

**MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING
February 4, 2021 @ 7:01 p.m. Via Zoom**

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Nick Drossel at 7:01 pm.

ROLL CALL by Recreation Supervisor, Cathy Angstadt

Committee Members Present: Maeve Burdian, Chair Nick Drossel, Viuna Farshchian, Emily Guilfoyle, Jason Liu, Skylar Neeve, Zoe Neeve, Vice Chair John Reid, Katie Root, Jackson Tremper, Amanda Zidron

Committee Members Absent: Courtney Bunge, Cade Mahaffey, Andrew Nesson, Disha Surana

Staff Present: Gretchen Malcolm, Recreation Supervisor
Cathy Angstadt, Recreation Supervisor
Ron Rivera, Parks & Recreation Director
Captain Virgil Asuncion, Chief of Police Services

Council Liaisons Present: Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Gennawey
Council Member Kelly Jennings

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Recreation Supervisor, Gretchen Malcolm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW CHIEF OF POLICE SERVICES VIRGIL ASUNCION

As the new Chief of Police Services for the City of Laguna Niguel, Virgil Asuncion introduced himself, described some of the past positions and roles he held while working with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He expressed interest in working with the City, the community, and teens in Laguna Niguel. He looks forward to getting to know the Youth Committee and assisting by making himself available as a resource.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – There were no public communications.

ADMINISTRATION

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2021 YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

A MOTION was made by Chair Nick Drossel to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Committee Member Zoe Neeve.

Motion carried 11-0-4

YOUTH COMMITTEE PROJECT REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

A. SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS SUBCOMMITTEE

- The subcommittee has been focusing on:
 - Keeping the frequency and number of Instagram posts consistent.
 - Promoting environmental educational posts to promote proper recycling.
 - Completing the gathering of “casual photos” of Youth Committee members, along with 2-3 fun facts to share as “stories” on Instagram.
 - Planning for the posting of mental health apps and uplifting posts.
 - Increasing the number of followers on Instagram.
 - Currently, the Youth Committee has 269 followers. The goals for this year will be to obtain 350 followers and 50 likes per post.

B. HIGH SCHOOL JOB & COLLEGE FAIR SUBCOMMITTEE

Staff is in the process of establishing an agreement with Easy Virtual Fair, which will provide a professional and fully mobile experience for the College Fair including 30 booths, a landing page, a customer registration form, a built-in written chat, and a webinar agenda with a link to the webinar. The goal for this year’s event is to double the number of registrants, reaching as many as 400. The event is currently scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2021.

The subcommittee plans to prepare promotional materials and is looking to develop a pre-recorded presentation on interview techniques.

It was suggested that once an agreement is finalized, the subcommittee hold a zoom meeting with the vendor to gain a full understanding of the capabilities that the vendor can provide for this event.

C. PIZZA WITH POLICE SUBCOMMITTEE

The subcommittee reported that they held a zoom call with Deputy Ramirez to discuss their ideas on how the Pizza with Police event could be handled as an in-person gathering. Deputy Ramirez informed the subcommittee that due to the current state of COVID-19 and OC Sheriff department guidelines for in-person, non-essential meetings, it would not be feasible at this time. Deputy Ramirez suggested holding a Zoom gathering with teens and will be keeping her eye on the feasibility of an in-person gathering, based on conditions opening up and pending approval.

The subcommittee's consensus was to establish Wednesday, May 19, 2021, from 6 pm - 7 pm for the Pizza with Police event, pending the availability and shift changes for Police Services.

D. ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOP SUBCOMMITTEE

Subcommittee members have yet to receive responses from those they have contacted. However, it was suggested that two youth individuals could also be contacted to present on 1) making skateboards and 2) creating a batting club.

Parks & Recreation Director, Ron Rivera, informed the Committee that last year's presenter is interested in participating again. He will provide the name and contact information to the Subcommittee.

Once presenter(s) are obtained, a date for the event can be established and shared with everyone at the next Committee meeting.

E. SONGS FOR SENIORS

The application is currently posted on the City's website and promoted on LNteens Instagram account. Three applications have been received, and the deadline for submittal is this Sunday, February 7, 2021. While contact has been made with a few schools, the Subcommittee requested that other Committee members reach out to their schools and those they know to promote the event further.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Subcommittee expressed their interest in contacting Home Depot for birdhouses and planting ideas that could be promoted. It was also suggested to publicize environmental awareness and the support of local businesses serving nursery/plant industries during Earth Week.

Other ideas included: 1) Encourage residents to shop at local nurseries for native plants and then send their photos to the Youth Committee for inclusion on Instagram, 2) Work with the Botanical Preserve by promoting information contained on Moulton Niguel Water District's website & *bewaterwise.com*, which lists all of the California native plants that grow in Orange County, promotes water conservation, and supports the ecological system bringing in birds and butterflies, 3) Offer incentives to people for participating in the weeklong event, e.g., give away a coupon for a free succulent plant to the first ten people that send in photos of their plantings, 4) Coordinate with Moulton Niguel Water District by promoting their various landscape design workshops, which also tie in with the Earth Week and the Niguel Botanical Preserve's annual Earth Day event.

COMMITTEE MEMBER, CITY COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

Supervisor Malcolm reminded the Youth Committee about the Adolescent Suicide Prevention Workshop, which is being offered specifically for the Youth Committee on Monday, April 26, 2021, from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm. They would like to have six Committee Members present. Currently, five members have already signed up.

Parents must sign a release form. Parents will have an opportunity to learn about the training information by observing the public training in which City staff participated. Not only will this allow an opportunity for parents to learn what is being taught, but they can be aware of materials presented that could potentially cause an emotional response. Committee Members interested should contact Supervisor Malcolm.

The Parks & Recreation Department partnered with the Wellness and Prevention Center to host Wellness Wednesday Workshops. On February 24, 2021, the workshop topic is *Keep Calm and Carry On, Managing Stress in Tough Times*, from 5 pm-6 pm. Supervisor Malcolm will share the flyer via email to complete a survey to facilitate planning the next event on March 31, 2021. Wellness Wednesday Workshops will be held on the last Wednesday of the month for middle to high school-age students (grades 7-12, minimum age requirement 12 years and older).

Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Gennaway welcomed Council Member Kelly Jennings as Co-Liaison to the Youth Committee. She voiced her pleasure in the Youth Committee's work by interacting with their peers and promoting the community's programs.

Council Member Jennings expressed her enthusiasm in working with the Youth Committee. She shared with the Committee that she was just newly elected to the City Council and is excited to be working with the group. She offered assistance to the Youth Committee and encouraged members to utilize her as a resource for their projects.

Parks and Recreation Director, Ron Rivera, thanked the Committee for their hard work and for taking advantage of the resources available. He appreciates hearing their feedback on programs and their suggestions for improvement.

Committee Member Viuna Farshchian asked fellow Committee Members to be as interactive as possible with published Instagram posts, encouraging members to "share" the posts, and help gain more followers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Drossel adjourned the Youth Committee meeting at 8:03 pm to the next Regular Youth Committee Meeting to be held virtually on March 4, 2021, at 7:00 pm.