

City of Fresno Youth Commission – Minutes - Final

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Location: Fresno City Hall – Room 2665A

1. 5:40 P.M. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Present: 9 - Chair Nina Narahari* (CD 2), 2nd Vice Chair Jovan Mendez* (CD 3), Secretary Alyssa Villegas* (CD 4), Commissioner Antonio Jauregui* (Mayor's Office), Commissioner Marco Sanchez (Mayor's Office), Commissioner Chance Lau* (CD 1), Commissioner Chandler Baladjanian (CD 2), Commissioner Jaylin White (CD 3), and Commissioner Adriana Reyes* (CD 5)

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Citlali Palma* (CD 6), and Commissioner Miranda Lara* (CD 7)

Vacancies: 5 - Seats for CD 1, CD 4, CD 5, CD 6, and CD 7.

Commissioner Baladjanian left the meeting at 6:36 P.M. and did not return.

3. Review & Approve Agenda

2nd Vice Chair Mendez said that the item for the Youth Commission Celebration Planning was listed twice. The second listing was removed from the agenda.

On motion of 2nd Vice Chair Mendez, seconded by Commissioner Reyes, that the agenda for 3/13/18 be approved as amended with the second listing removed from the agenda. Passed 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lau, Mendez, Narahari, Villegas, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lara, Palma

4. Ice Breaker

Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Coordinator Jose Espinoza asked the commissioners to share their plans for spring break. Commissioner Reyes said she would work. Commissioner White said she would be helping her grandmother. 2nd Vice Chair Mendez said he would be moving to a new house. Commissioner Lau would be preparing for AP tests. Chair Narahari said she would be resting and spending time with her dog. Commissioner Baladjanian said she was moving to a new house. Commissioner Villegas said she would be resting. Commissioner Sanchez said he would be working and spending time in Los Angeles. Commissioner Jauregui said he would be at a retreat in San Diego advocating for immigrant rights. Coordinator Espinoza said he would be working and he also mentioned that Commissioner Jauregui had been on television (CNN) advocating for immigrant rights (a clean Dream Act) in Washington D.C.

5. **Commissioners' Reports and Comments**

No reports or comments were made.

6. **Review & Approve Minutes**

On motion of 2nd Vice Chair Mendez, seconded by Commissioner Lau, that the minutes of 2/27/18 be approved. Passed 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lau, Mendez, Narahari, Villegas, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lara, Palma

7. **Presentations**

Boys and Men of Color – Fax Bus System Presentation

Efrain Botello (Boys and Men of Color (BM of C)) and Natalie Barajas (Women of Power) introduced themselves and spoke about their organizations' goals and background. Coordinator Espinoza noted that Boys and Men of Color were instrumental in advocating for the formation of the Fresno Youth Commission.

Ms. Barajas spoke about bus safety and mentioned the recent incident where a young girl was attacked at a bus stop and was rescued by the bus driver. She asked "what would have happened if the bus had been a few minutes late?" She cited statistics from 146 surveys they had conducted in regards to students riding the bus: 55% of students have been skipped, 50% have walked to a different bus stop in order to not be skipped. 54% receive a bus pass from school, 30% don't feel safe waiting for the bus, and 24% don't feel safe riding the bus.

Mr. Botello said surveys were conducted throughout Fresno Unified. He mentioned that the city is working on a resolution and that the goal of this presentation was to make sure that youth voices are incorporated into the resolution. He said that there would be meetings with FAX bus officials on Friday and meetings with the councilmembers throughout the week. He identified key issues to advocate for inclusion in the resolution, including: 1. Improved bus service frequency (every 15 minutes instead of every 30 minutes) around high schools during peak hours. He said that students are penalized by schools when they are late; 2. Install panic buttons at bus stops, especially around isolated areas; 3. Provide marshals on buses in order to control/de-escalate situations that occur on the bus, rather than having bus driver to pull over and intervene; and 4. Provide improved lighting at bus stops.

Ms. Barajas and Mr. Botello said that they were asking the Youth Commission to support by speaking with their councilmembers and by providing recommendations before the Council adopts a resolution on 4/19/18.

2nd Vice Chair Mendez and Commissioner White asked for and received clarification in regards to the deadline for comments and the Friday night meetings, respectively. Mr. Botello said meetings were held

at Fresno Barrios Unidos (4403 E. Tulare Ave.) Commissioner Jauregui asked about the new Q bus line and the relationship between BM of C and FAX. Mr. Botello spoke about the new Q bus line said that FAX had reached out to BM of C for input and recommendations. 2nd Vice Chair Mendez asked about the Z line and Mr. Botello spoke regarding the line and said that students are being skipped on that line as well. Commissioner Jauregui asked if there was a list of high schools that are most affected by skipping. Mr. Botello responded that the bus lines most affected include those around Fresno City, Fresno High, Bullard High School, and bus line 22 around Roosevelt High School. This concluded the presentation, at which point the Fresno Youth Commission discussed the best strategies to make bus safety recommendations, including writing a letter to City Council. Commissioner Villegas added that impacts on youth should be highly stressed and highlighted. Commissioner Jauregui spoke about Department of Transportation funding for the Q Line in the amount of \$56 million and how that funding should be used for improving safety. Commissioner Lau mentioned that the letter should be on official Youth Commission letterhead and requested that Coordinator Espinoza obtain letterhead. Commissioner Jauregui read an outline for the letter out loud.

It was decided that an ad-hoc committee should be created to gather research, provide recommendations, and write the letter in support of the resolution to improve bus safety.

On motion of Commissioner Lau, seconded by Commissioner Villegas, that an ad-hoc committee be created for studying and making bus safety recommendations, with the following membership: Commissioners Lara, Narahari, Villegas and White. Passed 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lau, Mendez, Narahari, Villegas, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lara, Palma

8. Workshops and Action Items

Plan Youth Commission Celebration

The Fresno Youth Commission discussed the foods to have at the celebration. Coordinator Espinoza said that attire will be business casual and that the youth commission t-shirts would be ready on that day. The guest list was also discussed, including invitations to family and the councilmembers.

Youth Jobs Task Force Resolution/Write Thank You Card

Commissioner White and 2nd Vice Chair Mendez gave an update in regards to the Youth Commission and YLI interns' presentation to City Council. The resolution was approved by City Council, 5 – 0, with two absences. Coordinator Espinoza said that all the councilmembers really appreciate all the hard work of the Fresno Youth Commission. He talked about the next steps and said that Council President Soria will be appointing members to the task force. Commissioner White and 2nd Vice Chair Mendez expressed interest in being part of the task force.

The commission took a break at 6:55 P.M. in order to write thank you cards to Council President Soria and her staff for their instrumental assistance in drafting the resolution. The commission reconvened at 7:03 P.M.

Clovis Unified Issues

Coordinator Espinoza said that he went to a Clovis Unified School Board meeting and that the recommendations made by the youth commissioners that attended the last meeting with Clovis Unified had not been incorporated in their policies. He also recommended that commissioners attend a Clovis Unified meeting in order to get an update and to provide suggestions. He said that a meeting with Clovis Unified would be set-up for those youth commissioners who are interested in attending.

9. Committee Reports

1. Civic Engagement Task Force: Chair Narahari said that she and Commissioner Lara haven't been able to attend due scheduling conflicts. She asked if other commissioners would like to attend and gave a brief description of the task force (community stakeholders coming together to find ways to instill civic values in the educational system). She stated that the Youth Commission learned about Vote 16 through the task force and that youth commissioners had opportunities to speak at the meetings. Coordinator Espinoza said that it would be a good idea to wait until the new youth commissioners joined before appointing new members to the task force.
2. Social Media Committee: No Updates.
3. T-Shirt Committee: Coordinator Espinoza said that t-shirts (with logos) would be available by next meeting.
4. Other Committee Reports: No Updates.

10. Calendar Items

Chair Narahari announced the next meeting/celebration for April 27, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.

11. Public Comments

No public comments.

12. Adjournment

On motion of Commissioner Lau, seconded by 2nd Vice Chair Mendez, that the meeting of 3/13/18 be adjourned. Passed 6-0.

Ayes - 6: Jauregui, Lau, Mendez, Narahari, Villegas, Reyes

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 2: Lara, Palma

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.