



YOUTH COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00pm, February 6, 2002
Room A, Hillview Community Center
97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022

Call to Order

Vice-Chairperson Samani called meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Roll Call

Present: Vice-Chairperson Samani, Commissioners Chafey, Friedland, Garcia, Hoa, Keats, Lorell, Miller, Tsien, Wu

Absent: Chairperson Lin

Public Comment – none

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the November 19, 2001 & December 17, 2001 meetings were approved unanimously.

Discussion

New Business

- 1. Library Commission** – Library Commissioners Julie Iskow, Jennifer Lopez & Jim Thurber and Teen Services Librarian Larry Condit were present at the meeting. They wanted to speak with Youth Commission about ways to get more teens in the library. Library Commissioners did a survey last year and it seemed like teens were not interested in going to the library.

Commissioner Lorell felt that the reason younger kids (grades 1-6) went to libraries is that they had reading programs at school. Commissioner Chafey says that in those grades the school provides the books for the students. Commissioner Tsien feels that older high school students like the library. He and some of his friends attend at least once a week. Commissioner Lorell feels that the library has a great kids section, but there is nothing really aimed towards teens.

Commissioner Iskow wondered if the youth commissioners knew that the library had DVDs, CDs, videos and magazines that could be checked out.

Commissioner Miller felt that teenagers didn't read a lot and that getting DVDs and CDs was not the point of going to the library. He felt that the quiet study areas of the library are used. Feels there isn't enough modern literature that teenagers would be interested in. Literature that wouldn't be found at school because it is not approved reading. Feels that the Young Adult section at the library doesn't have a good enough selection. Also, there should be different ways to let teens know what is available.

Commissioner Tsien was wondering if the Library Commission wanted the library to be a "hangout". Students know that the library is considered a quiet place so they don't want to use it as a hangout.

Commissioner Lopez wondered if a newsletter would be a way to get information out to teens about programs at the library. Youth Commission felt that it would not be.

Commissioner Lorell felt that the Library would need to have a better image in order to have people want to attend.

Commissioner Iskow mentioned again that the library has DVDs and music CDs to borrow. How do let students know about that? Commissioners Samani & Lorell felt that better signs (bright colors, etc) might be a way to do so.

Commissioner Keats suggested that allowing people to have some food or drink in the group study room might be a way to have people stay there. Many times he and his friends have been asked to leave for this reason. He does understand though why they have to do it.

Commissioner Wu feels that even though the library is a place where students can enrich their lives, many times they don't have time for extracurricular reading.

Commissioner Samani suggested that the library work with the two junior high schools to create a reading program that will keep that age group coming in to the library.

Commissioner Iskow questioned whether or not teenagers read magazines. Commissioner Lorell said that students subscribe to magazines that they want to read.

Commissioner Tsien mentioned that at Foothill College they have a media center where students can watch movies and DVDs. Feels that it is something that would work well at the Los Altos Library.

Commissioner Miller feels that the DVDs and the CDs should be advertised more. Possibly have movie nights or something that will make teens want to be there. Commissioner Miller also mentioned that some classes at school had tried to plan field trips to the library but were turned down a few different times.

Commissioner Lorell thinks that if you publicize DVDs and CDs that there should be a better selection. Commissioner Iskow mentioned that the DVD and CD collection was fairly new and that they are working on improving it.

Commissioner Garcia felt that they should publicize the fact that they have DVDs at the schools.

Commissioner Iskow asked for a comparison to the Mountain View Library.

Youth Commissioners said that the Mountain View Library is bigger but they like the staff at Los Altos better.

Commissioner Thurber asked if the commissioners ever had to do research assignments.

Commissioner Lorell mentioned that he has had many research assignments but that the Los Altos Library didn't have enough material.

Commissioner Hoa felt that the Los Altos Library was good as a starting point for research projects.

Commissioner Tsien mentioned that he uses the internet for research projects and that the library is his second choice.

All in all a very good meeting with these two commissions.

2. **Battered Women's Shelter** – Commissioner called an employee at the shelter. Has not yet received a return call. Will continue trying.
3. **Visiting Other Commissions** – Commissioner will visit the Cupertino Youth Commission on February 11 at 5pm. All commissioners who can attend will do so.

4. **Disneyland Trip** – Commissioners were given fliers to help promote the Disneyland Trip being run by the Recreation Department. Commissioners will distribute them at their schools.

Old Business

5. **Bingo Night** – There was no Bingo Night information available.
6. **City Council Study Session Review** – Continued discussion about what subjects to bring to City Council. Commissioner Wu suggested that maybe more ideas would come up after visiting other commissions. Commissioners will bring ideas again to next meeting.
7. **Survey** – Survey Committee has not met. Will try to meet before next meeting.

Other Matters

1. **February 18 meeting** – Commissioners cancelled the February 18 meeting.
2. **Commission Reappointment** – The following commissioners would like to be reappointed to the 2002-03 Youth Commission: Tara Chafey, Edward Hoa, Christiana Samani, Stephanie Lin & Stephanie Wu. Commissioner Jeff Garcia will make a decision within the next month or so.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.