



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: July 09, 2011
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Santa Barbara Youth Council
SUBJECT: Annual Advisory Committee Report For Fiscal Year 2012

Committee Members

Will Busch	Blanca Garcia	Ivette Gil
Eleni Getachew	Ian Hall	Miguel Jasso
Eesha Kelkar	Michael Lopez	Jordan Lund
Annie Marroquin	Kristina Rodriguez	Pablo Saleta
Grant Sexton	Kayla Simons	Cody Sugarman
Katherine Yee	Michael Yi	

Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison

Commissioner Rocky Jacobson

Appointment Process and Meeting Schedule

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2012, Youth Council members were selected through an application and interview process, and appointed by current Youth Council members. Applications and vacancies were announced at public, private, alternative, community and continuation high schools and teen service providers.

With the City's official establishment of Youth Council in March 2012, beginning with the spring recruitment, member recruitment was conducted within the guidelines of the semi-annual advisory committee recruitments. Applicants for the Youth Council were initially interviewed by the current Youth Council and their recommendation forwarded to City Council for consideration. Applicants were also required to interview with City Council, consistent with other boards and commissions.

Member Representation

The Fiscal Year 2012 Youth Council's 17 members were composed of the following:
 3 Private school students, 5 San Marcos High School students, 4 Santa Barbara High School high school students, and 5 Dos Pueblos High School students

Committee Projects/Activities

This year the Youth Council worked on several projects initiated by its members and also on a few collaborative projects. The projects included the following:

- Candidates' Forum. Youth Council conducted a very successful Candidates Forum for candidates running for City Council. The forum hosted about 150 persons and was a collaborative with Santa Barbara High School Districts ASB presidents.
- Youth Speak Out – The Youth Council hosted a speak out on Environmental issues which included a panel discussion, view of a short-film and open discussion. The Youth Council also issued out reusable bags to all those attendance.
- SPARC – Youth Council collaborated with several other youth leaders and held its 4th Annual SPARC event which is to help teens to avoid risky behaviors. The event hosted about 250 teens.
- Milpas Street Pedestrian Safety – The Youth Council took part in the discussion about the pedestrian safety along Milpas Street. The Youth Council listened to staff presentations and took comments from the public and submitted their recommendations to City Council.
- The Youth Council's annual project consisted of surveying and tabulating teen comments on transportation issues in the city. The Youth Council has surveyed over a 100 youth and will continue to survey through the summer and then present their findings to the Santa Barbara Teen Coalition and the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The Youth Council was selected by the KIDS Network for its 2012 Youth Impact Award for its community services, volunteerism and peer support.
- The Youth Council participated in the YAC (Youth Advisory Council) Attack Conference held in Santa Clara, California. The Youth Council were presenters at had standing room only in their workshop on the subject of Youth Speaking Out. They received excellent evaluations. They also participated in other workshops presented by other cities. The Youth Council members all agreed it was an excellent trip which provided opportunity to network with other teen boards and with each other. Youth Council members are interested in more bonding opportunities throughout the year.
- The Youth Council, working with the Parks and Recreation Commission and Parks and Recreation Staff, were successful in submitting their recommendations to the City Council for the formalization of the Youth Council as an official body. The Youth Council was very appreciative of the City Council's approval of that resolution.

Recommendations/Concerns

Youth Council members felt transitioning to the new member recruitment format was a little awkward and the initial process limited the number of new applications, but they are confident as they go forward the process and will be easier to navigate. The Youth Council members feel that the application still needs to be amended to be more youth-friendly.

Youth Council members had some concerns as it related to parking for Youth Council meetings. The members were finding it difficult to find available parking and for long meetings, at times, difficult for them to pay for parking. Councilmember Murillo has assisted them with this issue and Downtown Parking will make parking available at Lot 10 for members during their official meetings.

The Youth Council wanted to report that they felt a very good vibe with administrative staff and City Council in working with youth programs. The Youth Council felt that the support and interest in youth and youth programs has continued to increase with City Council members and administration and they expressed their appreciation for the interest shown for youth in this community.