

**Sacramento County Youth Commission**  
Tomorrow's Leaders Leading Today

Minutes  
Monday, May 19, 2008

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

**Attendance:**

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

**Advisor:** Michele Watts

**Guests:** Joe Angeles, Supervisor Roger Dickinson's Office  
Supervisor Roger Dickinson, District 1

**Agenda:**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

**2. Announcements and Comments:**

- Introductions were made by the Youth Commissioners.
- Michele passed around a sheet for graduating Commissioners to indicate when they will be leaving the Commission.
- Rachel S. saw a CARES van giving out free HIV tests and also found two new potential members for the Commission.

**3. Approve Minutes of April 21, 2008 Meeting**

- Rachel S. motioned to approve the April 21, 2008 minutes and Naomi seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

#### **4. Monitoring of Board of Supervisors Agendas**

- March/April report made by the District 2 Commissioners:
  - still discussing the expansion of the Youth Detention Facility
  - proclaimed April 6-12, 2008 as the National County Government Week and the theme was “Protecting our Children”
  - nominated Harjot Hansra to the Sacramento County Youth Commission
- No report for April/May by the District 3 Commissioners. District 3 Commissioners will review the archived agendas and report back in June.
- May/June agenda monitoring is assigned to District 4 Commissioners
- Michele will email out the link for the archived agendas to the Commission members.

#### **5. Election of Officers**

- The election of officers was a relatively smooth process. The results of the elections are as follows:
  - Chair: Naomi Endsley
  - Vice Chair: Cynthia Tsay
  - Secretary: Rachel Anderson

All the officers ran uncontested and were voted to their respective positions unanimously by the Commission.

#### **6. Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Initiative**

- Youth and Gang Violence has become a bigger problem in the recent years. It is attributed to a steady rise in the number of gang members and currently there are about 65 gangs operating in the area with more than 6000 validated or documented gang members. It has become a problem on school campuses and on the streets.
- The catalyst for the initiative was the gang related murder of a police officer last December. There was widespread support and concern over this tragedy and therefore the initiative was created. The Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Initiative would add ¼ cent to the county sales tax.
- The tax would generate funding for the existing programs to grow because the problem has spread throughout the county and exists in all neighborhoods. This threatens to undercut the quality of life. There are two ways to get the initiative on the ballot: by getting the approval of the Board of Supervisors or collecting signatures from the general populace.
- Supervisor Dickinson encouraged the Commissioners to contact their respective supervisors to inform them of their support of the initiative.
- The initiative would raise the sales tax to 8.00%. The last time the tax was raised was in 1988 to generate revenue for transportation and this tax was renewed in 2004 until 2039. It is a universal sales tax and the only other tax option for funding county business is a parcel tax (property tax), but that is more

complicated. The current proposal has a 30 year sunset; it will start in 2009 and expire or have to be renewed in 2039.

- Preliminary polling has resulted in positive feedback with more than 70% of those polled in favor of the initiative, but there has to be a 2/3 majority to be passed.
- The current plan is to use the money to focus on areas with the biggest current situation, with prevention, intervention, and law enforcement components. The target demographic varies from as young as eight to as old as the early twenties. The main focus is on middle and high school students. It will also be used to provide alternative activities for these individuals to participate in. The revenue is also projected to increase every year due to an increase in economic activity.
- Cynthia motioned and Elizabeth seconded to vote on sending the letter to the Board of Supervisors. There was a unanimous vote in support the action. It will be sent out in June.

#### **7. Crocker Art Museum Project Update**

- Rachel S. will pass on the contact information to the remaining members to continue the project
- Discussed the possibility of having the auction in the future but have the informational night first. Cynthia volunteered to take over the project after Rachel graduates.

#### **8. Youth Issues Survey Project Update**

- The link to the online survey was emailed out to the Commissioners.
- Megan volunteered to help Michele post the link to the survey on MySpace and Facebook. If anyone wants to post the link on individual websites, they should notify Michele.
- The survey was also distributed at the Summer Youth Fair but none have been returned yet.

#### **9. Trade Schools Brochure Project Update**

- Rachel A. is working on the outline and once the information is ready, Michele will format it so that it looks that same as the other brochures that have been made in the past.

#### **10. Passport to Summer Youth Fair Report Back**

- Katie, Rachel S., and Cynthia reported back on the experience of manning the booth at the youth fair. They thought that the configuration of the tables was awkward and that the location of the booth was not an optimal location. They suggested providing free things to draw youth to the table but this raises the issue that the youth would not listen and just want the freebies. Naomi, who worked at a Commission table at a previous event, agreed that freebies are a good way to draw in youth. Also, at the next event the banner will used.
- Michele wants the Commission to participate in more outreach projects at community events.

#### **11. Other Business**

- The Human Services Coordinating Council released an Emergency Preparedness List for vulnerable populations which includes children and teens. There are three basic sections: notification, shelter, and transportation.
- Commission members offered their input on each section. For the first, they suggested sending out announcements through popular radio stations for the respective demographics. Also, they were concerned over calling cell phones because they change with a greater frequency than landlines. Also, they suggested having each family have their own protocol/predetermined location for meeting in case of emergency.
- They suggested giving more clarification about the waiver that would extend temporary authority of consent to medical treatment. Also problems associated with using teens as helpers and any safety issues that may arise.
- In regards to transportation, whether it would only apply to extreme situations.

## 12. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

- There were no comments on non agenda items.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.