



Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA November 10, 2021 - 7 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: Christina Costanzo, Ajay Immadi, Ella Min, Kelly Mokashi, Karishma Parikh, Ella Piergrossi, Mirika Pohray, Tejas Prakash, Zaynah Shah, Carys Shannon, Ashwin Sriram, and Chairperson Tess Shotland.

Commissioners Absent: Kimberley Chew and Nikita Jadhav.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of October 13, 2021.

A motion was made by Chairperson Shotland, seconded by Commissioner Immadi, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021, Youth Commission Meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Presentation

Moms Demand Action – Cynthia Shon, Jannie Dobbs, and Anne Everton

Ms. Shon thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak about what can be done to reduce the number of deaths from guns.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. Shon that what was to be presented at this meeting would be a focus on how to reduce unintentional deaths by children who are able to access and mishandle guns. She stated that the Moms Demand Action group calls it SMART, and it consists of ideas, when implemented, which can significantly reduce these terrible tragedies.

Commissioners were informed that SMART stands for:

- S - Secure
- M - Model Responsible Behavior
- A - Ask About Unsecured Guns in Other Homes
- R - Recognizing the Role of Guns in Suicide
- T - Tell Your Peers to Be Smart

Ms. Everton reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with commissioners and advised that thirteen million households with children have at least one gun in the home and most children in these homes are aware of where the guns are stored. She noted that most gun shooters under the age of 18 obtained the gun they used from their home or from the home of a relative or friend.

The commission was advised by Ms. Dobbs that at the last Pleasanton City Council meeting a Gun Safe Storage Ordinance was discussed. A second reading of this Ordinance will take place at a subsequent City Council meeting. Ms. Dobbs urged commissioners to email City Council to let them know they support passage of a Safe Storage of Firearms Ordinance.

Commissioner Mokashi stated that as a parent of three children she appreciated the presentation and felt it was important to have conversations with her children's friends' parents when her children are going to the homes of their friends. She noted that the Moms Demand Action groups has template letters available that commissioners could use to send to City Council supporting passage of the Ordinance.

Ms. Dobbs noted that commissioners can also asked questions or obtain additional information by texting her group at "Students1264433".

Chairperson Shotland thanked the speakers for their presentation.

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

None.

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION FOR REVIEW/ACTION/INOFRMATION

4. Consider and Discuss Several Pleasantonians Locally Against Tobacco (SPLAT) Anti-Vaping Marketing Materials

Chairperson Shotland noted that at the last Youth Commission meeting commissioners received a presentation from SPLAT with information about anti-vaping marketing materials and had been asked by the presenters if the commission would consider supporting the efforts of the group and provide them with information on how they could best reach out to youth, teens and parents in the community and provide them with materials.

Mr. Wise-Pierik thanked the commission for considering their request and provided information about their materials advising that materials are good for sharing on social media with some suitable for posting on Instagram and another being a 30-second video.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned whether any discussion had taken place regarding posting of materials on school TV's that are able to provide news, videos, etc.

Commissioner Costanzo followed up on Commissioner Piergrossi's comment and felt that commissioners in Leadership classes could also talk with teachers about this. She felt the materials were eye-catching and good for Instagram but felt having posters put up around town would also be helpful. Commissioner Piergrossi agreed and suggested they include a QR code so information can be scanned.

Commissioner Shah advised that she manages all the behind-the-scenes HGTV things at her school. She noted that there are guidelines in place for commercials, but she would be willing to contact people to determine what can be put on the Amador News site.

Chairperson Shotland discussed the visual aspect of flyers the group has put together and felt they were exceptionally good and could be posted around town.

Mr./ Wise-Pierik indicated that his group was looking for help from the commission on who to contact at schools, etc. that would help them build up good working relationships, since he personally does not have that information or access to these people.

Commissioner Piergrossi commented on students working at the Meadowlark Dairy and felt it would be good to have someone contact them.

Commissioner Immadi discussed a weekly newsletter that he thought was distributed by the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) and thought SPLAT should try to get information in this. Commissioner Costanzo commented on "Peach Jar" communication that is sent out to all PUSD parents. Ms. Thomas provided information on connections she has through the City of Pleasanton and indicated she would be able to help with some specific items.

Commissioner Shannon stated she would be willing to speak with the Leadership Class at Pleasanton Middle School to see if they can arrange for videos to be shown and sent out to all the advisory teachers.

Commissioner Mokashi advised that as a PUSD trustee she would be happy to have something placed on a future agenda for one of their meetings and Mr. Wise-Pierik could email her with information. She noted that the next board meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2021. Mr. Wise-Pierik thanked her and confirmed he would be able to locate Commissioner Mokashi's email on the school district website.

Ms. Thomas questioned whether any of the SPLAT members had connected with the Health and Wellness Committee and Mr. Lam advised that he was connected, and the next meeting would be in December.

Commissioner Piergrossi indicated she would be interested in taking on the flyer with QR code as a project unless somebody else would like to do it. Ms. Thomas thought it might be something members of the Health and Wellness Subcommittee could work on with Commissioner Piergrossi. Commissioner Piergrossi stated she was willing to provide the posters for others to put out.

Mr. Wise-Pierik confirmed with the commission the suggestions they had provided for getting marketing materials out from SPLAT about Anti-Vaping, and that he can follow-up with Ms. Thomas for emails she can provide for him to connect with people who will be able to assist with these marketing ideas.

Commissioner Piergrossi discussed with Mr. Wise-Pierik items and videos that SPLAT would like to have posted and displayed. He discussed the 30-second videos that are good about vaping and the Pleasanton Tobacco Retail License.

Mr. Wise-Pierik questioned who would be able to integrate resources in the social media channels and thanked commissioners for all the ideas and support they have provided. Chairperson Shotland thanked the SPLAT members for presenting information to the commission.

5. Approve Funding Criteria for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Community Grant Program – Youth Category

Ms. Thomas advised that each year the Youth Commission reviews the previous year's funding criteria for the Community Grant Program-Youth Category. She asked commissioners to review the criteria and determine if the criteria should remain the same or if changes should be made to the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Community Grant Program-Youth Category. Ms. Thomas commented on the maximum funding request being \$7,500 and the overall amount available to be allocated being \$40,000.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked about the \$7,500 grant amount per applicant and whether that was something that the commission could consider changing. Commissioner Mokashi felt the commission needed to take into consideration the number of applicants who had requested funding. Ms. Thomas stated that she did not believe the amount could be changed for this funding cycle but could be discussed for future cycles. It was also noted that any change in the allocation amount would need to be considered by the Civic Arts Commission.

Commissioner Mokashi felt the amount to be allocated should depend on the number of applicants that have applied for funding, and this was something the commission should discuss and perhaps lower the amount to \$5,000.

Chairperson Shotland noted that the commission has been able to manage funding for applicants in past years and that the number of applicants has not been an issue because not all applicants request the \$7,500 amount and sometimes the commission has questioned if an applicant would be able to provide their project if they received an amount lesser than the \$7,500 requested. She felt the numbers have worked in the past.

Chairperson Shotland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Costanzo, to approve the same funding criteria for the 2022/2023 Community Grant Program-Youth Category.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Chew and Jadhav.

ABSTAIN: None

6. Review and Comment on the Library and Recreation Department Quarterly Report for July-September 2021

Ms. Thomas reviewed with commissioners the Library and Recreation Department Quarterly Report for July-September 2021 and advised that the commission will have an opportunity to receive and review three quarterly reports and one annual report each year to learn on what has been happening in the department.

Chairperson Shotland thanked Ms. Thomas for the report and commented on how nice it is to have the library open again.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

7. Tri-Valley Youth Advisory Roundtable

Chairperson Shotland advised that she and several other commissioners attended the Roundtable with commissioners from Dublin, San Ramon, and Danville. After introducing themselves all commissioners talked about what each of their commissions were doing with a lot of focus being placed on mental health. She noted that one city is going to be holding a Mental Health Awareness Festival.

Commissioner Costanzo noted that the Dublin Youth Commission has their own Instagram account that they use for publicizing events and what is happening in their city and wondered if this was something that this commission might want to consider. Ms. Thomas was unsure if this was something that the City of Pleasanton would support since there is already a city account

and a library and recreation account. She felt if there were items the commission wanted to have posted they could be posted on either of these accounts.

Commissioner Immadi remembered participating two years ago in a joint youth commission meeting with members of the Livermore and Dublin Youth Commissions and wondered if this was something that could take place again. He commented on topics of discussion and learning about projects that the different commissions are working on, and Ms. Thomas stated that if this was something the commission would like to do, she could reach out to Livermore staff to determine the possibility. She noted this was something also discussed at the recent Roundtable and if it was something the commission would like to pursue it would need to be done virtually until such time as commissions are again able to meet in person.

Commissioner Shah agreed it would be interesting to reach out to the Livermore Youth Commission since the two commissions had been planning to meet before the pandemic. Ms. Thomas indicated she would reach out to the Livermore Youth Commission to discuss the possibility of a joint meeting.

Commission Piergrossi suggested if a joint meeting was not possible that perhaps a subcommittee of two or three people could be formed to meet on a quarterly or semi-annual basis with subcommittee members from other city youth commissions as a way of keeping updated with each other. Ms. Thomas thought that one group had discussed putting together a contact list.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked if any attendees at the Roundtable had provided information about any specific events held that had been successful. Ms. Thomas advised that the Dublin Youth Commission was holding their mental health event at the same time as this meeting. Chairperson Shotland advised that Dublin was planning to talk about what they will be doing moving forward and Danville was going to hold a Town Hall event.

Commissioner Piergrossi discussed the benefits of each commission learning about what other commissions are planning.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m.