



Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA January 12, 2022 – 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7 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, Nikita Jadhav, Ella Min, Kelly Mokashi, Karishma Parikh, Mirika Pohray, Tejas Prakash, Zaynah Shah, Carys Shannon, Ashwin Sriram, and Chairperson Tess Shotland. (Commissioner Ella Piergrossi joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Julian Mireles, Recreation Coordinator; Jay Ingram, Recreation Manager; Cherie Buenaflor, Library and Recreation Coordinator; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of November 10, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mokashi, seconded by Commissioner Shah, to approve the November 10, 2021 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 and Review Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Community Grant Midterm Reports

Mr. Mireles noted that as required by the Community Grant Program, agencies must meet certain criteria which includes the submission of a signed Agreement, providing a Certificate of Insurance, and proof that they have a City of Pleasanton Business License. In addition, they are also required to submit a Midterm Report for their funded projects. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic City Council approved rolling over 2020/21 Community Grant funds that allowed an extension of the Midterm reports to November 15, 2021.

Commissioners were advised by Mr. Mireles that the commission recommended grant funding for six agencies in the amount of \$40,000 for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and a total of \$31,000 has been expended, leaving a balance of \$9,000. He noted that to date Hively had not expended the \$7,000 they were awarded and the \$2,000 awarded to the Valley Children's Museum was returned because the museum closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chew, seconded by Commissioner Costanzo, to approve and accept the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Community Grant Midterm Reports as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Chew, Costanzo, Jadhav, Min, Parikh, Pohray, Prakash, Shah, Shannon, Sriram, and Chairperson Shotland.

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Commissioner Mokashi indicated that she had been contacted by someone who had raised their hand to speak under Public Comment but had not been brought into the meeting. IT indicated they had not noticed a speaker card but was seeing somebody wishing to speak now. Chairperson Shotland reopened Item 2 for Public Comment.

2. Public Comment

Sachi Bhayani – advised she is a student member of the PUSD Board of Trustees and is working on an initiative that would allow student members to vote, since they currently are not allowed, and is approaching the commission to see if they would endorse her idea. Chairperson Shotland advised that since this is not an item on the agenda the commission would need to discuss whether it is something they would like added to a future meeting agenda.

Commissioner Chew questioned Ms. Bhayani on whether she was elected or appointed to the school district Board of Trustees. Ms. Bhayani advised that she is a Preferential Student Board Member and not allowed to vote and was elected to the position.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked if Ms. Bhayani had spoken to other members of the Board of Trustees, and if so, did they agree with her recommendation to be allowed to vote. Ms. Bhayani indicated she could not state what Trustees had said but that she did have the support from other associations and the teacher's union.

Chairperson Shotland felt this was something the commission may be interested in pursuing further and thought it was something the Public Policy Subcommittee could investigate.

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned Ms. Bhayani on how many members of the Board of Trustees were student members who advised she was the only board member but there are student representatives to the board.

Commissioner Chew confirmed with Ms. Bhayani that she was the only student member elected to the Board of Trustees and Commissioner Prakash discussed the matter of her becoming a sixth voting member which could result in tied voting.

Ms. Bhayani commented on amendments that may be made. Commissioner Chew expressed her concerns and changes taking place in districting. Commissioner Mokashi interjected and felt the line of discussion was getting too involved and the commission should decide if they wanted to place this as an agenda item to discuss at a future meeting.

Commissioner Chew suggested a motion be made to add this as an item for discussion at a future meeting. Mr. Ingram advised that a motion was not necessary and if this was something the commission wished to pursue, they should direct staff to provide information for a future meeting.

4. Consider and Review Fiscal Year 2021/22 Community Grant Midterm Reports

Mr. Mireles advised that the commission recommended a total of \$42,199 community grants to six agencies for Fiscal Year 2021/22 and to date a total of \$11,274.85 has been expended with a remaining balance of \$30,924.15.

Chairperson Shotland was advised by Mr. Ingram that agencies have until June 30, 2022 to expend remaining fund balances. She then asked for a motion to approve the reports.

A motion was made by Commissioner Immadi, seconded by Commissioner Prakash, to approve and accept the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Community Grant Midterm Reports as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Chew, Costanzo, Jadhav, Min, Parikh, Pohray, Prakash, Shah, Shannon, Sriram, and Chairperson Shotland.

NOES: None

ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

5. Discuss Library and Recreation Department Summer Part-Time Staff Recruitment

Mr. Mireles noted that the Library and Recreation Department looks for temporary part-time staff to fill summer positions that include aquatic, sports, and summer day camps. He noted that these positions are essential for the department being able to deliver quality summer recreation programs and staff is looking to the commission to review existing recruitment strategies and provide feedback on new opportunities that can be used to promote awareness of these positions available for teens and young adults.

Commissioners were advised by Mr. Mireles that through May 2022 staff will be attending teen job fairs to promote the positions and advertising through the Ptownlife newsletter, Facebook and on the city's webpage. He asked the commission to provide staff with insight and feedback on additional ways that might be used to bring awareness to young people about these job opportunities.

Commissioner Piergrossi felt Facebook was not a good place to try to recruit teens and young adults, she suggested Instagram would be a better opportunity. She also suggested providing information directly to teachers who could connect easily with students and be more aware of things that interest students.

Chairperson Shotland suggested placing a posting on Indeed as that is the site that she and several of her friends had used to find their part-time jobs.

Commissioner Chew questioned whether student councils have Instagram sites that could be used to advertise job fairs and job opportunities. Commissioner Immadi indicated he would check to see if that were a possibility and Commissioner Costanzo stated she would make an announcement in her class the next day and provide information to Mr. Mireles.

Commissioner Mokashi noted that a number of students have LinkedIn accounts and thought that might be a hot spot to provide information. Commissioner Pohray agreed.

Commissioner Chew suggested staff also reach out to the Pleasanton PTA Council and provide them with a flyer that could be included with the newsletter that they send out to parents.

Commissioner Pohray provided Mr. Mireles with information about posting details on Google Classroom and thought this was a better way of reaching students rather than providing information in a newsletter that students often overlook. Commissioner Piergrossi noted that this was another more accessible way of providing information through teachers. Commissioner Chew commented on restrictions in place by the school district and Commissioner Mokashi noted that Patrick Gannon would be the district's contact person for including information in the newsletter.

Chairperson Shotland advised that Meadowlark Dairy also has a bulletin board where people put up flyers, etc., and suggested this might be another good place to provide information about part time jobs.

Mr. Mireles advised Commissioner Jadhav that job applications are not yet available on the city's website, but staff is putting together a brochure with a QR code that will access an application.

Commissioner Piergrossi suggested staff let commissioners know when they would like to have something posted on school Instagram pages and provide more specific details that could be included in the posting.

Commissioner Shah noted that she works with Amador Journalism and thought she could collaborate with them and see if they would be able to produce a TV commercial and other things that could be sent out to the whole school.

Mr. Mireles thanked commissioners for their comments.

COMMISSION REPORTS

6. Library Programs Update

Ms. Buenaflor advised she is a new Library and Recreation Coordinator and was looking for feedback from the commission for a new program series that will be launched for 13- to 18-year-old students. She noted that the prior library staff member who had attended the Youth Commission meetings had been able to obtain feedback from commissioners on topics that were of interest.

Commissioners were provided information about the first scheduled program that will be on Journaling and Goal Setting and in May staff is hoping to invite a personal finance author to talk about budgeting. Ms. Buenaflor indicated she was looking for feedback from the commission on other topics they think would be interesting and advised that some topics she has received from Library patrons include How to Apply for College Scholarships, Finances for College, How to Choose a Career, Personal Finances, Grocery Shopping, Meal Prepping, and Taking Care of Mental Health.

Commissioner Costanzo suggested a topic about taxes and Commissioner Shah and Chairperson Shotland agreed this would be helpful as well as the topic on Meal Prepping and learning to prepare a nutritionally balanced diet.

Commissioner Piergrossi thought college students would find it helpful to learn how to prepare inexpensive but nutritious meals and bullet journaling was trendy with high school students talking about college. She also suggested adding a topic relating to balancing of work and school life and being able to balance schedules.

Commissioner Costanzo suggested another topic could be providing something about investing. Chairperson Shotland thought people might be interested if it was named Cyber Currency. Commissioner Mokashi felt this would also be an interesting topic for parents who want to learn more about cryptocurrency. Chairperson Shotland felt Niche Budgeting was also another topic of interest.

How to Apply for Jobs was another topic suggested by Commissioner Piergrossi and Commissioner Jadhav felt that should also include How to Prepare for an Interview and what should be included on a resume. Commissioner Chew noted that these are provided at the Teen Job Fair when people are there conducting mock interviews and aiding with resume writing.

Ms. Buenaflor thanked commissioners for their commented and indicated she would be in contact with Mr. Mireles to discuss and prepare some of the recommendations for the program series.

7. Public Policy Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Prakash advised that the subcommittee discussed the media process for the planned March 31, 2022 Youth in Government Day event. He advised that if allowed the event will be in-person and would begin in the morning with a meeting at the Firehouse Arts Center, followed by lunch at the Veteran's Hall and another session at the Firehouse Arts Center. Commissioner Prakash provided additional information about networking lunches.

Flyers will be posted at schools and Commissioner Prakash noted that commissioners are being asked to promote the event with their friends and a competition is being held to see who encourages the most people to participate. Mr. Mireles noted that the goal is to get fifty students to participate which means each commissioner should encourage approximately seven students to participate and learn how the municipal government and school district operate.

Commissioner Piergrossi was informed by Commissioner Prakash that the networking lunches would be networking meetings at school to advertise the event.

Commissioner Costanzo commented on digital flyers that will be on Instagram and suggested commissioners repost these on their social media accounts to further get information out about the program.

8. Bike, Pedestrian and Trails Committee Update

Commissioner Prakash advised that no meeting has been held recently, but at the September meeting the committee discussed bike collision data and bike lane items.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked about being able to distribute information she has been collecting to members of the commission without having issues with the Brown Act. Mr. Ingram suggested she forward the information to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7 p.m.