



Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA April 13, 2022 – 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairperson Tess Shotland.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Kimberley Chew, Christina Costanzo, Ajay Immadi, Ella Min, Kelly Mokashi, Karishma Parikh, Ella Piergrossi, Mirika Pohray, Tejas Prakash, Zaynah Shah, Carys Shannon and Chairperson Tess Shotland.

Commissioners Absent: Nikita Jadhav and Ashwin Sriram.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of March 9, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chew, seconded by Commissioner Prakash, to approve the March 9, 2022 meeting minutes. **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. Consider Youth Commission Recommendation to Support SB 1236 (School Districts; Governing Boards: Pupil Members)

Ms. Thomas advised that at the January 12, 2022 meeting members of the Youth Commission received a presentation from Sachi Bhayani, the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) student board member requesting an endorsement from the Youth Commission to help with her request to change the California Education Code to obtain full voting rights for student board members. After the presentation commissioners had asked that the Youth Commission Public Policy Subcommittee review and consider this item and report back to the commission.

Commissioners were informed by Ms. Thomas that on February 17, 2022 Senator Steve Glazer introduced Senate Bill 1236 that would amend the Education Code to make a preferential voting pupil member a full voting member of school district governing bodies. She noted that changes for affecting a student PUSD board member would include increasing voting members from five to six, exposing a student voting member to potential personal liability actions of the board, and requiring the student take time away from studies and other activities.

Ms. Thomas suggested the commission receive a verbal report from the Public Policy Subcommittee and consider Senate Bill 1236 introduced by Steve Glazer when making their recommendation on this item.

Commissioner Prakash provided his report from the Public Policy Subcommittee noting that in the past the Youth Commission has supported youth members having voting rights, for example in 2013 allowing Youth Commission members the ability to vote and in 2019 supporting voting rights for youth commission members on other commissions.

Commissioner Chew discussed the State of California's mandate for redistricting cities for elections and work being done on this issue by City Council and the PUSD. She expressed her concerns about the possibility of separate districting and questioned if the subcommittee had taken this into consideration. Commissioner Prakash did not think this was going to be a problem.

Commissioner Mokashi discussed the way student members of the PUSD board are elected through an At-Large election process at the schools. She then commented on the size of the PUSD board, anticipating they would accept that a student member be allowed to vote, and a possible next step being to increase the number of board members to seven. Commissioner Mokashi noted that the Senate Bill goes into quite a bit of detail regarding sensitivity and confidentiality matters that a student board member would not be allowed to participate.

Commissioners Chew questioned if PUSD board members needed to follow the same rules that apply to other public servants to ensure matters such as fraud were not encountered.

Commissioner Mokashi, advising she was also a member of the PUSD Board, stated she did not have an answer to the question as this is the first year that the PUSD board has had a student member, and since the goal of the board is to serve the entire community the expectation of a student member would be same as that for other board members. She agreed that the district would need to determine better clarification on some regulatory processes and how those processes are facilitated.

Chairperson Shotland commented on the substantial number of decisions made that affect students and felt it was appropriate for there to be a student vote allowed on the PUSD board. She appreciated the work done by the subcommittee and stated she would support SB 1236.

Commissioner Piergrossi agreed with supporting a student vote and discussed Commissioner Mokashi's comments about adding an additional person to the PUSD board. Commissioner Mokashi commented on tied motions becoming failed motions and having an odd number of board members helps to eliminate this. She felt that lot of serious decisions needed to be made by the PUSD board and that becoming a student member of the board required a student to be willing to make such a commitment. Commissioner Mokashi further commented on the liability concern raised noting there were liability potentials for all board members.

Commissioner Chew discussed with Commissioner Mokashi the number of hours per week that a PUSD board members spends on reading materials, researching items, and attending meetings. Commissioner Mokashi advised that board meetings are held every two weeks and last from four to six hours depending on the agenda and board members participate on two or three committees all for a total of approximately ten hours per week. She felt this was comparable to the amount of time students spend on other activities such as sports, drama, etc.

Chairperson Shotland agreed and felt that the student running for a PUSD board position would not have an issue with the time commitment.

Ms. Thomas advised Chairperson Shotland that the commission could make a motion and put together a letter indicating their support or opposition to the request from Sachi Bhayana for an endorsement providing voting rights to student members of the PUSD board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Prakash, seconded by Commissioner Immadi, to support Senate Bill 1236 and the request of Pleasanton Unified School District student board member Sachi Bhayana to allow full voting rights for student board members with a letter of support to be sent to the Pleasanton Unified School District board from the Pleasanton Youth Commission.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NOES: Commissioner Chew

ABSENT: Commissioners Jadhav and Sriram.

ABSTAIN: None

COMMISSION REPORTS

4. Recreation Programs Update

A. Ms. Thomas advised that:

1. Commission appointments for the next year have been delayed and with terms ending for a number of seniors on the commission it appears there will not be a quorum of commissioners to hold the May meeting. If there is a change in the appointment of new commissioners' information will be sent out about the May meeting.
2. Invitations have been sent to all commissioners for attendance to the Mayor's Dinner at 5:30 p.m. on May 12, 2022. Commissioners were encouraged to attend as this is a dinner to thank commissioners for their service.
3. Senior students on the commission were acknowledged for their work as members of the Youth Commission.

Commissioners Costanzo and Piergrossi stated it has been a great experience and they have enjoyed being members of the Youth Commission. Commissioner Piergrossi was pleased she had been able work on some things that have made positive changes.

Chairperson Shotland was thankful for having been a Youth Commission member for the past six years and the amazing opportunities it has provided. She stated she has enjoyed working with everyone.

Commissioner Immadi indicated he too has enjoyed being a member of the Youth Commission and was disappointed that this last meeting might not happen.

Ms. Thomas thanked everyone for being such great members of the commission and encouraged them to visit the commission when possible.

B. Ms. Thomas provided details about Earth Month celebrations and activities taking place advising information is available on the city's website. She advised that staff is looking for some bike-to-school volunteers and volunteers to help fill goodie bags on April 25 and 26 from 4-6 p.m.

C. Ms. Thomas asked commissioners to provide her information on presentations from organizations or grant recipients that the commission would like to receive next year.

5. Public Policy Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Immadi provided an update on the recent Youth in Government Day event with about 60 students participating together with 20 adults. Ms. Thomas thanked commissioners who worked on this to make it successful.

Commissioner Costanzo questioned if anyone read the responses from the forms completed by participants, indicating she had spoken with several people who indicated they enjoyed the experience.

6. Health & Wellness Subcommittee Update

Chairperson Shotland advised that members of the subcommittee put together some infographics to be distributed to the public about healthy social media use and provided details about an event planned for May 12th when they hope people will distribute the infographics.

Commissioner Piergrossi shared her versions of the infographic. She advised the subcommittee had discussed different versions, so she had put together two versions to share with the commission and receive feedback. Commissioner Piergrossi noted that the subcommittee discussed having an actual event with middle school students, so her two infographics were planned for both students and parents. She asked commissioners to consider the topics of the infographics and the wording.

Commissioners Costanzo, Parikh, and Chairperson Shotland also shared infographics they prepared and asked commissioners to provide comments.

Commissioner Mokashi thanked Commissioner Piergrossi for her comments and indicated as a parent she struggled with her children's use of social media. Commissioner Piergrossi discussed the subcommittee's plan of wanting to target parents with the infographic information. Commissioner Mokashi stated that she liked the second infographic shared because it was visually easy and not a put off to parents and suggested it also be shared middle school students.

Ms. Thomas indicated she would send out copies of the infographics to commissioners so they could read them more thoroughly and send any comments they may have to her so she can share them with members of the Health & Wellness Subcommittee. She requested all comments be provided before the subcommittee meets again the following week.

Commissioner Mokashi thanked the subcommittee members for the challenge of working on this and felt it was important for people to make responsible technology choices and learn about the dangers of using some unfavorable social media aspects. She suggested this information be sent to all school principals and the subcommittee consider making larger posters that could be post in the school office.

Commissioner Mokashi questioned if it would be appropriate to forward the infographics to middle schools, or if the plans were to only send them to high schools. Commissioner Parikh advised that the subcommittee had planned to send to both levels. Commissioner Piergrossi indicated the subcommittee did not think they were appropriate to send to elementary schools but thought they were appropriate for middle and high schools.

7. Ptownlife Website Subcommittee Update

No report. Chairperson Shotland advised that a meeting was planned for the following week.

8. Bike, Pedestrian & Trails Committee Update

Commissioner Prakash advised the committee had not met since January.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 7 p.m.