



## YOUTH COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

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May 8, 2019  
Item 5

**TITLE: CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW YOUTH MEMBERS TO VOTE, AND CHANGE QUORUM REQUIREMENTS TO THE MAJORITY OF SEATED VOTING MEMBERS ON THE CIVIC ARTS, HUMAN SERVICES, LIBRARY, AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONS**

### **SUMMARY**

At its February 13, 2019 meeting, the Youth Commission made a motion requesting its Public Policy Subcommittee review and consider potential changes to the current voting rules that would allow youth members on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions the ability to vote.

The Public Policy Subcommittee has reviewed this issue and is providing a verbal report and recommendation to the Youth Commission.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Review and consider amendments to the Pleasanton Municipal Code to allow the youth member on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, Parks and Recreation Commissions the ability to vote and change quorum requirements to the majority of seated voting members on those same commissions.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

There is none.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Youth Master Plan was approved in 2010 by the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees. The Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee (YMPOC) was established in 2011, through approval from the City of Pleasanton/Pleasanton Unified School District Liaison Committee, to continue oversight of the Youth Master Plan by the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee. The YMPOC included addressing Goal 3: Contributing Youth and specific to this item, Strategies 3.1 and 3.5 in its annual work plan.

Goal 3 Contributing Youth, Strategy 3.1:

*“Expand and promote existing volunteer and community service opportunities to provide children and youth with empowering opportunities to contribute to the community and learn from their experience.”*

Goal 3 Contributing Youth, Strategy 3.5:

*“Increase opportunities for children and youth representation and involvement on City Commission and business and non-profit organization committees”*

In addressing Goal 3 of the Youth Master Plan, the YMPOC realized the need to increase opportunities for meaningful youth participation in City government. A subcommittee was developed to research how other local agencies include youth on their related boards, commission, and advisory committees.

On April 17, 2012, through its research and consideration of Youth Master Plan, Goal 3, the YMPOC recommended that the Youth Commission support its recommendation of adding one voting youth member to the following four City commissions: Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation.

On November 13, 2012, the City of Pleasanton/Pleasanton Unified School District Liaison Committee reviewed the YMPOC recommendation and made the recommendation to add one youth non-voting member to each the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library and Parks and Recreation Commissions for a two-year trial period.

At its November 14, 2012 meeting, the Youth Commission received and supported the YMPOC’s recommendation of the addition of one voting youth member for the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library and Parks and Recreation Commissions.

After review, staff concurred with the Liaison Committee’s recommendation to add one youth non-voting member to each of the four commissions for a two-year trial period.

On February 5, 2013, the City Council approved amending the Pleasanton Municipal Code to add one youth non-voting member to the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions on a two-year trial basis. As a non-voting member, the youth member is provided an agenda packet and may participate in all activities and discussions at commission meetings. A youth member may not serve as a voting member of any subcommittee, and may not be designated as the commission’s

representative on other boards or commissions. In 2015, the program was evaluated by City staff and recommended to continue.

At its October 4, 2018 meeting, the Library Commission considered and made a motion to request that the City Council amend the Pleasanton Municipal Code to allow the Library Commission's youth member the ability to vote. The Library Commission understands that a large number of youth utilize the library, the youth member appointed to the Library Commission demonstrates interest in the subject, and has sufficient experience to participate and vote at public meetings.

At its February 13, 2019 meeting, the Youth Commission considered and made a motion to request that its Public Policy Subcommittee review and consider changes to the voting policy that would allow youth members on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions the ability to vote.

## **DISCUSSION**

Currently, there is one youth non-voting member on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions. The Youth Commission asked its Public Policy Subcommittee to research and review the potential to allow youth members the ability to vote on each of the four commissions and discuss further action if necessary.

Based on research to date and survey responses received, the Public Policy Subcommittee will provide a verbal report and recommendation to the Youth Commission on this issue. The subcommittee researched other city commission voting requirements and except for the Youth Commission, found that most youth members could not vote on those other commissions.

In addition to considering allowing youth members the ability to vote on the four previously mentioned commissions, the Public Policy Subcommittee, in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, is recommending a change to the Municipal Code regarding quorum requirements. This is because by changing the code to make the youth member a voting member, it creates: (a) an even number of voting members (and more possibility of tie votes); and (b) could allow a minority of voting members to adopt actions in the event of vacancies. The suggested amendment would change quorum requirements from a fixed quorum to a quorum requirement of the majority of seated voting members. The following table shows current membership and quorum requirements, and the proposal with two examples:

Commission	Current members	Current quorum	Maximum # of voting members if youth member can vote	Example A – All positions filled	Example B – Two vacancies
- Civic Arts - Human Services - Library	7 regular 1 youth 1 alternate	4 members	8	Quorum is majority of 8 voting members = 5	6 regular + 1 youth = 7 voting, then quorum is 4
Parks and Recreation	5 regular 1 youth 1 alternate	3 members	6	Quorum is majority of 6 voting members = 4	4 regular + 1 youth = 5 voting, then quorum is 3

This amendment would allow flexibility to the quorum requirements if vacancies occurred on the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions.

The Youth Commission will discuss changes proposed by the Public Policy Subcommittee and provide a recommendation to the City Council whether to allow youth members of these four commissions to be voting members, and whether to change the quorum requirements.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION**

Any other action as determined by the Youth Commission.

Submitted by:



Nicole Thomas  
Recreation Supervisor