

MINUTES OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING
OCTOBER 8, 2019

A **Regular Meeting** of the Youth Advisory Board of the City of Peoria, Arizona was convened at 8335 W. Jefferson Street in open and public session at 6:35 p.m.

Members Present: Leah Gilbertson, Peter Bartos, Ravi Bhakta, Tyrin Clay, Juliette Garcia, Cassidy Gatrost, Brighton Greathouse, Caelin Johnson, Shaan Patel, Caillet Popelier, Madison Presmyk, Ritika Ravindran, Savana Rodriguez, Saanvi Tiwary, Addison Vinck

Members Absent: Madelyn Stuckey-excused, Nikhila Basana-excused, Liam Beltram-unexcused, Marin Clark-excused, Dominique Van Winkle-excused

Municipal Officials Present: Jon Edwards-Councilman, Ted Mariscal-Assistant City Attorney, Chris Hallett-Neighborhood & Human Services Director, Stephanie Mellring-Recreation Coordinator, Brian Carrico-Recreation Superintendent and Selena Ferreira-Administrative Assistant

Audience: 1

Presentation: None

Note: The order in which the items appear in the minutes is not necessarily the order in which they were discussed at the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed with a "C" are considered to be routine by the Youth Advisory Board and were enacted by one motion.

MINUTES:

1C Discussion and possible action to approve/excuse members absent from the September 10, 2019 regular meeting.

2C Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of September 10, 2019.

A motion was made by Brighton Greathouse to approve the consent agenda; the motion was seconded by Juliette Garcia and the motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Mental Health Awareness**

Brian reminded the board there were still space available for the upcoming West Valley Youth Retreat on Friday, October 11, 2019. Times will be 7:30am-4:30pm. Mental health will be the main topic of conversation. Savana and Cassidy are interested in attending. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. **School Resource Officers**

Five officers came to speak at the meeting: Officer Carrion, Fernandez, Hail, Griffin and Marks. Officer Carrion oversees the SRO unit in addition to working with homeless outreach and teens. He said all SRO's are trained in aspects of mental health, are able identify certain signs and have a crisis plan prepared. Officer Fernandez works at Centennial High. He also works with Hart Pantry, Homeless Youth Connection and Coyotes Closet to help supply food and clothes for teens in need. Officer Hail works at Liberty High. She has prom clothes for those interested in going to the dance but cannot afford to buy the attire. She spoke about her job and how it is more than "policing" but very much involved with personal aspects. Sometimes the school guidance counselors call upon her to help with parents and students on a more personal level. Officer Griffin is stationed at Sunrise Mountain High. She referred to their jobs as a triangle of duties that include safety, teaching and counselling. Officer Marks, at Peoria High, loves the job he has and did agree that mental health is a big part of it. He said 50% of all people with mental health issues have it at the on-set of 14 years old. Officer Carrion went on to say all their job duties include traffic control, the safety of thousands of students and staff, caring for the feed schools, watching cross-walks, working in conjunction with the schools and City, after-school events, summer academies for 7th and 8th graders and each SRO is a resource to parents, students, teachers and the community. Madi asked if they would be willing to be interviewed for the schools morning announcements. No action taken.

3. **National League of Cities & Towns Conferences**

Thomas Adkins gave insight to his position at the City. He acts as a lobbyist, works at the State Capital at times, makes sure Peoria operates under Council and is involved in Peoria Neighborhood Day. He then described the NLC. Huge meeting held all across the United States twice a year where City Councils, staff and youth come together. There are youth sessions where you meet other youth and hear what is occurring in their City. Thomas also coordinates visits with the AZ State Senator and/or US Representative. This November they will meet in San Antonio, Texas. In March they will meet in Washington, D.C. Brighton attended the DC trip and thought it was so cool to hear what other kids do on their boards. Juliette attended a conference in California and encouraged all to apply for these opportunities because of the amazing speakers and workshops. No action taken.

4. **Youth Ridership in POGO**

Bridgette Abraham, a student from ASU, joined Cathy Colbath to discuss POGO with the board. Bridgette works with Great Minds and Project Cities and provides youth perspectives. Her current project is youth and transportation. She surveyed the board with questions such as: who knows what POGO is, who rides it, why do you use it, is it convenient and why aren't you using it? Caillet thought the schools should announce what POGO is. Peter said he does use POGO and even has the app downloaded on his phone. Savana saw a commercial on TV and it helped explain what it was. Ritika mentioned summer weather might be a factor to low usage. Cathy Colbath said she rides POGO to track ridership. No action taken.

5. **High School Parking Solutions**

Councilman Jon Edwards spoke on the parking issue at Liberty High. The City of Peoria constantly receives complaints from surrounding homeowners that they cannot park in their own neighborhood because the students use their space. Liberty has 325 parking spots and over two thousand students vying for them. They have had to create a lottery system for the parking spots. Councilman Edwards would like to know if you face these same issues at your school. He encourages the board to help shape the future by providing input on these matters. No action taken.

6. **Creating Committees**

Brian passed around an interest form to gather intel on what committee members would want to join. They were collected at the end. Since Madelyn Stuckey was unable to attend Leah read her vision to the board. Juliette asked how groups were formed if too heavy on one committee? Leah responded, Madelyn would have to move people around. No action taken.

CALL TO PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEM): N/A

Reports from Staff:

7. Brian provided a calendar of events that board could pick events to volunteer at.

8. Brian asked the board to email future agenda items to him at Brian.Carrico@peoriaaz.gov

Reports from Youth Council Liaisons: Ritika mentioned that the Veteran's Memorial Wall received an award.

Reports from Board: Caillet-ASU messed up her application. Ritika-is DECA president. Peter-DECA had FLC and he met Senator McSally and the Mayor Cathy Carlat. Juliette-is Yearbook Editor and has play rehearsals. Tyrin-met her SRO. Caelin-Fundraising for Maggie's Place. Leah-foreign exchange student coming from France and visiting Iowa for colleges. Shaan-DECA had FLC. Ravi-Mountain Ridge Homecoming was fun. Cassidy-going rappelling and collecting donations for Special Olympics. Madi P.-got two new dogs and it is her dad's wedding this Saturday. Saanvi-joined Bloom.

ADJOURNMENT: Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Leah Gilbertson, Chair

Selena Ferreira, Administrative Assistant