

# **MINUTES OF THE** **PASO ROBLES YOUTH COMMISSION**

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

School District Board Room, 800 Niblick Road, Paso Robles

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## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- Chairperson Horne called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Sara Callahan, Alex Bonnifield, Rebecca Horne, Roy Bezkostny, Jesse Kinsell, Kyle Elliott, Zoe Kingsbury, George Hernandez, Margarita Uribe, Alma Lopez, and Michael McLean  
City staff present: Charlotte Gorton and Vicky Jeffcoach  
City Council present: Gary Nemeth  
Absent: Frank Mecham

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. It was moved and seconded by Bonnifield/McLean to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **2. Tobacco Control Program**

- Christina Lefevre and Amber Alewine, from the SLO County Health Department, shared the goals of the program:
  - a. Decrease tobacco-related deaths and diseases
  - b. Reduce exposure to litter and second-hand smoke for humans
  - c. Working to establish a tobacco-free outdoors which is supported by 70% of the population. Cigarette butts are the number one litter problem, they are not biodegradable and they are toxic – marine animals are the most affected but they kill birds as well.
  - d. Teach kids that smoking is not the social norm and that is it not “normal” to smoke
  - e. Eliminate smoking in parks – working with City of Atascadero on this goal
  - f. Participate in beach and creek clean ups and evaluate how much tobacco litter is there
  - g. Break the connection between smoking and recreation for youth
  - h. Reduce access to tobacco and punish retailers for selling to kids
  - i. Looking for decoys to send on ride-a-long with police
  - j. Provide free tobacco-cessation programs

- SLO County has passed a countywide ordinance for retail tobacco licensing which identifies tobacco retailers. If they sell to minors, they can lose their license for thirty days. Paso Robles does not have this ordinance in place. The SLO County Health Department asked for the support of the Youth Commission to promote the adoption of this ordinance in Paso Robles.

3. **City Water Project**

- Gary Nemeth, Mayor Pro Tem, gave the history of the search for water resources for the City. We are secondary users of the groundwater and agriculture is the primary user. The term “overdraft” is used to describe when you take more water out than what is restored by rainfall. We are working cooperatively with the County on a Water Management Plan. Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero and San Luis Obispo were the first cities to put money into the Nacimiento Water Project. On October 7, 2008, the new water rate plan will be coming back to the City Council for consideration. This rate is more reasonable than the one previously under consideration.
- Chris Alakel, Water Manager for the City of Paso Robles, discussed related reasons regarding the need for additional water. Salinas River water is fully allocated and the state won’t allow any more wells along the river. We triple our consumption during the summer and end up using our water that is stored for emergencies. “Safe Yield” is when usage and production are balanced. The vast majority of water during summer is used on yards and we cannot pump enough water for the summer. Water softeners increase the salts in recycled water making it difficult to re-purify. Lake Nacimiento water will allow us to:
  - a. Increase our portfolio
  - b. Provide a higher quality water
  - c. Enhance our fire protection
  - d. Reduce salt loading in the basin
- The city is looking at a pay-as-you-go plan that will be less expensive to the consumer over the next 17 years than the previous plan. More information can be obtained by going to [pasorobleswaterproject.com](http://pasorobleswaterproject.com).

4. **College 101**

- Vicky Jeffcoach reported that it was a very successful event. Over 75 people came, although no one attended from Flamson. She suggested reducing the length of time for the event. Vicky also wants to work with the high school next year.
- She asked for comments from the commissioners. Rebecca Horne mentioned that there were many more middle school students. Rebecca also acquired some financial information. She suggested looking at alternate dates and times to hold the event. George Hernandez learned about military academies and technical schools.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Charlotte Gordon, Recreation Services Manager, suggested that Ad Hoc Committee meetings be placed on the November agenda as meeting agenda items. Commissioners could split into three discussion groups and, after 15 minutes, report back to the group at large. This might be more efficient than having commissioners come to Centennial Park on a separate day.

## **CITY COMMUNICATION/REPORTS**

**Charlotte Gorton, Recreation Services Manager** related that several youth commissioners have already been:

- Volunteering at events such as the Heritage Oaks Fun Run, Creek Day, and College 101
- Attending City Council meetings.

**Vicky Jeffcoach, Recreation Coordinator** shared on the following events:

- Fright Fest Trip. She will be emailing flyers on the trips to the commissioners.
- Dry Land Ski School, an event provided for youth through Sierra Ski Summit. The event will be held at River Oaks on November 1 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- Ski trip is scheduled for February 2009.
- Commissioners asked if they were needed to assist with the events and Vicky said that she would email them.

## **Council Report**

Gary Nemeth, Mayor Pro Tem, reported on the possibility of being involved with Toys for Tots, Coats for Kids, and the Toy Bank. Registration for Toys for Tots and Coats for kids will be at the Plymouth Congregational Church on November 3, 2008.

## **UNSCHEDULED MATTERS/TEEN ISSUES**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- It was moved and seconded by McLean/Beskostny to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. Motion carried.
- Adjourned to the regular meeting Wednesday, November 5, 2008, 3:15 p.m., at the School District Board Room, 800 Niblick Road, Paso Robles.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE YOUTH COMMISSION AT THEIR 11/5/08 MEETING**

Respectfully submitted by Trine Layman, Recreation Marketing Coordinator