



Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA March 9, 2022 – 6 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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, Nikita Jadhav, Kelly Mokashi, Ella Min. Karishma Parikh, Ella Piergrossi, Mirika Pohray, Tejas Prakash, Zaynah Shah, and Chairperson Tess Shotland. (Commissioners Kimberley Chew and Carys Shannon joined the meeting after roll call)

Commissioners Absent: Ashwin Sriram.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Immadi, seconded by Commissioner Prakash, to approve the February 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. Review and Allocate Community Grant Funds in the Youth Category for Fiscal Year 2022/23

Ms. Thomas discussed the allocation of Community Grant Funds in the Youth Category advising that a total of \$40,000 has been budgeted for fiscal year 2022/23. She advised that a total of six applications had been received from five different agencies by the January 19, 2022 deadline for funding requests totaling \$41,500.

Commissioners were advised that staff reviewed the applications using the same criteria as that used by commissioners, but also took into consideration the completeness of applications and their technical merit. Ms. Thomas provided details about the Average and Olympic funding recommendations shown in the agenda report along with staff's funding recommendation. She requested commissioners consider these, funding criteria, and information provided during the agency presentations when making their funding allocation recommendations.

Chairperson Shotland opened the meeting for agency presentations at 6:10 p.m.

Go Green Initiative – “Pleasanton Students Develop Youth Led Training for Climate Action” - Mallory McGoff and Jill Buck

Ms. McGoff provided information about the Go Green Initiative and internship program. She advised that the internship program will provide training that will help interns develop robust community outreach skills that will assist in educating Pleasanton residents. Funding is being requested to pay Pleasanton youth interns during their time in the program.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. McGoff that during the 2021 program a total of 10 Pleasanton youth participated in the program as paid interns and were able to provide vital information to residents and businesses on important environment matters. She further advised that the program meets strategy 3.2 of the Youth Master Plan, draws on the Climate Action Plan and supports the City of Pleasanton's General Plan goals.

Hively – “Busy Bees Little Scientists” – Vanessa Dilks

Ms. Dilks commented on equity and understanding that not everyone begins at the same place. She discussed the Busy Bee Little Scientists program that will seek to challenge education disparities by teaching STEM concepts through hands-on learning.

Ms. Dilks advised that the program will be provided free and will serve low-income youth and help remove barriers. She noted that grant funds would be used to help pay for a staff person and provide for purchasing materials. Ms. Dilks discussed with commissioners the importance of providing this important program early when children are young.

Partners Fore Golf, Inc./The First Tee of Tri-Valley – “The First Tee Tri-Valley STEM Golf Camp” – Cameron McGregor

Mr. McGregor informed the commission that Partners Fore Golf has been in existence since 2005 offering their First Tee program. He noted that many people believe Partners Fore Golf is a golf academy, but it is a program that helps produce good citizens through golf. Mr. McGregor advised that funds are being requested to help First Tee Tri-Valley golf camps with STEM. The camps will be one week of golf classes with STEM characteristics associated with learning science through golf that will be provided by skilled individuals who will explain how the technology and science affect the game.

Tri-Valley Haven – “High School” and “Middle School” programs – Marissa Michetti and Sarah Sterni

Ms. Michetti provided information about Tri-Valley Haven and their Crisis Center in Pleasanton and the services provided. She noted that with funds received previously Tri-Valley Haven has been able to provide a two-day Healthy Relationship and Boundaries presentation to middle school students with the focus on awareness and learning how to change behaviors to be safe from abuse.

Ms. Sterni discussed the Prevention Education program that Tri-Valley Haven has been able to provide to 9th grade students with focus being on building healthy relationships and sex-trafficking issues and making sure that students are comfortable in relationships and are aware of how to prevent becoming involved in sex trafficking. Commissioners were provided information about presentation of the program and the incorporation of videos that offers students opportunities to discuss and comment.

Teen Esteem – “2022-23 PUSD Elementary/Middle/High School Presentations” – Linda Turnbull

Ms. Turnbull thanked the commission for their past support and provided information about the services they provide especially now that students are back in classrooms. She advised that she had recently spoken to approximately 900 students and commented on some students having difficulty adjusting to being back in the classroom. Ms. Turnbull noted that several students are dealing with challenges of depression and anxiety. Teen Esteem’s mission is to educate and empower children and teens and help them navigate the challenges they face.

Chairperson Shotland closed the meeting for agency presentations at 6:30 p.m.

Chairperson Shotland opened the meeting for commissioner discussions on funding allocations and asked Ms. Thomas to share the financial sheet on the screen so necessary adjustments can be made.

Go Green Initiative

Commissioner Piergrossi indicated that she liked the Go Green Initiative project and is aware that the commission has recommended full funding in the past but is aware that previously the organization has had some interns that have not been paid but still doing the same work as those who received payment. She was unsure about the funding recommendations and thought perhaps the commission should consider recommending a lower amount.

Commissioner Mokashi felt Commissioner Piergrossi had a good point and wondered if this was something that should be discussed with the agency representative. Chairperson Shotland noted that often the paid interns are college students and unpaid interns were high school students.

Ms. Buck advised that Go Green did pay some interns because they are students who cannot afford to work over the summer without being paid. She advised that the agency also often pays high school students and Go Green is often able to obtain support from other sources.

Commissioner Piergrossi discussed other ways of getting internships and proposed an amount of \$6,500 as the funding allocation for Go Green Initiative.

Commissioner Mokashi was advised by Ms. Buck that the Go Green Initiative pays a total of ten interns for 50 hours of work.

Commissioners Costanzo and Prakash discussed the \$6,500 amount recommended by Commissioner Piergrossi and felt a \$7,000 amount would be better. Other commissioners agreed.

Hively

Commissioner Chew felt this was a good program since there were no other programs needing funding that are for younger children. Chairperson Shotland also liked providing funding for this program since it targets low-income families. Commissioner Piergrossi agreed and thought it should be fully funded. Commissioner Prakash also agreed.

Ms. Dilks advised Commissioner Mokashi that the program would serve approximately 150 children. Commissioner Mokashi suggested the funding recommendation be \$7,300 or \$7,400. It was suggested this be left at the fully funded amount of \$7,500 with adjustments made later if necessary.

Chairperson Shotland noted that the Olympic average for this agency was lower, and Commission Jadhav indicated she felt strongly about more support for some of the other programs.

Partners Fore Golf, Inc. and the

Commissioner Piergrossi was in favor of this program because of the number of Pleasanton youth that will benefit and that it includes a STEM aspect. Commissioner Jadhav agreed and felt full funding would be appropriate. Commissioner Costanzo noted this is a program that has been funded in the past but that a STEM aspect is now being brought into it.

Commissioner Immadi commented on only 30% of the 80 students in the program will be Pleasanton residents. Commissioner Chew also commented on this and other aspects of the program.

Chairperson Shotland understands all comments made on this request but indicated she saw the benefit of a sports program that will help youth with development. She suggested

maintaining it at a \$3,300 amount for fundings. Commissioners Piergrossi and Jadhav felt the funding amount should be higher and Commissioner Chew suggested raising it to \$3,800.

Teen Esteem

Commissioner Chew advised that she attended both the elementary and high school presentations that Teen Esteem provides, found them very interesting, and would fully fund this request. Commissioner Mokashi agreed and discussed other ways information is provided and the challenge of getting students to participate.

Chairperson Shotland and Commissioner Jadhav stated they would rather fully fund the Tri-Valley Haven projects and allocate \$7,400 for Teen Esteem. Commissioners Piergrossi and Mokashi agreed.

Tri-Valley Haven

Commissioner Piergrossi questioned whether equal funding should be given to both Tri-Valley Haven projects, indicating her choice would be to allocate more funds for the middle school program.

Commissioner Chew noted that Tri-Valley Haven was applying for two grants to serve middle and high schools, while Teen Esteem had applied for only one grant to serve both school levels. Commissioner Piergrossi felt Tri-Valley Haven covered more in their programs and has more overhead expenses. Commissioner Chew felt Teen Esteem expenses were comparable and Commissioner Mokashi agreed.

Chairperson Shotland noted that Tri-Valley Haven goes into the classroom with their programs, while Teen Esteem is an assembly-based program.

Commissioner Jadhav noted that Tri-Valley Haven had indicated they would not be able to complete the program without receiving funding. Commissioner Chew noted that organizations have multi-funding sources.

Commissioner Shannon discussed options of \$7,200 or \$7,300 as funding amounts that could be considered for Tri-Valley Haven. Commissioner Chew suggested making it a \$7,400 amount and make changes when reviewing all the numbers.

Commissioner Piergrossi felt the commission needed to review all the funding recommendations they suggested and consider what changes needed to be made.

Commissioner Prakash indicated he would rather remove a small amount from each of the requests, rather a large sum from one.

Commissioners Chew and Mokashi commented on aspects of the Go Green Initiative program and how working as an intern can be a valuable experience. Commissioner Piergrossi noted that interns will only be working 3-days per week and would be eligible to work elsewhere. She also commented on honesty and respect being an important part of the Partners Fore Golf program.

Chairperson Shotland reviewed the final funding recommendations with commissioners, asked for any further changes, then requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Prakash, seconded by Commissioner Costanzo, recommending City Council approve the following Community Grant funding allocations in the Youth Category for Fiscal Year 2022/23:

\$ 6,700	-	Go Grant Initiative – Pleasanton Students Develop Youth Led Training
\$ 7,500	-	Hively – Busy Bee Little Scientists
\$ 3,600	-	Partners Fore Golf – The First Tee Tri-Valley STEM Golf Camp
\$ 7,400	-	Teen Esteem – 2022-23 PUSD Elementary/Middle/High School Presentations
\$ 7,400	-	Tri-Valley Haven – High School
<u>\$ 7,400</u>	-	Tri-Valley Haven – Middle School
\$40,000		TOTAL ALLOCATIONS

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Chew, Costanzo, Immadi, Jadhav, Min, Parikh, Pohray, Prakash, Shah, Shannon, and Chairperson Shotland.
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Sriram

4. Review and Comment on the 2021 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

Ms. Thomas reviewed with commissioners the 2021 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report. Commissioners agreed it was a good report and had no questions.

COMMISSION REPORTS

5. Recreation Programs Update

Ms. Thomas advised that members of the Dublin Youth Commission would like to hold a Youth Commission Roundtable on April 23rd and as soon as additional information is available, she will provide to commissioners.

Commissioner Prakash asked about a previously held roundtable event and was informed by Ms. Thomas it was a virtual event in November 2021. Commissioner Costanzo indicated she attended the November event and would recommend commissioners attend this upcoming event.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked about the term end for high school seniors on the commission and was advised by Ms. Thomas that their last meeting would be April.

Ms. Thomas provided details about the registration of summer programs and advised that the City of Pleasanton is looking to hire people for these programs and if any commissioners are interested, they should contact her.

6. Public Policy Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Prakash advised that the subcommittee has been busy working on the Youth in Government Day event and encouraged commissioners to get their friends to participate. Commissioner Immadi advised that Sunday, March 13 is the deadline to sign-up.

7. Health & Wellness Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Jadhav advised that the subcommittee has identified their project for the year which will be centered around social media and the use and harms of it, specifically harassment on social media. She discussed a transition to middle school workshop in May for fifth graders and parents for which they are creating infographics and many topics to be discussed during the workshop. Commissioner Jadhav advised there will be three infographics: 1) general talking to kids about social media, 2) steps to report harassment on social media, and 3) overall healthy social media use.

Commissioner Mokashi questions if this was something being provided for 5th graders and Commissioner Jadhav confirmed that it was for 5th graders and their parents. Commissioner Piergrossi indicated it was not for everyone entering 5th grade, but advertising will encourage people to attend the event. Commissioner Mokashi felt this was going to be a great event and questioned how it was going to be advertised. Ms. Thomas advised it was part of the Community Education Series and is called “Transition to Middle School Workshop” and flyers will be sent to elementary schools and a press release will be done with information also provided through social media. Commissioner Mokashi requested that a flyer be sent to her so she could share it with the school district.

8. Ptownlife Website Subcommittee Update

Chairperson Shotland advised that at the last meeting the subcommittee discussed goals for the website and what should be done moving forward. It was agreed that there was a need to be more focused on advertising for youth in Pleasanton in terms of having a database for them to go to and find volunteer and job opportunities, etc.

9. Bike, Pedestrian and Trails Committee Update

No report.

STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 7 p.m.