



Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

**Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road, Pleasanton, CA
October 12, 2022 – 7 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairperson Zaynah Shah.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Nikia Jadhav, Karishma Parikh, Mirika Pohray, Tejas Prakash, Ashwin Sriram, and Chairperson Zaynah Shah. (Commissioner Anya Saxena arrived at 7:13 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: Kimberley Chew, Ella Min, Kelly Mokashi, and Carys Shannon.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

None.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 1. Public Comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda.**

None.

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW / ACTION / INFORMATION

2. Review and Comment on the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

Ms. Thomas reviewed the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report with members of the commission. She discussed the department budget and programs for youth.

3. Discuss and Recommend Youth Commission Community Engagement Opportunities

Ms. Thomas noted that at the September 21, 2022 meeting commissioners discussed and approved the 2022/23 Work Plan and requested to discuss potential opportunities in which the commission could engage with youth in the community. She noted that this would align with the City Council Work Plan to "Expand Connections to Youth and Teen Services."

Chairperson Shah commented on the keeping in line with City Council's Work Plan and the action plan the commission needs to take.

Commissioner Saxena stated she thought the commission should consider an event that incorporated a youth talent show. She provided information about an event she participated in while a member of the Fremont commission that provided an opportunity for youth to display their talents.

Ms. Thomas provided information on what would be required to do an event at the Firehouse Arts Center and suggested the commission also consider an outdoor event at the Lions Wayside Park. Chairperson Shah asked Ms. Thomas to provide additional details on doing events at these locations and Ms. Thomas noted that the Senior Center was also a possible location.

Commissioner Saxena noted that the Fremont commission put subcommittees in place who would collaborate with schools and provided them with information to be promoted through school announcements, auditions were held to make sure talent was suitable, and additional details were provided through social media.

Chairperson Shah asked about the goal of the Fremont commission in doing the event and Commissioner Sriram provided information about a similar event he participated with that raised funds for charity.

Mr. Mireles provided information about the Brighter Day Organization, noting there would be no cost involved working with this group. Ms. Thomas noted that the organization presented to the commission previously and would be willing to work with the commission on doing an event. She noted this would also provide a health and wellness aspect to the event.

Commissioner Prakash indicated he was in favor of the talent show idea and Commissioner Jadhav agreed but suggested the commission consider other ideas. Commissioner Parikh felt

the talent show idea could help provide awareness to youth about what the Youth Commission is about.

Commissioner Saxena asked staff to provide details on what steps the commission would need to take to move forward on organizing the event. Ms. Thomas suggested this be a project that the Health and Wellness Subcommittee oversee and advised that details for the project would be discussed with them by the staff and information provided to the commission at regular commission meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Prakash, seconded by Commissioner Jadhav to have the Health and Wellness Subcommittee pursue information for a Pleasanton Youth Talent show to be organized by the Youth Commission.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Jadhav, Parikh, Pohray, Prakash, Saxena, Sriram, and Chairperson Shah.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Chew, Min, Mokashi, and Shannon.

ABSTAIN: None

Commissioner Prakash discussed the possibility of doing a TechX event and information was provided about this already being done at Amador Valley High School. Ms. Thomas advised that it was important to determine if this were something that would fit with City Council's Work Plan, and she did not think the commission should be considering doing more than one event for the year.

4. Consider Community Education Series Recommendations for School Year 2022/23

Mr. Mireles commented on recommendations for the 2022/23 School Year Community Education Series.

Commissioner Sriram questioned whether a financial literacy series had been done and Chairperson Shah asked staff to provide more details about the intent of Community Education Series. Commissioners were advised that these are free events and an outcome of the Youth Master Plan. Ms. Thomas commented on the declining numbers due to COVID-19 advising that staff has been trying to determine the best ways of promoting the series and getting people to attend.

Commissioner Prakash discussed with staff how the Education Series has been promoted previously. Staff provided information about promoting through the school district's E-connect and other aspects of social media.

Commissioner Jadhav discussed the importance of marketing through schools since this was a youth-oriented program. She commented on how students learn about programs and events at school and the importance of using an exciting title if information is to be provided via email.

Commissioner Jadhav suggested a series cover information for students on how to apply to college. Commissioner Pohray agreed this would be helpful and suggested discussion also include be provided to help students learn about focusing on career paths.

Commissioner Parikh felt a series providing middle school students with information on what to expect when going to high school and what kind of classes and activities they would need to consider. Chairperson Shah agreed indicating it would be helpful for them to learn about graduation requirements, what courses they should be taking and how they should be planning. It was noted that often school counselors are not available, or too busy, to provide this kind of information.

Ms. Thomas noted that past series have been provided free of charge and questioned whether the city should consider charging a nominal fee for people to attend. Chairperson Shah felt the events should be free and Commissioner Parikh thought youth would not attend if it were something they had to pay for.

Commissioners discussed ways of marketing the Community Education Series. Commissioner Prakash felt Youth Commission Instagram was something that should be considered, and Ms. Thomas felt the commission should encourage people to join the Ptownlife Instagram. Commissioner Parikh also felt the use of graphic design would help attract youth. In summary staff confirmed with commissioners that marketing, colorful flyers, and topics that included college readiness and academic details for middle school students were items of interest for the Community Education Series.

Commissioner Parikh suggested that workshops about this Community Education Series be taught in schools.

COMMISSION REPORTS

5. Recreation Programs Update

Ms. Thomas provided information about plans for the Hometown Holiday Parade scheduled to take place December 3, 2022. She encouraged members of the commission to volunteer and provide assistance at this event.

6. Public Policy Subcommittee Update

Commissioners were provided information about an event being marketed through Trivalleyhacks.org at Amador and Foothill high schools and hosted at 5353 Sunol Boulevard. Commissioners were encouraged to sign-up and participate. It was also noted that the subcommittee was planning to meet October 13, 2022.

7. Health & Wellness Subcommittee Update

No report.

8. Ptownlife Website Subcommittee Update

No report a meeting is to be scheduled.

9. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee Update

Commissioners were advised that the committee was taking the West Last Positas Plan to City Council for them to adopt at a meeting in November.

Chairperson Shah noted that the commission needed a representative to attend the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee meetings and asked consideration be given to volunteering for this.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

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