

Youth Commission
Wednesday, January 3, 2024
Penn Room
5:00 pm

Members Present –M. Tavarez, R. Flores, D. Perez, J. Aponte

Others Present – S. Smith

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm by Ms. Tavarez. She stated that a quorum is not present.

Ms. Tavarez stated that the meeting would be conducted out of agenda order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**PRESENTATION – THE REAL DEAL 610 YOUTH
AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

Ms. Perez stated that she will schedule this presentation for the February meeting.

PRESENTATION – READING POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Smith stated that Sgt. Fegley had a last minute schedule change and that she would reschedule the presentation for the February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Adopt-A-Block

Ms. Tavarez questioned if the group could commit to cleaning the block weekly for two years. She questioned if it would be better to schedule clean-ups individually.

Ms. Perez stated that Mr. Bradley suggested that the Youth Commission's block be the triangular area across the street from RHS. She stated that members can create a schedule so two members perform the clean-up weekly. She stated that Mr. Bradley will provide all the necessary supplies.

All members present committed to weekly clean-ups.

- BCTV Programming

Ms. Tavaréz questioned if items should be submitted as events occur or if the group wished to have a regular schedule. She noted the need for the public to see the work that the Commission is doing.

Mr. Flores suggested that information about special events be submitted. He stated that regular filming of the “Let’s Keep Talking” series has been difficult.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Flores stated that City Council has approved the \$10,000 budget request for 2024.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Ms. Aponte stated that she still does not have access to the Youth Commission’s social media accounts.

Ms. Tavaréz stated that Ms. Muñoz does post information about Commission events.

2024 BUDGET PLANNING

Ms. Tavaréz suggested purchasing a stand for the banner and a pop-up canopy to be used at events. She also suggested a wagon or some type of way to carry supplies. She stated that she will begin shopping on Amazon.

NEW BUSINESS

- Event Planning

Ms. Tavaréz noted the need for the Commission to hold independent events rather than always participating in other group’s events.

Ms. Aponte suggested a Valentine’s Day event. Ms. Pérez agreed and suggested that the Commission sell Valentine’s Day cards.

Mr. Flores questioned if the events would be monthly. Ms. Tavaréz suggested that they be held monthly to increase the public’s awareness of the Commission.

Ms. Smith stated that the Commission partnered with the NAACP in 2023 for a Black History Month Film Festival in February. She stated that Ms. Muñoz has

the contact information to inquire about 2024. Ms. Perez stated that she can also follow up with the theater.

Ms. Tavaréz suggested holding a crafting event. Mr. Flores suggested holding the event at the YMCA again as was done for the painting event.

Ms. Perez suggested holding an event at the 3rd & Spruce Rec Center since there are already many youth that attend their programming.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

- Video Contest

Ms. Perez stated that the project is moving forward. She stated that she and Ms. Aponte are working on a flyer and that submissions should answer the question “What Makes Me Different”.

Mr. Flores questioned the prizes. Ms. Perez stated that there was \$2,000 allocated to this project. Ms. Smith stated that she will work with City staff to determine the best way to issue the prizes.

Ms. Smith questioned the types of submissions that will be accepted. Ms. Perez stated that it will be submitted as a video but should be the person’s own creativity – poem, essay, song, etc.

Ms. Munoz arrived at this time.

- Interest List

Ms. Smith stated that members have adjusted the interest list. She stated that she can schedule presentations on these topics as requested by the members.

Ms. Munoz noted the need to have a plan on the topic before the presentation so that discussion can be more meaningful.

Mr. Flores suggested focusing on recreational opportunities in 2024. He noted the need to plan smaller events with more attainable goals. He expressed the belief that the Commission should continue to partner with other organizations.

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

- Meeting Schedule

The group indicated that Wednesday at 5 pm does not fit their schedules. There was discussion and the new meeting dates will be the first Tuesday of February, March, April, and May at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Ms. Smith stated that she will readvertise the meetings.

Ms. Munoz stated that Ms. Segura will not be returning as a member.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

- Video Contest

Ms. Perez questioned if only she and Ms. Aponte will be reviewing the submissions. Members stated that they would all like to review the submissions.

Ms. Tavaréz questioned how the videos would be submitted. Ms. Perez stated that this has not been decided but that discussion has centered around either via Google or via the Youth Commission email address.

Ms. Smith noted the importance of all members viewing all the submissions so that discussions about winners can be more productive.

Ms. Smith questioned the time limit for the submissions. Ms. Perez stated that it would be a 30 second submission in Tik Tok style.

Ms. Tavaréz questioned if 30 seconds would be enough time. All agreed that 30 seconds would be long enough. Mr. Rogelio suggested that submissions be up to one minute long.

Ms. Munoz suggested that submissions be disqualified if they are longer than one minute. All agreed.

Ms. Tavaréz questioned if the contest was open to Reading students or to any youth. The group determined that it should be open to RHS students only.

Ms. Tavaréz expressed the belief that many submissions will be musical.

Ms. Munoz reminded all that the plan was for a contest each season with a different theme.

Ms. Tavaréz questioned if a person could only win one time. All agreed that a person should only win once.

- Let's Keep Talking Videos

Ms. Tavaréz questioned if this project should continue.

Mr. Flores stated that the group talks about continuing but doesn't work on it.

Ms. Muñoz stated that she will post the videos that are complete.

Mr. Flores suggested filming only for specific topics or upcoming events. All agreed.

Ms. Smith was requested to remove this topic from the agenda.

Mr. Butler arrived at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Youth Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk