT) addressed the commission by giving a brief description of the organization. Ms. Casas invited the commission to attend Safe and Vibrant Neighborhoods PACT meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Stephanie Fong, a Masters Degree student from San Jose State University in Public Administration, addressed the commission by informing them of her Masters Thesis. Ms. Fong has chosen to write on the impact of Youth Commissions around the Bay Area. Her research will include the influence youth have on public policy and the value youth bring to the policy process.

### **V. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

**(Information Only)**

Council assistant Tiana Seymore informed the commission that on May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor's Budget message would be release. June 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a community resource Fair at History Park.

### **VI. LIAISON REPORTS**

**(Information Only)**

San José Public Library liaison Angie Miraflor thanked the commission for attending and speaking on the Library Internet Filtration during the Council meeting. She assured the

commission that their involvement is very important to the community. May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Almaden Library Branch will host the final teen talent show. Ms. Miraflor, informed the commission that the library has gathered information from their community forums and has found that the public would like the library to stay open till late hours. At this time, this may not be possible due to budget, however they have an online tutoring program for K through 12 grades. They also have a chat line called Asked Now. San Jose Library has started their own chat with a San Jose Liberian where students may contact and ask their questions directly to a San Jose Liberian. The library will also host their first graphic novel making contest and will accept entries until May 8<sup>th</sup>

Senior Commission liaison Elisa Perez reported that the Senior Commission currently has five vacancies on the Senior Commission. She mentioned that they don't need to be Senior to apply. The Senior Commission is currently looking into the domestic violence issues. She concluded by informing the commission that the Senior Walk that was held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, was successful and well attended by seniors.

Human Right Commission Liaison Vanessa Burbach not present to report

Truancy Report Liaison Officer Quezada reported truancy numbers for the month of March. Total teens picked up for truancy were 570 teens. 164 repeat offenders in which 6 were cited, 12 were on probation, 18 were referred to counseling service and 6 were given interview cards. The largest numbers of trances' are in the age group between 15 and 17 years of age. A total number of truant teens for the school year is 3,475 teens.

## **VII. AD HOC WORKING TEAMS REPORTS**

**(Information Only)**

Commission Taxera announced that the Policy Team had a discussion with the Police Chief Rob Davis to gather information regarding the Smoking Ban. Along with the gathering information, Police Chief Davis invited the commission to have a tour of the police department to strengthen the relationship between the youth commission and police.

Commission Polussa of the Safety Team informed that they had a meeting with Sergeant Quezada and urged the commission to look into the teen truancy problem. Currently with 3,475 students being truant, the school system is losing \$174,000.00. Not only does this affect students attending school but those that are not attending. Poor grades, suspension, being expelled from school and ultimately dropping out of school are the four common characteristics and trends of truancy. Sergeant extended an invitation for the commissioners to attend a TABS office to see first hand how truant teens are processed through. Commissioner Polussa urged the commission to look into this issue since it affects their peers.

Health and Education Team concurred with commissioner Polussa's truancy report.

Commissioner Aldama reported that the Public Relation team is just about completed the newsletter.

Commissioner Hawn reported that the Executive Board met and reviewed and updated the Commissions By-laws.

## **VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

District 1 Commissioner Shankar was not present to report

District 2 Vacant

District 3 Commissioner Carrera was not present to report.

District 4 Commissioner Loo reported that the D4 YAC participated in the Global Youth Service day by attending the Great America Litter Pick Up. The D4 YAC is planning their beautification project on May 23<sup>rd</sup> where they will be cleaning up litter and graffiti around their community.

District 5 Commissioner Trevino announced that she will be conducting her first YAC meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Alum Rock Youth Center. She plans on visiting the Alma Rock Youth Center on Monday's and Thursday's in an effort to recruit YAC members. Commissioner Trevino goal is to become more involved with her community.

District 6 Commissioner Taxera reported that the student body of his high school participated in a program called "Every 15 Minutes" directed to simulate the death of a student due to drunk driving. The program was dramatic and left an impression on the students to think before drinking and driving.

District 7 Commissioner Aldama reported that the D7 YAC had 17 people at their last YAC meeting. Alcohol-pop presentation was done by Friday Night Live. Commissioner Aldama, reported that the D7 YAC attended the council district budget meeting on April, 15. D7 YAC also attended and participated in the Global Youth Service Day.

District 8 Commissioner Uzoh reported that the D8 YAC Met with the organizer of the "Going Ever Green" program. This program brings environmental projects to schools and teaches students how to be environmental consciences.

District 9 Commissioner Hawn reported that the D9 YAC has a new member from Nor dame High School. The D9 YAC is planning on hosting a recruiting party for new YAC members in June in order to help establish and maintain the D9 YAC for the new on coming commissioner. The D9 YAC will be contacting Ida Price Middle school to gather evaluations of the workshop that they conducted at their school.

District 10 Commissioner Polussa reported that the D10 YAC has met and will be hosting another family movie night on May 8<sup>th</sup>. at the Almaden Community Center. The D10 YAC members attended the Great America Litter Pick Up for Global Youth Service Day.

City Wide Commissioner Tu report how students from her school cleaned up around their school for Earth Day.

## IX. ACTION ITEMS

### a.) High School Mixer Proposal

Commission Vice Chair Hawn, proposed that the proceeds of the D1 and D9 High School Mixer go to benefit the organization, "To Write Love on Her Arms" an organization that addresses teen suicide. Commissioner Hawn further

proposed that the mixer would allow for more awareness of YAC and more awareness of the destructive issue such as teen suicide.

**Moved:** To approval the High School Mixer at the Camden Multi Purpose room By providing a safe environment for teens to learn about YAC and support the 'To Write Love on Her Arms'

**M/S** Commissioner Loo/Commissioner Aldama     **Ayes:** All

b.) Commission Revised Bylaws

Commission Vice Chair Hawn, reported that the executive board reviewed and updates the commissions bylaws to reflex specific officer duties, defined and expanded absent policy and added commission trainings.

**Moved:** To approval updated commission by-laws to take affect in August, 2009  
**M/S** Commissioner Uzoh / Commissioner Trevino     **Ayes:** All

c.) Approval of Training Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Tu presented and reviewed the training meeting minutes for approval.

**Moved:** To approve the April Commission Training Minutes.  
**M/S** Commissioner Loo / Commissioner Aldama     **Ayes:** All

d.) Teen Bill of Rights

Commission Vice Chair Hawn, presented the proposal on behalf of the Commission Chair Shankar, to have the commission look into establishing a Teen Bill of Rights as those of the San Mateo County as adopted. After discussion it was,

**Moved:** To look into adopting a Teen Bill of Rights for San Jose teens.  
**M/S** Commissioner Taxera / Commissioner Loo     **Ayes:** All

**X** **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

a.) 2010 Census

Staff, informed the commission of the 2010 Census is in the process and reminded the commission of its importance to them as a commission.

b.) Online Recreation Registration

Staff, informed the commission of the new PRNS recreation on line registration system and invited them to let their peers know that they may now go online to register for any summer programs.

d.) Safe Summer Initiative

Staff informed the commission that their Vice Chair Katie Hawn has been invited to sit in on the reviewing panel for the Safe Summer Initiative in which she has accepted.

**XI STAFF REPORTS**

**(Information Item)**

a.) YTRS Report

Staff reported that several of the cities that attend the Youth and Teen Recreation Services meeting have reported some budget deficits. Some cities are in the process of conducting fund raisers to help keep teen center door open.

b.) Commission Vacancies

Staff reminded the commission of their vacancies in District 2 and the up coming vacancies in District 4 and 9.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm by Commissioner Hawn.

DRAFT