

[Return](#)**Youth Commission**

Goodyear City Hall
190 North Litchfield Road, Room 117
Goodyear, AZ 85338

**Wednesday, September 22, 2021****5:30 p.m.****Meeting Minutes****CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Victoria Lauritano called the Youth Commission meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Alex Belanger; Commissioner Jackson Hamblin; Vice Chair Raymond Gue; Chair Victoria Lauritano; Commissioner Patrick Bednarz; Commissioner Makayla Bradley; Commissioner Lyndon Kov; Commissioner Marianna Glass; Commissioner Marissa Kutt; Commissioner Azyus Bird; Commissioner Sidney Phillips; Commissioner Krislyn Lyons; Commissioner Paloma Sanchez; Commissioner Alan Torres Arroyo; Commissioner Emily Shanafelf; Commissioner Emily McGee

Absent: Commissioner Lorenzo Castro; Commissioner Lucy Castro; Commissioner Teriah Cortez-Beasley; Commissioner Ivan Diaz; Commissioner Elias Linn; Commissioner Kirby Maitra; Commissioner Allen Tat; Commissioner Emma Yocopis

Staff Assistant to the Council John Raeder; Grants & Neighborhood Services Supervisor

Present: Christina Panaitescu

MOTION BY Commissioner Patrick Bednarz, **SECONDED BY** Commissioner Emily McGee to EXCUSE Commissioner Lorenzo Castro; Commissioner Lucy Castro; Commissioner Teriah Cortez-Beasley; Commissioner Ivan Diaz; Commissioner Elias Linn; Commissioner Kirby Maitra; Commissioner Allen Tat; and Commissioner Emma Yocopis.

Commissioner Lorenzo Castro and Commissioner Lucy Castro arrived at 5:42 PM.

AYE: Commissioner Alex Belanger, Commissioner Jackson Hamblin, Vice Chair Raymond Gue, Chair Victoria Lauritano, Commissioner Patrick Bednarz, Commissioner Makayla Bradley, Commissioner Lyndon Kov, Commissioner Marianna Glass, Commissioner Marissa Kutt, Commissioner Azyus Bird, Commissioner Sidney Phillips, Commissioner Krislyn Lyons, Commissioner Paloma Sanchez, Commissioner Alan Torres Arroyo, Commissioner Emily Shanafelf, Commissioner Emily McGee

Passed

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

BUSINESS**1. [APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)**

MOTION BY Vice Chair Raymond Gue, **SECONDED BY** Commissioner Emily Shanafelt to APPROVE the Youth Commission minutes from August 25, 2021.

AYE: Commissioner Alex Belanger, Commissioner Jackson Hamblin, Vice Chair Raymond Gue, Chair Victoria Lauritano, Commissioner Patrick Bednarz, Commissioner Makayla Bradley, Commissioner Lyndon Kov, Commissioner Marianna Glass, Commissioner Marissa Kutt, Commissioner Azyus Bird, Commissioner Sidney Phillips, Commissioner Krislyn Lyons, Commissioner Paloma Sanchez, Commissioner Alan Torres Arroyo, Commissioner Emily Shanafelt, Commissioner Emily McGee

Passed - Unanimously

2. Ice Breaker (John Raeder, Assistant to the City Council)

Commissioners and staff members present said their name; school; described any involvement in sports, activities, or clubs; and explained where they would go if they could go anywhere in the world.

3. Neighborhood and Community Services Master Plan Discussion (Christina Panaitescu, Grants & Neighborhood Services Supervisor)

Grants & Neighborhood Services Supervisor Christina Panaitescu discussed the Goodyear Community Services Master Plan that is currently being developed. She explained that stakeholders had identified the following youth needs in our community: anxiety; family conflict; lack of trusted adults to talk to; employment; wifi or broadband access; transportation; after school programs; afterschool food/snacks; and financial education. Ms. Panaitescu asked commissioners if the list of needs matched their experience and observations.

Commissioners asked questions about the different categories that had been identified, and expressed appreciation that the list took into account both mental and physical needs. Members of the Commission also suggested the following additions/modifications:

- Test preparation for ACT/SAT;
- Workshops for non-college bound students;
- Career exploration/job shadowing;
- Lack of mental health resources in the community;
- Programs to breakdown mental health stigma;
- Expand availability to counseling services;
- Help students identify signs of anxiety; and
- Create safe/peaceful spaces on campus.

4. Arizona League of Cities Youth Program Report (Victoria Lauritano, Chair)

Chair Victoria Lauritano, and Commissioners Jackson Hamblin, Emily Shanafelt, Emily McGee and Azyus Bird provided a report on the Arizona League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference Youth Program at the Arizona Biltmore on September 1, 2021. They explained that there were presentations on mental health, public speaking, and networking. They also discussed peer-to-peer collaboration with commissioners from other cities, and mentioned learning about youth lead efforts working with the elderly, mental health programs and teen workshops.

5. Ideas and Future Agenda Items (Victoria Lauritano, Chair)

Assistant to the Council John Raeder lead a discussion with the Commission on ideas and future agenda items. Commissioners recommended the following areas of focus:

- Movie night at the Goodyear Recreation Center Teen Room;
- Fall Festival booth;
- Suns basketball bamp;
- Trick or Treat so Others Can Eat;
- Fill a Need;
- Cookies; Coco and Conversation;
- Connecting with the elderly through a dance or penpal program;
- Social Media PSA; and
- Letters for first responders.

INFORMATION ITEMS

No reports or updates provided by members of the Commission or staff.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Youth Commission will be October 27, 2021, at the Goodyear Recreation Campus.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Lauritano adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

John Raeder, Assistant to the Council

Victoria Lauritano, Chair

Date: _____

[GO TO PREVIOUS PAGE](#)

[GO TO TOP OF PAGE](#)



AgendaQuick ©2005 - 2021 Destiny Software Inc. All Rights Reserved.