



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 11/19/2024

ITEM NO: 8

DATE: November 13, 2024
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Approve the Youth Commission Work Plan for School Year 2024/25

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Youth Commission work plan for school year 2024/25.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Youth Commission is to advise the Town Council on matters pertaining to issues involving the youth of Los Gatos, including studying problems, activities, and other issues of concern to youth. The existence of the Youth Commission helps to foster and encourage civic and neighborhood pride and a sense of identity through the knowledge, understanding, and increased involvement of the Town's youth in the Town's present and future municipal affairs.

The Los Gatos Youth Commission operates under the provisions of Town Resolution 2018-008 adopted by the Council in March 2018. This Commission establishes a formal body by which the youth of Los Gatos have a voice in the community.

The Youth Commission consists of twenty students who are entering grades 8 through 12. Members serve a two-year term unless entering grade 12 or are first-time appointees, in which case they would serve a term of one year. A Chair and Vice-Chair have been nominated at the September meeting. The Commission appointed one primary Town Commission liaison and at least one alternate for the following:

1. Arts and Culture Commission
2. Complete Streets and Transportation Commission
3. Community and Senior Services Commission
4. Library Board

PREPARED BY: Jamie Field
Chief of Police

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Attorney

- 5. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- 6. Parks Commission

BACKGROUND (continued):

The Commission liaisons then provide a monthly report to the Youth Commission and represent a youth voice and vote in the various Board and Commission meetings.

The Youth Commission meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. from September through June. The Police Chief serves as the staff liaison to the Commission with support from Executive Assistant Claudia Martinez.

DISCUSSION:

The 2024/25 school year Youth Commission met in September with emphasis on assigning roles, Commission liaisons, and discussions on school year priorities for the ten Youth Commission Meetings according to the current Resolution.

Traditionally, the Youth Commission has focused considerable work on events, outreach, and ordinances to include the Social Host Ordinance, Smoking Ordinance, and E-Bike Ordinance. Given the volume of work and required staff support, the Youth Commission will not be identifying an ordinance in 2024/25, rather they will continue efforts of magnifying awareness of historical ordinances they have worked on, a couple of events in alignment with Council priority topics and updating the Youth Commission Resolution.

Collaboration will occur with the Office of the Chief and legal counsel to evaluate introducing the use of a hold harmless form for all Youth Commissioners. The intent is to have a form completed by a Youth Commissioners parent or legal guardian so that events that occur after hours will not necessitate staff to remain for the entirety of the proposed events.

Four Ad Hoc Committees were established to address and take the lead on work items outlined in the Youth Commission Work Plan shown in Table 1. The Ad Hoc Committees consist of the following.

- 1. Traffic Safety
- 2. Environmental
- 3. Community Outreach
- 4. Teen Wellness

Table 1. Youth Commission Work Plan for School Year 2024/25

Work Item	Proposed Commission Approach
Pedestrian Crossing (Traffic Safety Ad-Hoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solicit input from students on the safety of street crossings near LGHS and the Civic Center

SUBJECT: Review the Youth Commission Work Plan for School Year 2024/25

DATE: November 13, 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research cost-effective solutions to consider bringing to CSTC and Council • Use MOSAIC or other virtual platforms on school campuses for e-bike safety and ordinance awareness
Expand the Straw Ordinance Awareness (Environmental Ad-Hoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness video for downtown businesses that are complying with the ordinance. • Develop digital flyers for Town Social Media talk to businesses and assist them in their compliance
SNAP / Spring into Green (Community Outreach Ad-Hoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread awareness for SNAP and as well as promoting inclusivity within our community • Provide outreach materials on recent YC supported Ordinances, work plan related materials, and develop a SNAP based activity.
Children’s Holiday Parade (Community Outreach Ad-Hoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the Los Gatos Children’s Holiday Parade by decorating and riding in a float or walking to bring awareness and recruitment for succession to the Youth Commission.
Anti-Nicotine Campaign: Education & Prevention (Teen Wellness Ad-Hoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify education, training, and prevention program and materials for local LG schools. Focus to be on vape devices • Fentanyl outreach and educational opportunities to also be evaluated.
Update Youth Commission Resolution	<p>Make recommendations on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of members that make up the Youth Commission • Length of Youth Commission term • Attendance requirements • Months that the Youth Commission formally meets • Voting member vs. Liaison to adult commissions

CONCLUSION:

The Youth Commission will provide a year-end concluding presentation in June 2024 that will outline the accomplishments from the work plan as well as identify an Environmentally Friendly Business and a Youth Friendly Business.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact associated with this work plan will stay within the annual Commission budget of \$2,500 and follow the Town Purchasing Policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.