



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2010
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Santa Barbara Youth Council
SUBJECT: Annual Advisory Committee Report For Fiscal Year 2010

Committee Members

Julie Friedman	Valeria Garcia
Jose Gil	Ivette Gil
Elly Iverson	Caroline Green
Ian Hall	Michael Kim
Maggie McDermut	Karla Lara
Chloe Hunt	Katie Shara
Morgan Lunt	Diego Torres-Santos
Michael Yi	

Appointment Process and Meeting Schedule

Youth Council members are appointed through an application and interview process. Applications are accepted and reviewed by Youth Council members and staff. Recommendations are received from school counselors and other youth service agencies. Youth Council Executive Committee members conduct brief interviews and review the applications and appointments are made by a majority vote. The Youth Council continues to reevaluate its appointment process to achieve the most ultimate results. The Youth Council By-Laws provide a general breakdown for representation which includes both public and private schools and grade levels. To ensure more diversity efforts are made to have representation from targeted neighborhood groups and agencies such as Future Leaders of America, P.A.L., and the Endowment for Youth Committee.

The Youth Council meets on the first and third Mondays of every month at 5:15 pm in City Hall Council Chambers.

Member Representation

The Youth Council has a board make up of seventeen members. This year, due to late resignation, the board consisted of 15 members. Additionally, this year there were two junior high school representatives working with the Youth Council. The 2009-10 Youth Council members consisted of six representatives from Santa Barbara High School,

five from San Marcos High School and four from Dos Pueblos High School. The junior high school representatives were from Goleta Valley Junior High. The youth council members ranged in ages from thirteen to 18 years old. Ethnically, there were 7 Caucasians, 5 Latinos, 2 Asians, and 1 other.

Committee Projects/Activities

This year, the Youth Council continued in its efforts to promote and create youth empowerment opportunities for teens. Two major projects that the Youth Council engaged in this year dealt with youth voice. The Youth Council applied and was successful, in receiving a grant from the Fund for Santa Barbara. The grant application was for workshops and a youth speak out on Teen Rights. Teen's rights have been a subject among teens in the community, especially as it relates to teens relationship with authority figures, such as police officers. The Youth Council held a successful Youth Speak Out and is following up with workshops on the subject. The Youth Council also collaborated with three other entities – Coalition Against Gun Violence, the Santa Barbara Teen Coalition, and CADA. As a result two successful youth events were held with over 200 people present at both events. Both events focused on solutions to youth issues.

In addition to those projects, the Youth Council continued to work with teens at the Twelve35 Teen Center on activities and projects for the Twelve35 Teen Center. With the reorganization of Teen Programs, the Youth Council worked with staff to ensure activities for teens.

Recommendations/Concerns

Concern: Staff continues to encourage more youth working and being involved with the Youth Council. With the transfer of Teen Programs to the new Neighborhood and Outreach Services section, the possibility exists to work with more neighborhood teens on joint projects. The Youth Council is committed to that effort.

Recommendation: We continue to work on having the Youth Council more visible on school campuses. As such, the Youth Council has appointed School Representatives to work more closely with the school district on establishing Youth Council as an arm to one of the school clubs.

Concern: Lack of funds to support more training and education and activities for the Youth Council continues to be a concern to the members.

Recommendation: Youth Council is working to have more successful fundraising events as well as seeking grants that would specifically support the Youth Council and its activities. Additionally, they are working to organize more specific trainings with other groups that would be low or no cost.