



## Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

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**Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA  
January 13, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Tess Shotland.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Kimberley Chew, Kristina Costanzo, Ajay Immadi, Nikita Jadhav, Kelly Mokashi, Ella Min, Karishma Parikh, Ella Piergrossi, Zaynah Shah, Carys Shannon, Ashwin Sriram, and Chairperson Tess Shotland.

Commissioners Absent: Keshav Patel, and Tejas Prakash.

Staff Present: Nicole Thomas, Recreation Supervisor; Sean Welch, and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

### **AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

None.

### **MINUTES**

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of November 9, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chew, seconded by Commissioner Mokashi, to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2020 Youth and Civic Arts Commission Joint Special Meeting.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

2. Public comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda.

None.

## **MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

3. City Council 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process

Mr. Welch reviewed with commissioners the prioritization process for the 2021-2022 City Council Work Plan. He noted that the process typically includes a City Council workshop so short- and long-term objectives for the City can be discussed. Information from the workshop allows for priority projects to be identified by the public and includes mayor and councilmember goals, City staff identified goals, and identifies goals recognized at a previous workshop but not yet completed.

Commissioners were provided information about the Vision Statement, General Plan, and Strategic Objectives of the Work Plan and advised that short- and long-term objectives include:

1. Develop Bernal Community Park
2. General Plan Implementation
3. Maintain Fiscal Responsibility
4. Address Affordable Housing
5. Implement Improved Traffic Circulation Measures
6. Foster Economic Development
7. Strengthen Youth Programs, Services and Activities
8. Assure a Safe and Secure Community
9. Protect and Enhance Pleasanton's Quality of Life, including Downtown
10. Pursue Environmental Awareness, Health, Land Use and Preservation Issues
11. Operate an Effective and Cost-Efficient Government
12. Establish Integrated Initiatives for Organizational Success

Mr. Welch advised that putting projects into the 2-year Work Plan allows City Council and staff to establish and identify projects for budget purposes and asked that the Youth Commission recommend priorities for the youth category and identify projects that are not already included as a priority.

Ms. Thomas informed the commission of the three youth related priorities in the draft work plan, all of which had been included in the previous plan:

1. Create Awareness of Health and Safety Issues and Policies
2. Expand Connections to Youth and Teen Services, and
3. Expand Recruitment Strategies for Youth and Young Adults

She discussed the need for Ptownlife.org to be updated and the web teams desire to do this so it can be a useful resource for youth; developing a resource network that will help everyone

meet their goals, auditing and updating the Youth Master Plan, and continuing to develop recruitment strategies.

Ms. Thomas asked commissioners to look at these potential priorities and decide on two or three recommendations they would like to be put into the City Council Work Plan for the next two years. She noted that with the COVID-19 restrictions commissioners should consider what priorities they believe they will be able to work on.

Commissioner Piergrossi discussed the possibility of splitting the Health and Wellness Committee into two separate committees for health and mental health and questioned whether the commission could do anything about putting an initiative in schools. She felt there was a need for some issues to be discussed and talked about more in schools so students could focus on these issues.

Commissioner Mokashi thought 'Recovery from COVID' would be a good topic as well as helping youth get back to a normal transition, she felt the City and School District could work together on something.

Mr. Welch advised that COVID Recovery was not a part of the 2-Year Work Plan but is something that the City has been considering. Also, the City has a liaison committee with members of the School District and there could be an opportunity for youth members to work with this committee on post COVID issues.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned if a member of the Youth Commission could be added to the Liaison Committee and Mr. Welch advised he was unsure if a member of the Youth Commission could be added but thought it was something that could be considered.

Commissioner Mokashi felt that the Youth Commission could work parallel with the Liaison Committee with the workshops held by the commission.

M. Thomas felt this was an issue that the Health and Wellness Committee would work on this and make it a project for this year that will work within actions being taken by the City of Pleasanton and the School District. Chairperson Shotland agreed this was something that would be a good fit for the Health and Wellness Committee. She also felt the commission should look at the project for the web team since making improvements to Ptownlife.org would enable to offer important information to Pleasanton youth. Ms. Thomas commented on the need to revamp Ptownlife.org and felt the web team would be able to find new resources.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned whether any other commissioners had thoughts regarding her suggestion to split the Health and Wellness Committee into two separate committees. Commission Chew felt it could be split if two separate topics were to be worked on, but if only one project then she did not think it should be split. Commissioner Costanzo agreed it could be helpful to have separate committees working on health and mental health. Ms. Thomas felt that it was not necessary for a committee to focus only on mental health and both health and mental health matters could be accomplished by one committee. Chairperson agreed that it should not

be difficult for one committee to focus in both areas but suggested increasing the number of members on the committee might be helpful.

Commissioner Sriram asked for a clarification on the Youth Commission committees already in place. Ms. Thomas advised they are: Public Policy Committee, Health and Wellness Committee, and Special Events Committee.

Commissioner Jadhav agreed with the three priorities recommended by staff.

Commissioner Shah questioned whether the Youth Commission was able to recruit non-commission students to assist with projects and whether volunteers could be asked to help with projects.

Ms. Thomas asked commissioners to confirm that they were focusing on prioritizing projects that included health and wellness and the revamping of Ptownlife.org. Commissioner Mokashi asked if any commissioner had a burning topic, they would like for the commission to work on.

Chairperson Shotland felt with COVID-19 being a big issue right now that the commission could work something relating to this within the Youth Education Series and was something a committee could work on via Zoom with topics such as: 1) how to handle school, 2) encouraging people to stay active, 3) focus on education, etc. Commissioner Shah suggested including topics such as: 1) self-motivation, 2) mental health, 3) decreasing screen time, 4) stepping back into the normal world, and 5) social interaction.

Commissioner Mokashi felt technology addiction was a big issue affecting youth and Commissioner Piergrossi commented on how technology has become linked to so many things and kids have been finding ways to cheat attending online classes, which is causing a self-worth issues that needs to be addressed. She felt this was a problem even for some cheaters and was an item that perhaps the commission could address. Commissioner Chew felt that some of these issues needed to be addressed by the Pleasanton Unified School District and that the commission could provide information to them.

Commissioner Piergrossi agreed with Commissioner Chew and Commissioner Costanzo questioned if it was possible for the commission to have joint meetings with members of the School District. Commissioner Immadi suggested having a Youth Commission representative make presentations to the School Board. Commissioner Mokashi questioned Ms. Thomas on whether she should reach out to the School Board on this, indicating she felt there were some issues that the Youth Commission and the School Board could work together in-tandem. Ms. Thomas requested she not reach out to the School Board at this time and Commissioner Mokashi questioned if this was a funding issue. Ms. Thomas advised that the item on the agenda being discussed by the commission is for the prioritization of projects for the City Council 2021-22 Two-Year Work Plan.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned if members of the commission could meet separately by Zoom. Ms. Thomas commented on needing to follow all required rules and regulations.

Commissioner Sriram stated that he would like to work on revamping the Ptownlife.org website as it is a good resource for students to access and could provide a much-needed resource for study groups, etc. Chairperson Shotland felt the third project (Expanding Recruitment Strategies for Youth and Young Adults) was something that could be included with the revamping of Ptownlife.org. Commissioner Sriram agreed and felt it would not be too difficult and thought there could be a section on the network where clubs, etc. could meet.

Commissioner Shah questioned how much control the commission would have over Ptownlife.org. Ms. Thomas provided details on what control the commission might have. Commission Piergrossi asked about the timeline for this project and Ms. Thomas advised that priorities on the City Council 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan needed to be approved by City Council at a March meeting, which means beginning the project could start before the end of the school year, but more likely would begin to take place in the fall.

Mr. Welch provided details about the city's budget process that would need to be approved which would mean the project could not begin before July 1, 2021. Ms. Thomas advised Commissioner Piergrossi that funding would need to be added for a mental health project.

Chairperson Shotland confirmed with commissioners that the projects they wished to prioritize were for Health and Wellness and Ptownlife.org.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shah, seconded by Commissioner Costanzo, recommending inclusion in the City Council 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization in the Youth Category the following two projects:

1. Create Awareness of Health and Safety Issues and Policies, and
2. Expand Connections to Youth and Teen Service

With Item 3. Expand Recruitment Strategies for Youth and Young Adults to be removed from the Youth Commission priority list.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: Commissioners Chew, Costanzo, Immadi, Jadhav, Mokashi, Min, Parikh, Piergrossi, Shah, Shannon, Sriram, and Chairperson Shotland.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Patel and Prakash.

ABSTAIN: None

4. Discuss Evaluation Process and Meeting Format for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Community Grant Funds – Youth Category Program Review

Ms. Thomas reviewed with commissioners the Community Grant Fund Process and the format for the March meeting. She advised that as in the past the meeting would begin at 6:00 p.m. and presentations will be made by agencies that have submitted applications. Information will

be emailed to commissioners providing details on how they can access Zoomgrants to review the grant applications. Commissioners were advised to review all applications and make their funding recommendations. Information on commissioner funding recommendations and staff's recommendations will be provided for commissioners to consider at the March meeting. The process for the commissioners to consider the applications and make their final funding recommendations will be the same as used in the past few years.

Commissioner Mokashi asked about the number of applications received and whether any were repeat applications. Ms. Thomas advised that some applications are from agencies that have been funded in the past and several are new.

Ms. Thomas advised that the total funding available for the commission to consider allocating for fiscal year 2021/2022 is \$42,198.96. She advised that one grantee, Children's Museum, needed to close because of COVID-19 and so unable to use the funds, another had returned some funds.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned whether the commission would be advised at the March meeting if other agencies had not used all their funds. Ms. Thomas advised that grantees have until June 30, 2021 to use their funds and any unused funds would rollover into the next grant funding cycle.

Commissioners were asked to contact Ms. Thomas if they had any questions about accessing Zoomgrants. She encouraged commissioners to access the program as soon as possible and advised that the program has been operating slowly lately.

Ms. Thomas informed commissioners that after the March meeting staff does not anticipate that there will be any additional meetings until September. She additionally noted that all agency presentations at the March meeting will be done virtually.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.