



City of Saratoga Youth Commission

MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, May 8, 2012
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Warner Hutton House
13777 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Call to Order 7:06

Roll Call: Agrawal, Chang, Chien, Fariba, **Finch (late)**, Khare, **Pandya (late)**, Smith, Sreedhara, **Tang, Zaidi (late)**

Report on Posting of the Agenda: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, this meeting was properly posted on **May 1, 2012**.

Approval of April Minutes (4/10, 4/24) **Sierra, Jane**

Accept Agenda Items: No additional items may be added pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2.

Oral & Written Communication: Any member of the public may address the Commission about any matter not on the agenda for this meeting for up three minutes. *Commissioners may not comment on the matter, but may choose to place the topic on a future agenda.*

I. Old Business

i. Review

1. WOW – gift giveaway
 - I. Any changes for next year?
 - i. **Good and organized.**
 - ii. **Next year, spend more time on prizes to suit the older kids as well.**
2. Pet Parade (Fariba & Sreedhara)
 - i. **For upcoming events, keep posted on news from the City Council. Send some representatives to other events.**
3. Scavenger Hunt (June 23rd)
 - i. **Meet with Councilmember Jill Hunter to talk about helping with the scavenger hunt in the village.**
 - ii. **Tentative meeting Monday, May 14th at 3:30 at Blue Rock Shoot.**
4. Rotary Art Show
 - i. **Good volunteer work!**

5. JT Council Meeting
 - i. Impressed with the work of the youth commission.
 - ii. We've made a lot of improvement from last year.
 - iii. Ask councilmembers to come to all of our future events.
 - iv. Advice from councilmembers: radio station, blog, emails, Celebrate Saratoga,
6. YAC Debate Evaluation
 - i. Mostly positive comments.
 - ii. For next year: make it more engaging, stay on topics for a longer time, let the audience elaborate, larger bank of follow-up questions, more facts.

ii. **Project Cornerstone**

1. Follow up with leadership classes?
 - I. Share their results and feedback from City Council
 - i. Follow up with the Redwood leadership teacher asking how the commission should approach the speak-out.
 - ii. Ask the Mayor to come and share input on Tuesday or Thursday of next week.

iii. **SYC Alumni Network**

1. Ideas on how to get it started?
 - i. Start creating the Facebook page: write the text, pictures, get it started. (5/17 at 3:30 Big Basin Cafe)
 - ii. Private settings (invitation only). Make it interesting and interactive.
 - iii. Keep the page going, and keep in touch: Reunion! Kia's time capsule from 5 years ago.
 - iv. Article about the reunion in Saratoga News.

iv. **2012 Fall Political Forum**

1. Keep it local? Regional?
 - i. Local benefits: involvement in Saratoga and nearby cities. Nationwide level: draws a bigger crowd
2. Speak Out? Traditional Style? Debate?
 - i. Panel discussions, Speak-out: (Evan Low, the Mayor, Professors, Government teachers, Kathleen King, school board). Get a wide range of political affiliation and gender. Geared towards why this matters to us. Teaching youth about politics.
 - ii. See who we can get to speak and form the speak-out focus around them.

- iii. Political debate between candidates. Use comments from YAC Attack. What will they do for us? What topics can we have that will engage youth?
- iv. How to engage students: controversial topics attract students (debates, etc.), Measure B, Lowering the voting age, universal issues, reviving safe rides

v. **Recommendations for next year's Commission**

1. Senior Advice

- i. Keep up the good work!
- ii. Events for next year: Invite city council members to events, WOW, Youth Political Forum, Project Cornerstone
- iii. Project Cornerstone
 - a. talk to the whole school
 - b. talk about controversial issues that relate to middle school students: pose a new angle to bullying (personal level, relatable)
 - c. become friendly with school faculty members
 - d. branch out to all of the elementary, middle schools
 - e. high schools issues: drinking, reviving safe rides
 - f. see if we made an impact in a few years by taking another project cornerstone survey

vi. **End of the Year Party**

1. May 22nd : 5:30 PM Dinner, 6:30 PM Meeting

- i. Make your own burritos

II. **Upcoming Events**

- i. SYC Application Due – 5/17
- ii. End of the year party? Ideas? –5/22
- iii. Commission Recognition Dinner – 5/30

III. **Adjournment 8:50 PM**

Minutes completed by Somya Khare, Secretary (substitute)