

Approved 3/10/2008

Sacramento County Youth Commission
Tomorrow's Leaders Leading Today

Minutes
Monday, February 11, 2008

Chair: Harkirat Hansra
Vice Chair: Rachel Sussman
Secretary: Cynthia Tsay

Attendance:

District 1	Katie Batten	Absent
	Kristina Wong	X
	Stephanie Taylor	X
District 2	Cynthia Tsay	X
	Raylia Washington	Absent
	Kiki Vo	X
District 3	Rachel Sussman	X
	Megan Alcalay	X
	Elizabeth Eggert	X
District 4	Naomi Endsley	X
	Rachel Anderson	X
	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
District 5	Harkirat Hansra	X
	Brianna Moland	Absent
	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

Advisor: Michele Watts

Guests: Sylvia Perscheid, Supervisor Don Nottoli's Office (Youth Commission Liason)
Kula Koenig, Project Manager, Youth Development and Violence Prevention Task Force

Agenda:

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m.

2. Announcements and Comments:

- The Sacramento County Youth Commission introduced themselves to Kula Koenig, the project manager of the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Task Force
- The commission received a certificate for participating in the News 10 Coats for Kids Drive

- There is an upcoming web dialogue sponsored by the Institute for Local Government. It will run from February 19-29 and participants need to pre-register online before the start of the forum. The topic is Crossing Boundaries: Stories and Strategies to Help Youth Commissions with Local Policy and Advocacy and Engaging Non-Youth Commission Youth

3. Approve Minutes of January 14, 2008 Meeting

- A correction was made to the advisor on page 1. It should read “Michele Watts” rather than “Alan Lange”
- Cynthia motioned to approve the January 14, 2008 minutes and Rachel seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

4. Monitoring of Board of Supervisors Agendas

- No report for January/February by the District 5 Commissioners. District 5 Commissioners will review the archived agendas and report back in March.
- November/December report made by the District 3 Commissioners:
 - Appointment of Kiki Vo to the Sacramento County Youth Commission. She will be filling the vacancy in District 2.
 - Three nominations to the Children’s Coalition
 - Discussion over the presentation given by the Sacramento Country Youth Commission
 - Possibility of widening the range of youth services
 - Renew transitional housing for youth
- February/March agenda monitoring is assigned to District 1 Commissioners

5. Presentation by the North Area Youth and Gang Violence Task Force

- Supervisor Roger Dickinson for District 1 started the task force due to an unprecedented rise in youth related violence. Although the overall crime rate has decreased, it has increased significantly in this demographic. He recognized the need to address this issue and created this task force.
- Kula Koenig, the project coordinator of the task force, presented information on the workings of the task force and their goals.
- Believe in a community wide effort and have held approximately six meetings.
- During the meetings, the individuals brainstorm possible solutions and presentations are made by local groups, such as the Boys and Girls Club.
- An example of a presentation was made on behalf of a character education program which taught children from a young age about the consequences of youth and gang violence. An interesting point was made that the parents of the troubled youth were often unwilling to attend the seminars.
- The task force wants more youth involvement because currently there are only adults at the meeting.
- The commissioners provided their input on creating a name that was accurate yet not intimidating.
- The task force is divided into working groups or committees which have individual goals to achieve. The commissioners believe that the committees that focused on providing resources to teens in a directory format and another

focusing on “public education and advocacy” would be the most effective of the working groups.

- Suggestion to expand it to younger children and have student led groups educate their peers. Also, providing information and safety to current gang members wanting to quit, yet fearing retaliation from their former friends.
- The commissioners were invited to the next meeting, which would be held on February 21. Meetings are usually held the second Thursday of every month.

6. Youth Issues Survey: Next Steps

- Michele suggested that the survey be posted online because it would eliminate paperwork could increase response rates. She is continuing to research the question of whether parent permission slips are necessary. If the online route is used for the survey, Survey Monkey, which is an inexpensive system and could work.
- If the survey was online rather than on paper and conducted at school, then the commissioners would have to develop an outreach strategy to spread awareness about the survey and encourage their peers to take it
- Further discussion will continue at the next meeting.

7. Other Business

- Rachel A. wants to create a brochure about trade schools and other post-secondary school options. The goal is to spread awareness about the opportunities available to those who choose not to attend college. It will include schools around the nation, but will focus on the Sacramento region.
- Kiki is a member of the South Sacramento Youth Leadership Council. The council is holding a competition to win a grant for art supplies. The application will be available in March and applicants will have the opportunity to showcase their talent in a show in May.
- Rachel S. wanted the input of the commissioners on the status of the Crocker Art Museum project. Caren, our contact at the museum, was concerned over the amount of work and planning that was required for the art exhibition. The Crocker will not be able to commit much time and have no room for the exhibit until the renovation is complete. She suggested other options for the Commission such as an informational meeting, raising awareness about the museum, viewing the museum for free in the afternoons with a brief seminar about the history of the museum, and even showcasing art in the future. The discussion will continue in the work group meeting.
- The date for the March commission meeting coincides with Spring Break and many commissioners will be unable to attend. There was a motion to change the meeting date from March 17 to March 10. Michele will send an e-mail confirming the new date in case the room is not available.

8. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- There were no comments on non-agenda items.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.