



# Youth Commission Minutes

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## Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA March 3, 2021 - 6 p.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Vice Chair Costanzo.

### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

### Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Kimberly Chew, Kristina Costanzo, Ajay Immadi, Nikita Jadhav, Kelly Mokashi, Ella Min, Karishma Parikh, Ella Piergrossi, Tejas Prakash, Zaynah Shah, Carys Shannon, and Ashwin Sriram.

Commissioners Absent: Keshav Patel and Chairperson Tess Shotland.

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

### **AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

None.

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Approve regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2021.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Chew seconded by Commissioner Immadi, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021. **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 FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION**

### **3. Review and Allocate Community Grant Funds in the Youth Category for Fiscal Year 2021/2022**

Ms. Thomas summarized the process for reviewing and considering allocation of the Community Grant Funds in the Youth Category. She commented on consideration of the commission when reviewing applications being on programs that are designed to encourage and promote services that will benefit Pleasanton youth, with funding levels for all applications remaining at the maximum level of \$7,500.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. Thomas that they have a designated budget of \$42,198.96 available to be allocated in the Youth Category of the Community Grant Program, with a total of nine applications requesting grants for a total of \$61,700.

**At 6:09 p.m. Vice Chair Costanzo opened the meeting for agency presentations.**

Hively (Helping Kids Build Resilience During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic), Kelly O'Lague Dulka – thanked the commission for their past support. Ms. Dulka noted that the issue of resilience has heightened with kids during the past year and an increase has been seen in the number of them struggling. She advised that funding for the program would allow Hively to provide workshops during the spring and summer that will assist kids adjust in getting back to normal life by providing support on social services and building confidence. Ms. Dulka commented on teens that have suffered with online cyber bullying and it is important to help kids to be successful.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked Ms. Dulka about Hively providing the workshops while maintaining social distancing and was advised that Hively will follow all required guidelines.

Commissioner Mokashi discussed with Ms. Dulka the number of kids that Hively expects to target in the program. She was advised that Hively expects to reach 120 elementary and 120 middle school students in separate workshops during the summer and will provide help to kids experiencing issues.

Hively (Early Childhood Literacy), Kelly O'Lague Dulka – provided details about the social book club being provided by Hively online and how participants are provided with a collection at the end of the session. Ms. Dulka advised that low-income families typically do not have books available for their children to read which often leads to the kids having other issues when they get older.

Commissioner Chew questioned if Hively had considered partnering with the Dolly Parton Organization to see if they would be willing to provide books. Ms. Dulka advised that they have reached out to determine if they qualify but did receive 5,000 donated books last year. She thanked the Youth Commission for their commitment to providing for the community.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE Business School Engagement Program), Steve McCoy-Thompson and Tasha Buser – advised that funds requested would be used to help teachers/schools develop programs. Ms. Buser indicated that teachers interested in the program would be identified and Zoom would be a great platform for the program especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

Mr. Thompson advised that because workplace tours have not been possible during the pandemic this program has been able to reaching over 1,000 students.

Commissioners Mokashi was informed by Mr. Thompson that the program will be provided to mainly secondary students but can be used to reach other students. He noted that connecting with businesses allows for reaching another level of students. Ms. Buser noted that a number of teachers have received grants and will be able to reach more students through Zoom.

Mr. Thompson provided Commissioner Mokashi with information about the number of businesses that PPIE connected with and the additional companies that are interested.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned if this program would be provided during class time and Mr. Thompson stated that it varies and could be done during class time.

Teen Esteem (Supporting Students Where They Are), Linda Turnbull – thanked the commission for their past support. Ms. Turnbull commented on providing the program virtually instead of face-to-face, having a date set in March to provide the program at Hart Middle School then providing to other schools. She commented on issues kids and their families have been going through because of COVID, the number of families that have already engaged in the program and how funding would allow them to continue providing the program.

Commissioner Piergrossi was advised that Teen Esteem does not charge for the presentations but does charge when providing in-person assemblies.

Go Green Initiative (Pleasanton Students Help the City Combat Climate Change), Jill Buck – thanked the commission for their past support of a program that has now been seen throughout the country and in other countries. Ms. Buck commented on a waste related program and new legislation that will come into law in 2022. She advised that requested funds would allow for Go Green to provide a robust education program and work to help educate people.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned the possibility that the City of Pleasanton could be fined for not following required practices and asked how Go Green had been able to work with interns during the past year. Ms. Buck advised that she has learned that the State has no plans to delay fines. She also provided details on working with interns and conducting virtual field trips.

Commissioner Immadi asked Ms. Buck how Go Green planned to educate the community. She indicated they hoped to be able to do this in-person, at the Farmer's Market or other outdoor events, but if required will do it via Zoom.

Commissioner Jadhav asked about the number of interns Go Green anticipated could participate in the program. Ms. Buck stated that if the grant is approved they hoped to have 25 interns participate.

Go Green Initiative (Pleasanton Students Work on Critical Water Issues), Jill Buck – commented on water concerns because of another anticipated dry year and the State’s prediction of only allocating 10% of water needed. Ms. Buck felt it was important everyone get serious about water conservation with people needing to be educated and interns in the program will do work that will align with the City of Pleasanton’s General Plan.

Partners Fore Golf Inc./The First Tee Tri-Valley (First Tee Life Experience Classes), Cameron MacGregor – thanked the commission for their past support. He advised that the past year has been difficult because of COVID, but because of school closures they have been kept busy providing additional after school programming. Mr. MacGregor advised Partners Fore Golf are projecting an \$80,000 loss for the year from supporting more kids with financial aide and hope the commission will consider providing funding so they can continue the program.

Commissioner Piergrossi was informed by Mr. MacGregor that kids are measured by participation in the program through surveys.

Tri-Valley Haven (High School and Middle School Prevention Program), Ashley – thanked the commission for their past support of this program and advised it was provided via Zoom during the last year, she commented on the large number of kids that have opened up about issues during the year and how Tri-Valley Haven has been able to provide support. Commissioners were advised that many kids have commented on how helpful the presentations have been and how help has been provided to help navigate them through problems.

Commissioner Immadi asked about Tri-Valley still providing the presentations during the pandemic and was informed that they have been doing them through Zoom by initially connecting with teachers who then notify students.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned how the program would be affected if full funding was not received, she was advised that Tri-Valley Haven received some support from Livermore but with support from Pleasanton would be able to put more focus on providing to Pleasanton students.

**Vice Chair Costanzo closed the meeting for presentations at 7:02 p.m.**

Vice Chair Costanzo and Ms. Thomas reviewed with commissioners the Olympic funding recommendation amounts determined by commissioner input on Zoomgrants and the staff recommended funding amount.

Commissioner Prakash asked about agency reports on programs for which they received funding the previous year. Ms. Thomas commented on issues agencies had experienced providing reports because of the COVID pandemic.

Commissioner Piergrossi commented on the importance of the Hively programs and felt they should receive full funding. Commissioners Chew and Mokashi agreed and thought since many programs are for older students the program for elementary students was important.

Commissioner Immadi noted that a number of commissioners had not recommended funding for First Tee. Commissioner Mokashi discussed past funding provided for this organizations and thought the commission may want to consider funding at a lower amount. Commissioner Immadi agreed and thought the program had been helpful to some students during COVID because it had been a physical outlet for them. He questioned whether First Tee would be able to provide the program if less funds were provided. Mr. Cameron advised commissioners that First Tee was requesting more funding this year because of their budget shortfall.

Commissioner Chew thought businesses should volunteer their time when participating in PPIE program and Commissioner Piergrossi commented on expenses for people who manage the program. Commissioner Mokashi discussed the powerful partnership between PPIE and local businesses.

Commissioner Chew questioned if PPIE has worked with the school career centers and Mr. Thompson advised that they do. He also noted that businesses do volunteer time and teachers are not being reimbursed

Vice Chair Costanzo felt the PPIE program gives kids an opportunity to learn about different things and make decisions about what they want to do in life. Other commissioners agreed. Commissioner Piergrossi expressed concern about providing more funding than the Olympic Average suggests.

Commissioner Piergrossi felt the Teen Esteem program was important and able to reach a lot of kids. Commissioner Shah agreed and thought the program focuses on an area of concern to the commission. Commissioner Immadi suggested funding at the Olympic Average.

Commissioner Piergrossi suggested fully funding the Go Green Climate Change program and not funding the Water Issue program. Commissioner Shah agreed and Commissioner Immadi commented on the number of interns to be in the program and Commissioner Sriram felt it would be better to fully fund only the Climate Change program for Go Green. Commissioner Piergrossi suggested some funding could be provided for the Water Issue program.

Commissioner Mokashi asked about the track record of the Tri-Valley Haven programs and Commissioner Piergrossi advised these are fundamental programs provided at schools and have been important for many kids.

Commissioners reviewed the funding requests and determined funding allocations they could agree too.

A motion was made by Commissioner Immadi, seconded by Commissioner Shah, recommending City Council approve the following Community Grant funding allocations in the Youth Category for Fiscal Year 2021/2022:

\$ 5,000.00	-	Hively (Helping Kids Build Resilience)
\$ 5,699.96	-	Hively (Early Childhood Literacy)
\$ 2,500.00	-	The First Tee Tri-Valley (First Tee Life Experience classes)
\$ 3,700.00	-	PPIE (PPIE Business-School Engagement Program)
\$ 6,250.00	-	Teen Esteem (Supporting Students Where They Are)
\$ 6,849.00	-	Go Green Initiative (Pleasanton Students Help the City Combat Climate Change)
\$ 3,000.00	-	Go Green Initiative (Pleasanton Students Work on Critical Water Issues)
\$ 4,600.00	-	Tri-Valley Haven (High School)
\$ 4,600.00	-	Tri-Valley Haven (Middle School)
<b>\$42,198.96</b>	-	<b>TOTAL</b>

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Patel and Chairperson Shotland

ABSTAIN: None

**4. Youth Commission Selection of Health and Wellness Subcommittee**

Ms. Thomas noted that each year the Youth Commission discusses opportunities to participate on subcommittees. During the January 21, 2021 meeting, commissioners requested an opportunity to select subcommittee representation for health and wellness as commissioners see a need in being able to address the physical and mental health issues affecting youth.

Commissioners Piergrossi, Shah, Shannon and Jadhav all volunteered to be members of a Health and Wellness Subcommittee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chew, seconded by Commissioner Sriram, to elect Commissioners Piergrossi, Shah, Shannon and Jadhav to serve on the Health and Wellness Subcommittee.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Patel and Chairperson Shotland

ABSTAIN: None

**5. Review and Comment on the Library and Recreation Department COVID Response Report for July-December 2020**

Ms. Thomas reviewed with commissioners the COVID Response Report commenting on the essential services, virtual and in-person programs, and contract classes that had been provided during the July through December 2020 period of the pandemic.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) Ms. Thomas provided information about the planned Youth in Government Day scheduled virtually on March 30. Flyers for commissioners to promote the event will be emailed by Ms. Thomas. Commissioners were encouraged to participate.
- b) Information about a Close-Up Organization event will also be forwarded to commissioners by Ms. Thomas.
- c) Commissioner Shah asked about a Youth Commission meeting scheduled for March 31, 2021. Ms. Thomas advised this was a special meeting to obtain feedback from commissions/committees about the City's Climate Action Plan 2.0 and is scheduled for 7 p.m. Additional information will be emailed to commissioners.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.