



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: July 12, 2013
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Santa Barbara Youth Council
SUBJECT: Annual Advisory Committee Report For Fiscal Year 2013

Committee Members

Alexis Flores	Michael Lopez	Sami Soto
Ivette Gil	Jordan Lund	Katherine Yee
Eleni Getachew	Amber Rowley	Naomi Zamudio
Ian Hall	Pablo Saleta	
Eesha Kelkar	Kayla Simons	

Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison

Commissioner Christina Gonzales

Appointment Process and Meeting Schedule

In 2012 City Council adopted a resolution formally creating the Santa Barbara Youth Council as a city advisory body. The appointment process was changed, and the membership increased from 17 to 15. Members that were currently serving on the Youth Council were grandfathered in and midyear, three new members were appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The process is similar to that of other city boards and commissions with applicants applying through the City Council and being interviewed by the Mayor and City Council. The Youth Council's application process includes an additional step in which the applicants have to be interviewed as well by the sitting members of the Youth Council. Those members then make recommendations to the City Council. Throughout the year, three vacancies remained on the Youth Council. At the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2013, all appointments had to go before the Mayor and City Council. The Youth Council received 40 applicants to be considered for Fiscal Year 2014 appointments.

The Youth Council continues to meet on the first and third Monday of each month, unless otherwise stipulated.

Member Representation

The Fiscal Year 2013 Youth Council's 13 members were composed of the following:

Sex: 3 males, 10 females

Ethnicity: 5 Hispanics, 4 whites, 2 African American, 1 Asian, 1 Indian

Year in school: 3 sophomores, 3 juniors and 7 seniors

School: 1 Private school student, 7 San Marcos High School students, 3 Santa Barbara High School high school students, 2 Dos Pueblos High School students

The Youth Council also had two active Junior High School Representatives composed of two female students, 1 – 8th grader and 1- 7th grader, 1white and 1 African-American

Committee Projects/Activities

This year the Youth Council continued to create projects as well as collaborate with other youth service agencies. The projects included the following:

- Youth Council's annual training consisted of a "lock-in" this year. The members invited other potential youth leaders to their training, reaching out to La Cuesta students. The training and lock-in consisted of teambuilding activities and other bonding activities. The members thought it was very effective in helping them bridge relationships among themselves and among students who are unfamiliar with the Youth Council.
- Candidates' Forum. Youth Council collaborated with the League of Women's Voters on a School Board Candidates' Forum. The forum hosted about 70 people and because of the Youth Council's involvement included students from various high school leadership programs.
- Community Collaborations – The Youth Council collaborated with two community groups this fiscal year and assisted and participated in the Milpas Business Association's winter parade and participated and assisted in the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.
- Out of Town Training and Collaboration – The Youth Council participated in the Southern California Teen Coalition's Teen Board Exchange and attended its Winter Teen Board Exchange in Anaheim. The Santa Barbara Youth Council led the approximate 75 advisory members from various cities in some teambuilding exercises as well as attended several trainings. The information was later used to train Santa Barbara teens.
- The Youth Council also worked with a new group, Donate Life, and coordinated a series of trainings and informational tables with local high school students at the three public high schools. The Youth Council members were trained to present to others the information on Donate Life and conducted three afternoon activities.
- Mentoring and Health - The Youth Council collaborated with COYA (Coalition of Youth Advocates) and hosted a training on Public Speaking and Advocacy. The students received tips on how to speak at official meetings such as City Council meetings and were taught how they can advocate for healthy lifestyles for teens, such as anti-smoking campaigns. The Youth Council also volunteered and worked at three different elementary schools for the after-school A-OK program.
- One of the Youth Council's big successes this year was their first Youth/Teen Leadership Conference. The members coordinated an effort with several other youth leadership groups such as Future Leaders of America, COYA, Police Activities League, Associated Student Bodies and other teen leaders and held a series of roundtable discussions on current topics affecting teens, such as bullying, program activities and graffiti. The conference also included a dinner and discussion with adult leaders. The event hosted about 100 teens. The Youth Council and other teen leaders planned to make it an annual event.

Recommendations/Concerns

The Youth Council was pleased to see the adoption of the resolution formally establishing them as an advisory body. While they were very successful in receiving 40 applicants during their recruitment drive for new members, they were disappointed to only have received one from the private high school sector and two from alternative schools. Of those three, only one showed up for the interview with the Mayor and City Council. The Youth Council wants to begin early and more aggressively to recruit for these representative positions. Suggestions from them include classroom visits and personalized information packets to school advisors.

Youth Council members felt they did not do as good of a job this year in building relationships with individual City Council members and were lax in following through with “getting to know you” meetings. They felt great about their relationship with their City Council liaison and want to build on their relationship with all members of the City Council. As usual, they continually want to build on their relationship with reaching out to more students and increase the awareness and usefulness of the Santa Barbara Youth Council.

The Youth Council had great leadership with the outgoing chair and vice chair and great participation from its two junior high school representatives. The coming year will see all junior high schools represented and increased programming for junior high school teens.