

MINUTES

TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY YOUTH COMMISSION

Monday, February 7, 2011

CALL TO ORDER The regular meeting of the Town of Yucca Valley Youth Commission was called to order at 6:31p.m., Chair Goddard

ROLL CALL Commissioners present were: Commissioner Blevins, Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner K. Denison, Commissioner V. Denison, Commissioner Felix, Commissioner Goddard, Commissioner Hyso, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Lafferty, Commissioner Mora, Commissioner Ritchie, and Commissioner Woolling

Absent: Commissioner Cody

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Commissioner Goddard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action Motion: **Commissioner Woolling moved to approve the Agenda of February 7, 2011 Youth Commission agenda.**

Move: Woolling 2nd: Hyso Vote: 12-0-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Motion: **Commissioner Blevins moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2011 Youth Commission meeting.**

Move: Blevins 2nd: Felix Vote: 12-0-0

Action Motion: **Commissioner Goddard moved to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2011 Youth Commission meeting.**

Move: Goddard 2nd: K. Denison Vote: 12-0-0

STAFF REPORTS

Youth Commission Chair Goddard opened the discussion with a brief description of a Social Host Ordinance and the differences between a state, county or town ordinance. She stated the commissioners from the 2009-2010 term voiced concerns over drug and underage drinking in the community. The 2010-2011 commission drafted a work plan which proposes to continue the work of the previous Youth Commission with the preparation of a formal recommendation to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission and Town Council regarding the establishment of a Social Host Ordinance. As of January 1, 2011, the State of California enacted a Social Host Ordinance which currently covers Yucca Valley. It is applicable only when an injury, death, or property damage is sustained as a result of a minor who is served alcohol by an adult, or "host." Some counties and cities have chosen to enact stronger ordinances.

Effective July 15, 2010, San Bernardino County enacted a Social Host Ordinance, which is effective in all unincorporated areas of the county, but not in the incorporated areas of Yucca Valley. This ordinance is stronger than the State version. The county ordinance only covers alcohol, while some municipalities have also included drugs (marijuana and other controlled substances) in their Social Host Ordinance. Many, but not all, municipalities include both criminal (possible jail time) and civil (financial only) penalties.

In addition to covering the hosting of house parties, some city ordinances also include a provision to make it illegal for a minor to consume alcohol, which enables law enforcement to obtain proof that alcohol was consumed while in attendance at the party by issuing drug tests on scene.

Commissioner Goddard introduced San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Station Commander, Captain Donnie Miller. Captain Miller discussed the current ordinance and the ordinance the commission has proposed. He stated the county ordinance is stronger than the state and agreed with the commissioner's suggestion of including drugs. There is a cost involved. The offence is a misdemeanor. If someone pled guilty there would be a fine attached if someone pled not guilty there would be court cost which could be as high as \$10,000.00. Captain Miller said the ordinance would be a tool for the department to use.

At the completion of Captain Millers comments Commission Goddard asked for public comments in preparation of their final recommendation to Town Council.

Public Comments

An unidentified resident of Yucca Valley stated the ordinance was a great idea and would be an asset to the community.

Bonnie Shaffer, Big Bear: As a member of the Ready, Aim, Fire, Coalition, Ms. Shaffer commended the Youth Commission for taking this forward. There is a cost involved. She hopes the fine is set high for self enforcement.

Joshua Allen, Yucca Valley: Mr. Allen grew up in this area and is now a parent. He was exposed to alcohol as a child at someone else's house. Protecting the youth is a great idea regardless of the cost.

Dave Rose, Yucca Valley: Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel Drug and Alcohol program supports the Youth Commission. Youth lives can be saved. The proposed ordinance would help nip underage drinking in the bud.

2. Smoke-Free Parks Ordinance

Chair Goddard gave a brief summary for the need of a Smoke Free Parks Ordinance. The Youth Commission expressed concern about the safety of local parks, primarily because of the behavior of some younger park patrons. It was noted at the time that, in the opinion of some commissioners, the parks had become a location for the buying/selling of drugs as well as other anti-social behavior. The conclusion was expressed that such activity had a negative impact on the ability of families and others to enjoy local parks.

The discussions of possible solutions for the perceived problem included investigation of the smoke-free parks ordinances that have been adopted in other California cities. While smoking is a common denominator in much of the objectionable teen behavior at parks, it has also been a concern at other park activities, such as summer concerts, sports events, and playground use.

The 2010-2011 Youth Commission work plan calls for the recommendation of a smoke-free parks ordinance to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission and Yucca Valley Town Council.

Chair Goddard asked Captain Miller for his comments. Captain Miller stated that there is already an

ordinance making it illegal for a minor to be in possession of tobacco. If a minor is found to be in possession of tobacco a citation is written and the minor goes to juvenile court. Captain Miller felt that to make the parks smoke free or smoking allowed in designated areas only, would mean posting signs and educating adults. At the present time State law makes it illegal to smoke within 20 feet of main entrances, exits and operable windows of government buildings. Chair Goddard asked for public comments on the issue in preparation of their final recommendation to Town Council.

Public Comments

Hailey Citrine, Yucca Valley: As a former Youth Commissioner she stated her full support of a non-smoking ordinance. She stated adults should back the youth and urged support a Smoke Free Parks Ordinance.

Commissioners' comments:

Commissioner Hyso is glad the commission is pushing for a Smoke Free Parks Ordinance.

Commissioner Woolling doesn't want to shun people who smoke and wants designated areas for smokers.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

1. **Commissioner Blevins:** Thanks to the community for coming to the meeting.
2. **Commissioner Caldwell:** no comment
3. **Commissioner Cody:** absent
4. **Commissioner K. Denison:** no comment
5. **Commissioner V. Denison:** no comment.
6. **Commissioner Felix:** Glad we received the community opinions.
7. **Commissioner Goddard:** Thanked the community for attending the meeting and for their input.
8. **Commissioner Hyso:** Would like to thank the community for coming to the meeting. the meeting
9. **Commissioner Jackson:** Sorry I was late and thank you.
10. **Commissioner Lafferty:** no comment
11. **Commissioner Mora:** no comment
12. **Commissioner Ritchie:** no comment
13. **Commissioner Woolling:** Thank all of you for coming to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If commissioners would like to volunteer at the Healthy Hearts Run or Family Fun Day on February 12th or the Kid's Valentines Dance on February 19th please sign-up or see Candy Drake

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, March 7, 2011 at the Yucca Valley Community Center at 6:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Candy Drake
Youth Commission Staff Liaison/Secretary