

Youth Commission
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
Communication Coordinator Office
City Hall
6:00 pm

Members Present – S. Segura, G. Arias, R. Flores, B. Gonzalez

Others Present – S. Smith, J. Zabala, C. Crespo

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 pm by Ms. Arias.

Mr. Zabala stated that this would be his last meeting as facilitator to the Commission.

Ms. Arias introduced Michael Shott. Mr. Shott provided his background and stated that he has been awarded a fellowship for civic education and noted the need for youth to be more engaged in government.

- The group discussed ways to attract youth including a hip hop showcase / competition, podcasts, live videos in the community, and an open mic event. A collage / vision board and murals were also discussed.
- The need for a youth commission email was discussed. Ms. Smith stated that she will work with the City's IT office to create a group email – youthcommission@readingpa.gov that would be sent to several member's email addresses.
- The group noted the need for business cards. Mr. Crespo shared several possible templates and stated that he is willing to create the cards. Members who are interested in having business cards should submit their information to Mr. Crespo.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Crespo stated that RIZE has established itself as a 501 C 3 organization. He stated that The Village is working with Tower Health on a program called "Stop the Bleed" and that Lonnie Walker is planning some activities this summer. He

stated that a Spanish rap event will be held on July 17 at Oakbrook from noon – 8 pm.

Mr. Crespo debuted the recruitment video that will be shared on social media.

Ms. Arias distributed recruitment flyers to all members in attendance to post throughout the community.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Mr. Zabala stated that although this is his last meeting as moderator he remains available to work with the Commission as needed.

Ms. Smith reviewed the current membership and confirmed term expirations and age out dates.

Mr. Zabala stated that Ms. Arias is aging off the Commission but she has agreed to step into the moderator role.

Mr. Crespo commended those who are aging off the Commission for their work and noted the need to stay involved. Ms. Smith agreed and encouraged those members aging off to engage with one of the City's other boards, authorities or commissions.

OTHER MATTERS

Ms. Smith stated that if the Commission wishes to move forward with the projects discussed earlier and there is a need for start-up funding, the City is drafting its 2023 budget beginning in July. She noted the need to work with the Finance Department to establish funding for the Commission as needed.

Ms. Arias noted the need for the Youth Commission to have a mission statement.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Youth Commission will be held on Wednesday, July 6 at 6 pm in front of the Bandshell in City Park.

The meeting adjourned at 7: 54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk