San Marcos Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:00pm
San Marcos Activity Center
501 E. Hopkins

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the regular meeting of the San Marcos Youth Commission was called to order by Jessica Ramos at 6:34pm Wednesday, April 18, 2018, in the multi-purpose room of the San Marcos Activity Center, 501 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

II. Roll Call

Present: 8 – Zachary Keel, Kayla Livingston, Daniel Abujabbar, Jasmine Thomas, Catarina Vasquez, Avery Jones, Aaron Emerich, Jada Cartwright

Absent: 0

Excused: 0

Staff Present: 2 – Jessica Ramos, Catherine Marler

Others Present: 0

III. Citizen Comment Period (each individual will be limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken on these items)

None.

IV. Approval of the minutes

None

V. Discussion and/or Recommendation- Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Those nominated for Chair: Aaron Emerich, Catarina Vasquez

Commission votes and Catarina Vasquez becomes the Chair

Those nominated for Vice Chair: Catarina Vasquez, Avery Jones

Commission votes and Avery Jones becomes the Vice Chair

VI. Discussion and/or Recommendation- Discussion of Live Your Best Life Youth Conference to take
place on April 4.

- A commissioner asked for a summary in our role in conference. Catarina explained that our goal was to learn about enhancing gross and fine motor skills in children in our community and learned about the specific issues in our community. Also, they wanted to focus on issues high schoolers were having. Conference addressed some of both of those issues between. Build off of that and focus on Youth Leadership and the impact students can have on their community.

- Catarina described last years: commissioners serving as moderators, the chair introduced to the whole group, ran the event. Jessica added that commissioners took notes during sessions on large notepads. She also explained what the day looked like: commissioners set up breakfast, bags. Jessica indicated that we have t-shirts and we counted them so we know how many of each. During lunch, the vendor tables were open and people could eat and then walk around. Then, there was a debriefing.

- There was discussion on last year’s set up and how we should set it up this year. It was decided that the panel would have just chairs on the stage. Microphones would also be provided for each speaker.

- Panel will be set up in 2 and 3. Paint your Goal activity in the Multipurpose Room. They questioned gifts for speakers and Jessica agreed that we could get a small gift for each speaker. Ask the City Clerk’s office if they have anything we could present. We would need 9.

- Commissioners asked about marketing. Jessica explained that we have an event page, that we have emailed principals, private schools, working on a press release with Communications, sent it out through SMCISD’s communications department. Catarina said that at their school, there was a slide regarding the event on their announcements. Jessica reminded everyone that we offer community service hours. NHS is wanting hours. Food was also discussed. Chick fil a was lunch last year and breakfast was tacos and pastries.

- A commissioner asked about funding- will this be funded by the Parks and Recreation Department. We will be paying for this out of Parks and Rec funds for this year. We are not sure of where it will be funded out of in the future.

- Activities for gross motor skills: tying shoes, pencil grips to practice writing and sheets with dotted lines or connect the dots, stacking cans/objects, threading cheerios onto yarn, tearing paper on a line, tracing objects/letters (expo markers and a white board), scooping beans into different containers, buttoning buttons, spaghetti and marshmallows, finger painting, play-do. Catarina has updated the google doc with this information.

- Will we be doing the listening project again? Yes, and attempt to get more gift cards.

- The group prepared questions for the panelists. The panelists are: Kyle Mylius, teacher/educator, Mrs. Welch- Creative Arts, The District Attorney- Wes Mau and a paramedic. We would introduce them first, Catarina would be the one.

**Panel Questions**

- General
  - What does an average day look like for you?
  - What is your favorite part of your job?
  - If you could go back to age 16 or 17 what are some things you would do differently?
  - What are some advantages you've faced?
  - Can you explain what you do?
  - What advice do you have for someone who may want to do what you do?

- Paramedic
  - What certifications do you need to become a paramedic?
What’s it like to be a first responder?
- District Attorney
  - Why did you choose to go into public practice?
  - What’s the most interesting case you have ever been a part of?
  - What are your priorities in terms of prosecuting people/rehabilitating people?
  - What have you found helps people the most?
- Art
  - How did you view the financial risks?
  - How can students creatively express themselves in their communities?
- Teacher/Educator
  - What are some different options besides college?
  - What are some qualities that make a student successful in college or a career?
  - Can you describe the application/scholarship process?
- Business Owner
  - How hard was it to start a business/what steps did you take to do so?
- Art and Business Owner
  - Do you think it's beneficial to have a college degree in your career field or not?

For the keynote speaker, the youth commission board would like to hear about advice that he would give to young people in the community. Catarina drafted an email for Jessica to review.

Reflection portion of the conference: surveys on the table. Jessica went over results from last year to give the group ideas on what they can do to improve. They agreed we would want to do this again.

Parks staff printed flyers and asked the students to hang them up at school.

Parks staff has plans to get some things set up and at the Activity Center the day before.

VII. Discussion and/or Recommendation - Joint Meeting with San Marcos Commission on Children and Youth in May.
- Meeting date will be May 20th.
- Create a presentation to present at the joint meeting in May.
- The SMCCY would like to hear their thoughts moving forward, what sort of input they want to have.

VIII. Discussion and/or Recommendation - Business for next meeting
- Gather info from conference to present at Joint Meeting, create a presentation.
- Discuss the input and the projects that the SMYC wants to have moving forward.
- Subcommittee discussions.

IX. Questions and Answers with Press and Public

None.

X. Adjournment

7:42pm by Catarina Vazquez
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