

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE YOUTH COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN RUGGLES ROOM 1, LOCATED AT 778 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, AZ.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Community Services Director, Bryan Hughes, serving as acting chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Grace "Kadin" Diorio, Hanna Earl, Cara Roberts, Dolores Vasquez, Jayden McMillan-Alternate

Absent: Kendra Johnson

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. NEW BUSINESS

Acting Chair Hughes reminded the Commission that officer terms are only through the end of September, at which point elections will be held again.

a. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of nomination and election of a Commission Chair.

Commissioner Roberts nominated herself as Commissioner Chair.
Commissioner Vasquez nominated herself as Commissioner Chair.
Nominations closed.

Roll Call Vote for Roberts as Chair.

Roberts: Yea

Vasquez: Nay

Diorio: Nay

Earl: Yea

Nomination failed, 2-2.

Roll Call Vote for Vasquez as Chair.

Roberts: Yea

Vasquez: Yea

Diorio: Yea

Earl: Nay

Vasquez elected Chair, 3-1.

b. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of nomination and election of Commission Vice Chair.

Commissioner Earl nominated herself as Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Diorio nominated herself as Vice-Chair.
Commissioner Roberts nominated herself as Vice-Chair.

Roll Call Vote for Earl as Vice-Chair.

Roberts: Yea
Vasquez: Nay
Diorio: Nay
Earl: Nay
Nomination failed, 3-1.

Roll Call Vote for Diorio as Vice-Chair.

Roberts: Nay
Vasquez: Yea
Diorio: Yea
Earl: Nay
Nomination failed, 2-2.

Roll Call Vote for Roberts as Vice-Chair.

Roberts: Nay
Vasquez: Yea
Diorio: Nay
Earl: Yea
Nomination failed, 2-2.

Councilmember Larsen noted that typically the Chair would cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie. However, as Director Hughes is not a Commissioner and only acting Chair, he is not eligible to vote.

The item will be on the next agenda for action. Director Hughes stated that due to Commissioner Johnson's absence from two consecutive meetings, she may be excused from the Commission according to the bylaws. Alternate Commissioner McMillan may then be appointed to the commission as a regular member, which would then have five active voting members, helping to break ties in future meetings.

c. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of nomination and election of new Commission Secretary.

Commissioner Roberts nominated herself as Secretary.
Commissioner Vasquez nominated Earl as Secretary.
Commissioner Diorio nominated herself as Secretary.

Roll Call Vote for Roberts as Secretary.

Roberts: Yea
Vasquez: Nay
Diorio: Nay
Earl: Yea

Nomination failed, 2-2.

Roll Call Vote for Earl as Secretary.

Roberts: Yea

Vasquez: Yea

Diorio: Yea

Earl: Nay

Earl elected Secretary, 3-1

The meeting was turned over to Chair Dolores Vasquez.

d. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval on the Minutes from the February 28, 2019 regular meeting.

Chair Vasquez noted that under Roll Call, the correct name is Kendra Johnson, not Kendra Roberts.

On motion by Chair Vasquez, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and carried to approve (4-0) the minutes as corrected for the February 28, 2019 regular meeting.

e. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of the Youth Commission Mission Statement.

Director Hughes asked if a mission statement had been discussed at the previous meeting. It was stated that only in broad terms related to the bylaws and goals.

Director Hughes shared mission statements from three youth commissions found online during a Google search.

Paso Robles, CA

The Paso Robles Youth Commission is a youth-led organization that seeks to provide opportunities and representation for youth through collaboration with local government in order to enrich the lives of the youth in our community.

Greenfield, MA

Youth are our future! Connecting and providing Greenfield's youth with services and activities that encourages participation in enriching opportunities, creation of lasting friendships, support of overall health and safety and having fun.

Rochester-Olmsted County, MN

Provide intergenerational civic engagement and leadership opportunities for young people in Olmsted County.

The Commissioners stated that they liked the Paso Robles, CA example and asked if they could copy it. Councilmember Larsen suggested potentially rewording one of the mission statements if they liked one in particular.

Director Hughes stated that mission statements are very important and not something to be rushed into. He suggested the commissioners do their own online search and come back with suggestions at the next meeting for additional discussion

f. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of future Town Council youth issues.

Director Hughes started the discussion by asking the commissioners what issues were facing teens and more specifically what issues may the Town and Town Council be able to assist with.

Commissioner Roberts stated vaping is a major issue amongst teens. Teens are vaping everywhere. Commissioners also stated that social media is making things like vaping more accessible and main stream amongst teens. Commissioners stated that having trash cans with ashtrays on top at parks and facilities encourages smoking. They also stated that they've seen people come by and pull cigarette butts that aren't fully smoked out and relight them. Director Hughes suggested eliminating those type of trashcans. It was further stated that not having ashtrays could lead to litter. It was suggested a specific type of ash tray, called a "butt ashtray" that allows for the butts to go to the bottom of a can when disposed so random people can't come by and pull cigarette butts out and relight them. Director Hughes stated one way the Commission may address the situation is by making a recommendation to the Town Council to enact an ordinance forbidding vaping at public facilities or parks, which could also include smoking. Commissioners agreed that may be a good step. Commissioner Roberts also suggested something like anti-drug posters. Councilmember Larsen suggested partnering with the County Attorney's Office for a program they have designing anti-drug posters each year.

Alternate Commissioner McMillian suggested Gaga Ball as an activity that is positive and would be a way to attract different teens to events at the park. Not everyone is an athlete or has the same interests, so it's necessary to hold different activities to attract all teens.

Commissioners suggested more Movies in the park, perhaps two a month with one focusing on kids' movies and the other more for teens.

Commissioner Roberts suggested karaoke for teens. Other Commissioners agreed that karaoke is very popular. Director Hughes suggested a Party in the Park, which could include karaoke as an activity.

The Commissioners like that idea. Commissioners also suggested board games or other similar games, such as the Giant Jenga or Giant Connect Four.

Bullying is another issue facing teen, both on social media and in school. Councilmember Larsen suggested an awareness campaign. Director Hughes stated proclamations by the Town Council supporting anti-bullying campaigns or similar actions.

Councilmember Larsen shared a story about someone bringing a knife to her son's school and how folks were afraid to tell anyone. An anonymous tip line could help in those situations.

Chair Vasquez mentioned an online app called Text-Talk-Act, which allows teens to enter a subject and get advice on how to handle a situation they may be facing. There was discussion about possible anonymous tip lines, the potential need for a school resources officer, or other ways for teens to report suspicious activity without feeling threatened afterward.

Commissioner Diorio mentioned the need for a LGBTQ club or something similar where teens can feel free to talk about issues related to the LGBTQ community. Councilmember Larsen mentioned a program where teens fill out an anonymous survey, which are then surveys are mixed up and shared so that teens can see that others have similar problems without knowing who they are. Commissioners suggested talks or lectures about similar subjects. Director Hughes stated that those types of talks would be relatively easy to coordinate.

Director Hughes stated that there were a number of very good issues brought up and that the commission can expand on these at future meetings. He also suggested a possible work session with the Town Council to discuss some of these items in more detail before any official recommendations are brought to the Town Council for consideration. Councilmember Larsen explained that a work session is an informal meeting with the Town Council where discussion flows more freely but no action is taken.

g. Next regular meeting in Thursday, April 18, 2019.

Director Hughes informed the Commission of the next meetings date.

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC/COMMISSION RESPONSE

Chair Vasquez opened Call to the Public. Ms. Ruth Harrison stated she liked the butt ashtray idea. She also suggested Commissioners pay attention to other boards and commission agendas, so they can see what they are doing and maybe attend their meetings, particularly arts and

culture. She also suggested the teens host a film festival for short films that may be produced by local residents or students.

Chair Vasquez asked Director Hughes to place the film festival idea and arts and culture on a future agenda.

Call to the Public for Comment is limited to issues within the jurisdiction of the Town of Florence Youth Commission. Individual commission members may respond to criticism made by those commenting, may ask the staff liaison to review a matter raised, or may ask that a matter be placed on future agenda.

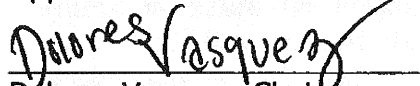
6. CALL TO THE COMMISSION- CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Chair Vasquez mentioned an event at Central Arizona College on April 12, 2019, for teens. The other Commissioners expressed an interest in attending too. Councilmember Larsen reminded the Commission that if they all planned to attend, to let Director Hughes know so the Town can post that a quorum of the Commission will be attending the event. She further reminded them that if they heard a good idea, they couldn't discuss it there but could add it to a future agenda for discussion and possible action.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Diorio, and carried (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 P.M.

Approved: _____


Dolores Vasquez, Chair