

TULARE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2014

Members Present:

Clint Ashcraft, District 1 Appointee
Yonok Warson, District 1 Appointee
Janis Lehmann, District 2 Appointee
Brett Taylor, District 3 Appointee
Angela Ruiz-Alvarez, District 4 Appointee
Krystle Contreras, District 5 Appointee
Donnie Moore, At-Large Appointee

Members Absent:

Melody Tucker, District 2 Appointee

Vacancies:

District 3 Appointee
District 4 Appointee

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:06pm.

2. Roll call and determination of excused/unexcused absences

Commissioner Tucker was absent due to medical leave.

3. Public comment period

None at this time.

4. Approval of Minutes from 11-18-13

Motion by Commissioner Taylor, Second by Commissioner Warson. Motion approved.

5. Update on the LEAD program and other Step Up events by Allison Pierce.

Allison Pierce was present to give an update on the LEAD Program. As of the last meeting, 28 students have been attending consistently. The program began with 35 students enrolled. The goal is to have 25 students complete the program. She touched based on a scholarship program for LEAD Program students and how the Youth Commission can assist with the process.

Allison provided the Commission with handouts describing the criteria for a scholarship. Application will be available to students on April 22nd and due by May 31st. The Youth Commission could assist in evaluating the application and selecting scholarship recipients.

She asked to the Commission to establish evaluation guidelines as well as a scoring rubric through an AD Hoc meeting.

Chairman Lehmann suggested getting verification for a student's GPA as listed on their application as a requirement.

Allison shared that the LEAD Scholarship Committee has begun the process for the scholarship program. They would like the Youth Commission to be an impartial group that could evaluate candidates. All applicants must be Seniors in high school. Juniors currently in the program will have the opportunity to apply their Senior Year.

Allison shared that the LEAD Scholarship Committee would like the Youth Commission to establish an evaluation process, set interviews, and select applicants.

Commissioner Caudill stated that it would be good to establish evaluation guidelines and complete the scoring rubric before the applications are sent out.

Chairman Lehmann suggested asking each student to supply a letter of recommendation from their school, teacher, advisor, church, etc.

The Commission was provided suggested interview questions by Allison and they were asked to provide any changes to the worksheet.

Commissioner Taylor stated that the Commission should vote to accept the participation and new responsibilities.

Chairman Lehmann suggested adding the request as an agenda item on the February 24th meeting of the Youth Commission.

Allison provided an update on the Step Up Challenge. Currently, the schools are in the middle of site visits that are to be completed by February 14th. Their red carpet event will be on May 8th at the Fox Theatre. She also shared that Summer Night Lights planning is already in the works with various communities throughout the County. Porterville is working hard on their Parents on the Mission program which is basically leadership for Parents.

6. Review of grant timeline for the 2014-15 Youth Activities Grant Cycle.

Julieta Martinez provided an updated copy of the tentative Youth Activities Grant Cycle. In reviewing the document, it was suggested that the grant application deadline be pushed back one week to give the applicants more time. The new date will be March 7th. It was also suggested to push back the March Youth Commission meeting. The new date will be March 21st. The timeline was approved and any revisions will be sent out.

7. Review of grant application, contract, and workshop.

Julieta asked if all the Commissioners had a chance to review the contract. There were no suggested changes by the Commission at this time. She also provided copies of the application. The only suggestion was to add a question on previous funding by the Youth Commission. She will send out an updated version.

Chairman Lehmann reminded the Commissioners that the Grant Workshop will be held on February 12th. She asked to get a head count of the Commissioners planning to attend. Commissioner Contreras and Chairman Lehmann were both available to attend.

8. Commissioner Vacancies/Recruitment

There are two vacancies on the Commission. One in District Three and one in District Four.

9. Staff Updates

None at this time.

10. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Caudill had no new updates.

Commissioner Moore mentioned an upcoming Step Up meeting Wednesday to award an overall step up winner on a city transit bus.

Commissioner Ashcraft thanked everyone who participating in the fundraising event back in December.

Commissioner Warson shared that the Strathmore Step Up is having a meeting on February 11th. They are going to look at possible facilities for their after school program. They are looking at March to possibly hold a Step Up Event.

Commissioner Ruiz Alvarez stated that Cutler-Orosi is considering hosting a Step Up Event. They are already signed up to Summer Night Lights. Her students received a scholarship to go to Yosemite.

Commissioner Contreras stated that she will also be attending the Step Up Porterville meeting on Wednesday. She is planning a Youth Summit on April 12th and she will provide more information soon.

Commissioner Taylor shared that they are finishing up their YEA Program mentorship. It has been great to see the students come up with projects and business proposals. The students are getting to launch their proposed businesses. It has been a really good program.

11. Next meeting – Monday, February 24, 2014 at 3:00pm

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:22pm.