



Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA May 12, 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: Kimberley Chew, Christina Costanzo, Ajay Immadi, Kelly Mokashi, Ella Min, Karishma Parikh, Mirika Pohray, Tejas Prakash, Zaynah Shah, Carys Shannon, Ashwin Sriram, and Chairperson Tess Shotland. (Nikita Jadhav and Ella Piergrossi arrived late).

Commissioners Absent: Keshav Patel.

Staff Present: Nicole Thomas, Recreation Supervisor; Kurt Schlehuer, Police Capt.; Marty Billdt, Police Sgt.; Matt Harvey, Police SRO; Julian Mireles, Youth & Teen Coordinator; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of March 31, 2021.

Correction page 4, Item 5, para. 1: Commissioner ~~Piergross~~ should be Piergrossi...

A motion was made by Commissioner Parikh, seconded by Chairperson Shotland, to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2021, Youth Meeting as corrected. **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. Review and Comment on the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

Police Sergeant Marty Billdt provided some history on the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program and the roles of the police officers serving in these roles on the different school campuses. He advised that since beginning this program SRO's have served as guest lecturers and mentors and have been adaptive and proactive working with school administration and staff members to assist students from getting involved in the juvenile justice system.

Sgt. Billdt commented on the creation of the Freshman Orientation program that was established to deter new high school students from making mistakes that had been made by their peers. He advised that SRO's work with students, parents, and teachers to help make sure school sites are safe for everyone.

Commissioners were informed that in the past there has been an unwritten agreement between the Police Department and the School District, but now a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being put in writing between the two entities.

Sgt. Billdt advised he is attending this meeting to obtain feedback about best SRO practices students would like to see accomplished on school campus' and what changes they might recommend.

Captain Schlehuber commented on sessions held previously and directives the Police Department had received from the city to be more involved which came to the drafting of the MOU. He advised that his staff members have worked with administrators from both the City of Pleasanton and the School District and are now looking to obtain input for the MOU from the Youth Commission that will then be discussed at a meeting in July of the City Council and School District Board of Trustees with a goal of having something put in place by August.

Highlights of the MOU reviewed with commissioners included:

- 1) Establishing a framework for the role and responsibilities of an SRO who is funded by the Police Department
- 2) The role of an SRO is not to be involved in school discipline but in criminal activities
- 3) Presentation of safety, social media, drug, and alcohol, etc. and Freshman Orientation

- 4) Be visible at sporting events, etc.
- 5) Assess safety measures needing updates.

Sgt. Billdt agreed with the highlighted items and commented on the need to have good collaboration with everyone involved. The MOU will help define roles, make sure what is being done is best for youth, and strive to keep campus' safe.

Officer Harvey stated that the MOU will help provide clear guidelines and roles for everyone.

Commissioner Costanzo felt the Freshman Orientation program was good and felt more presentations would be helpful. Officer Harvey stated that SROs are open to doing more presentations and Sgt. Billdt agreed that providing more would be a good idea.

Commissioner Immadi felt there was still a misconception about why SROs are on school campus' and thought better explanation of what they do would be helpful. Officer Harvey questioned if Commissioner Immadi was asking that this be done as a general procedure.

Commissioner Pohray agreed with Commissioner Immadi's comment and stated that middle school students do not understand what SROs are doing and become confused when they see multiple police cars. Commissioner Shannon agreed that better clarification on the duties of an SRO should be provided and would be helpful to students.

Commissioner Shah suggested something additional be done for Sophomore students who may have missed programs because of COVID. Sgt. Billdt advised the police are working with School District to provide more outreach which has been an issue during the last year because of the pandemic, but once students are back on campus more outreach is a goal.

Captain Schlehuber commented on the fact that students do not understand the purpose of the SROs on campus and more work needs to be done. He commented on putting in place small videos that will provide a better understanding of what they do and the importance of relationship building between SRO's and students and what steps will be taken to handle situations.

Commissioner Mokashi asked about the partnership between SRO's and School Counselors. Captain Schlehuber provided details and discussed alternate response steps that need to be taken when dealing with mental health issues and hoped that the new program will help address problems that currently exist. Sgt. Billdt discussed how issues can be dealt with by SRO's working together with School Counselors and being able to provide better services to students and families.

Officer Harvey felt the SRO and School Counselor partnership helps with child abuse cases since children feel more comfortable reporting such cases at school when they are away from home. Sgt. Billdt agreed and stated the relationship between SRO's and School Counselors is important and will make sure youth receive the resources required.

Commissioner Shah asked about the authority of an SRO on campus dealing with confiscated vaping materials. Sgt. Billdt discussed the education code that requires school administrators be involved in this rather than members of the police department.

Commissioner Prakash questioned whether a decrease in vaping materials has been noticed since the recent code was put into effect. Sgt. Billdt stated that not much change has been noticed because students have not been on campus, but several calls have been received from parents about issues at home, however it is getting more difficult for students to buy these products in the Tri-Valley area.

Chairperson Shotland thanked the officers for their presentation and reporting and Sgt. Billdt thanked commissioners for their positive comments and recommendations and asked that any other comments and recommendations be forwarded to him at the Police Department.

Ms. Thomas asked Sgt. Billdt about the time officers spend split between the three high schools. He commented on quick phone contact between the officers and schools and some of the difficulty officers experience trying to spread their time between the different school sites but advised that they do try to visit two schools each day.

4. Community Education Series Review and Recommendations for 2021/22

Ms. Thomas provided details about the Community Education Series and the hosting of approximately eight workshops for students and parents done each year in partnership with Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) and the Pleasanton Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Council.

Mr. Mireles advised that the Community Education Series is a part of the Youth Master Plan. He reviewed with commissioners' topics that had been held for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 series and asked commissioners to consider Teen Town Hall Topics for the 2021/2022 series.

Commissioner Jadhav stated that she liked the idea of a free expression event and having a college workshop that would focus on changes to admissions etc. because of COVID-19. Commissioner Costanzo and Chairperson Shotland agreed and thought an updated workshop would be helpful with common-app and providing information on other things. They suggested a Meet and Greet type event.

Commissioner Piergrossi liked the idea of a college-readiness format that would help students deal with paying taxes, fixing cars, life skills, etc. Commissioner Pohray agreed since many issues will become the student's responsibility.

Ms. Thomas stated that a series on college related topics had been done in the past and liked the idea of doing this again for youth.

Commissioner Jadhav felt students want to know about this Community Education Series, but better promotion was needed. Ms. Thomas questioned if students are interested in learning how to apply for college, or how to complete applications for college. Commissioner Jadhav felt

students wanted to learn everything. Commissioner Costanzo and Chairperson Shotland agreed.

Commissioner Shah felt the Series should provide support programs for students at an earlier age and liked the idea of Chairperson Shotland of having an Open Forum with staff members and other lecture-based programs.

Chairperson Shotland suggested an event for students only with a panel of senior students and counselors where kids can ask questions to help take away some of their stress. She felt an Open-Mike night would be helpful.

Ms. Thomas questioned whether topics for the series should include items such as Climate Change and Mr. Mireles asked about topics for students who are not planning on attending college. Commissioner Costanzo felt it would be okay to include something on Climate Change and Chairperson Shotland suggested doing something on nutrition and cooking. Commissioner Shah thought Climate Change and local issues were important to include since the commission had recommended funding for water and recycling projects.

Commissioner Mokashi asked about the meeting schedule for the series and Ms. Thomas advised that in-person sessions would depend on COVID-19 restrictions.

Ms. Thomas apologized for not introducing new commissioner Mirikh Pohray earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Pohray advised that she is a Junior at Amador Valley High School and is looking forward to serving on the commission.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.