



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMISSION – 6:30 P.M.

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Redondo Beach Youth Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Deputy Community Services Director Kelly Orta, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Campisi, Chabot, Cheves, Cunningham, Cho, Edwards, Flinn, Reeds, Taghvaei, Weiss, Chairperson Felde, and Vice Chairperson Van Pelt

Commissioners Absent: Bubenicek, Sorgen, Steinberg

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members Present: Huynh, Robles, Trone (arrived at 6:38pm)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members Absent: McCauley

Officials Present: Kelly Orta, Deputy Community Services Director
Michelle Pinedo, Recreation, Youth, Senior & Family Services Manager

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairperson Felde led the salute to the flag.

D. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Campisi, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, to approve the order of agenda. Motion carried 12-0-3, by voice vote. Commissioners Bubenicek, Sorgen, and Steinberg were absent.

BLUE FOLDER ITEMS - ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS

E.1. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS

None

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Commissioner Reeds, seconded by Vice Chairperson Van Pelt, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried 12-0-3, by voice vote. Commissioners Bubenicek, Sorgen, and Steinberg were absent.

F.1. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

None.

H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H.1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

CONTACT: ELIZABETH HAUSE, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Jim Mueller thanked the Commission for the privilege to speak. He referenced the Substance Abuse Subcommittee and suggested calling it the Substance Awareness Subcommittee stating that awareness is the first line of defense of a young person to keep away from the danger of substance abuse. He described the various ways substances are presented including colorful packaging, tasty flavoring, cool storefront designs and ads promising health, wealth and happiness. Mr. Mueller noted there are six shops in Redondo Beach selling habit forming smoke products between Aviation and Inglewood on Artesia Blvd and announced that Redondo Beach is about to allow licensed cannabis shops into the city. He wanted the Commission to educate themselves on the dangers these substances can have on their health and compared it to the history of tobacco use. He informed the Commissioners that these products continue to appear because the companies producing them get rich by selling a habit-forming product that people are convinced they cannot live without. He recommended to the Commission to do research on what cannabis does to brain development in youths.

Jonathan Cvetko, District 1 and former RUHS student, stated that he works in the cannabis industry and lobbied on their behalf in Sacramento. He stated that when they started, cannabis was supposed to be handled responsibly with taxes so a majority of the money would go towards drug prevention to protect the children. Mr. Cvetko stated that the industry has made poor decisions on keeping the youth safe and that they don't make enough money to support the youth prevention programs. He reported that the LA Times has reported all the testing to keep the bad chemicals out of products is false and that there is actually high levels of pesticides and toxins in them. He apologized that he was not able to keep cannabis safe and stated that he does not believe that the City can keep them safe. Mr. Cvetko asked the Commission to do their research and do what they can to help stop these shops from coming into the community.

Melissa DeChandt reported that she wrote a resolution for the California State PTA on cannabis. She stated that cannabis is simply not good for youth because it is a pivotal time for neurodevelopment and mentioned California grows high potency cannabis. She shared a personal story of her twin siblings where one went to Stanford and the other, despite having a near perfect SAT score, went to a federal prison due to buying, selling and using cannabis. Ms. DeChandt shared data that states anytime there are storefront cannabis stores, youth use increases by at least 26%. She left the Commission a Public Health Report, the cannabis resolution she wrote, and another document from scientists talking about the high potency cannabis in California and urged the Commission to do what they can to stop the storefront cannabis stores from coming to Redondo Beach.

Deputy Community Services Director Orta explained that the Commission needs to do a motion to receive and file the documents provided by Melissa DeChandt to put into public record.

Motion by Commissioner Weiss, seconded by Chairperson Felde, to receive and file the three documents submitted by Melissa DeChandt. Motion carried 12-0-3, by voice vote. Commissioners Bubenicek, Sorgen, and Steinberg were absent.

Deputy Community Services Director Orta stated she will scan and email the Commissioners the documents and include them on the agenda on the website.

Deputy Community Services Director Orta confirmed there were no other public comments.

I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS – None

J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION - None

J.1. COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

CONTACT: ELIZABETH HAUSE, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Deputy Community Services Director Orta informed the Commission that this will be a standing item since this gives the subcommittees a chance to update the Commission on the work that was done. Due to the holidays, kickoff meetings for the subcommittees had not been held except for the Teen Survey because that one will help guide the work of the other subcommittees. She announced she will be contacting each subcommittee to help them get organized so they can figure out what direction they will be taking. Mrs. Orta gave a brief update on the Teen Survey and reported it has been uploaded into the online survey link and all of them will receive that link. She noted that the Teen Survey Subcommittee had been working hard behind the scenes to finalize the survey in the hopes that by the next meeting, they would have some preliminary information to share from the survey. Mrs. Orta thanked the Teen Survey Subcommittee for their work and told the Commissioners to keep an eye out on their Redondo Beach emails for any updates.

Chairperson Felde asked each subcommittee if they had any updates for the Commission. She suggested the Teen Center & Events Subcommittee consider planning a similar event like the RUHS Seahawk Marketplace Maker's Fair, but citywide participation. She moved on to updates from the RUHS Safety and Access Stakeholder Group.

Deputy Community Services Director Orta stated there is an upcoming meeting for the RUHS Safety and Access Stakeholder Group on Wednesday.

Chairperson Felde stated that she noticed that one of the members in the Substance Abuse Subcommittee is an adult commissioner and wanted to know if the youth commissioners have priority over the adults. Deputy Community Services Director Orta stated no, the subcommittees were formed based on interest and availability at the time they were assigned.

Jim Mueller spoke about the Maker's Fair and stated he is a member of the NRBB (North Redondo Beach Businesses) and they are interested in the Maker's Fair. He mentioned Robin Garfield has sponsored many maker's fairs at the middle schools and high schools and reported that they are trying to develop a real neighborhood, family-oriented type of community along Artesia. Mr. Mueller mentioned that there might be a good space there for a Maker's Fair and stated if anyone is interested in pursuing that they can contact him.

Deputy Community Services Director Orta confirmed there were no other public comments.

J.2. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Deputy Community Services Director Orta let the Commissioners know that the flyer for the survey is on their desks with the linked QR code, which will soon be distributed on the City website, City's Instagram page(s), and other forms of media to share the news. She further updated the Commission on the Teen Center remodel.

K. COMMISSION MEMBER ITEMS AND FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA TOPICS

None

L. ADJOURNMENT – 6:59 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Youth Commission, motion by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Chabot, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to a Regular meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2025, in the Redondo Beach City Hall Council Chambers 415 N. Pacific Coast Hwy. Redondo Beach, California. There being no objections the meeting adjourned.

All written comments submitted via eComment are included in the record and available for public review on the City website.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Hause
Community Services Director