

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE YOUTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, May 16, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN RUGGLES ROOM 1, LOCATED AT 778 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, AZ.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Vasquez called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Cara Roberts, Dolores "Lolita" Vasquez, Grace "Kadin" Diorio, Jayden McMillin

Absent: Hannah Earl

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Commissioner Diorio nominated herself as Commissioner Vice-Chair.

Nomination was seconded by Chair Vasquez.

Roll Call Vote for Diorio as Vice-Chair.

Vasquez: Yea

Roberts: Yea

Diorio: Yea

McMillin Yea

Diorio elected Vice-Chair, 4-0.

**b. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of Youth Commission Mission Statement.**

Staff Liaison Nixon defined a mission statement as an explanation of what the commission is about and its purpose. And while the goals and by-laws for the Commission are already written, these will support the new chosen Mission Statement. Liaison Nixon also handed out sample Mission Statements from other youth commissions in Paso Robles, California, Greenfield Massachusetts, and Rochester-Olmsted County in Minnesota. Following comments about the sample statements, each commission member wrote their own suggestion and read them aloud. Liaison Nixon and Councilmember Larsen were impressed by all four and suggested that each member submit their statements to Liaison Nixon for him to organize and submit to the commission members for the next meeting in July. This will give the members time to review and be prepared to offer their suggestions for a final Mission Statement. Commissioner McMillin suggested leaving each mission statement anonymously. All agreed.

On a motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner McMillin and carried 4-0 to table item 4b to the July 18, 2019 meeting.

**c. Discussion of potential new Youth Programs, including a film festival and arts and culture programming with emphasis on specific programming, possible partners, dates and commission member responsibilities.**

Liaison Nixon shared a discussion he had with Chair Vasquez, suggesting the commission narrow its focus and select specific items to discuss with the Mayor and Town Council. Councilmember Larsen suggested that if the commission can consider certain organizations to partner with, that would help determine their demographics. After a volley of discussion, the commission appeared to prefer the age group of 14 to 19-year olds as a target and create a film broken into categories to include mental health and peer pressure issues. Commissioner Diorio suggested offering an open mic to teens to discuss items of importance. She also suggested a timeline for the new school year. Commissioner McMillin suggested next summer (2020) as a target date for a type of film festival and to perhaps show the films at the high school during half-days. Chair Vasquez suggested partnering with Florence High School student council, and the film and TV class. Commissioner Roberts suggested involving the Florence Woman's Club. Councilmember Larsen suggested involvement with the Town's Arts and Culture Commission as well. Commissioner McMillin raised the possibility of seeking sponsors for the film project and partnering with other Pinal County Youth Commissions. Liaison Nixon offered to contact directors in Coolidge, Maricopa, Casa Grande and Eloy to gauge interest from those Youth Councils to work with our local commission.

**d. Discussion of Youth Issues including Text-Talk-Act, vaping/smoking and bullying while considering creating Youth Commission apps (applications) for all three. Discussion to include potential guest speakers on said topics.**

The purpose of creating an app(s) by the Youth Commission would be to provide a means for teens to discuss their issues and receive support. Commissioner McMillin suggested that perhaps commissioners could offer advice to teens with issues. Commissioner Roberts said they were not qualified to give advice but could offer support/understanding and recommend places to find help for those issues. She also suggested the app could be a location for the Youth Commission to promote and post its events. Snapchat is another option to promote the Youth Commission. Commissioner McMillin suggested that youth could use the app to report illegal activity such as underage drinking, smoking or vandalism. Councilmember Larsen suggested the Commission members determine what they wish to achieve with an app because that will be their platform to promote. Commissioner Roberts said that because many youth need assurance and support that someone is listening, perhaps posting a Youth Commission Quote of the Day, would be motivational. She also suggested that each commissioner create specific goals for what they wish to accomplish.

- e. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval to request a work session with Town Council on Monday, August 5, 2019 and determine which issues to present to Council.**

Liaison Nixon explained that this date was chosen to not only give the Commission time to determine which issues to discuss with Council, but also to allow the Town Council adequate time to review and approve the Town's new fiscal year budget. Chair Vasquez asked for clarification on the type of meeting. Councilmember Larsen said it will be a work session, so no formal presentation is needed. She said it's an informal setting and be prepared to discuss youth issues along with the Commission's ideas and possible solutions. Inform the Council but be prepared to ask for its feedback and possible action. Liaison Nixon suggested for the commissioners to consider how the Town Council can support their goals and cited the possibility of proclamations and ordinances as two examples. The commissioners agreed to consider the issues to discuss with Council and to be prepared to finalize those items at the July 18, 2019 meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Roberts, seconded by Commissioner McMillin and carried 4-0 to request a work session with Town Council on Monday, August 5, 2019

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Jayden McMillin, former alternate member is now a regular Youth Commission member.**

Liaison Nixon formally introduced Commissioner McMillin as a regular Youth Commission Member. She was the former alternate. Commissioner McMillin thanked everyone for her presence on the commission. Liaison Nixon said he was impressed that Commissioner McMillin, while just the alternate, attended all the previous meetings although she was not required to attend.

- b. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of the April 18, 2019 meeting minutes.**

On a motion by Commissioner McMillin, seconded by Commissioner Roberts and carried 4-0 to approve the April 18, 2019 Meeting minutes with the following corrections: under item 4b, May 4<sup>th</sup> should read May 16<sup>th</sup>; under item 5, Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of March 28, 2019 meeting minutes, delete the word Vice from Vice-Chair Vasquez; under item 5a, delete the words "which he endorsed" and under item 5c, delete the words "the high school" and replace with "Youth Empowerment Partners."

## **6. CALL TO THE PUBLIC/COMMISSION RESPONSE**

**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.

Liaison Nixon presented an email from the State of Arizona with information about applying for the Governor's Youth Commission. All four commissioners requested a copy plus one for absent Commissioner Earl.

No other member of the public chose to speak.

## 7. CALL TO THE COMMISSION- CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Chair Vasquez reviewed the email from the Governor's office and said the deadline to apply was the next day, May 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Roberts was pleased to announce she would be seeing her father later in the month.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Vice-Chair Diorio, seconded by Commissioner McMillin and carried 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Approved:

  
Dolores "Lolita" Vasquez, Chair