



CITY OF OREGON CITY YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045
Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:15 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Myles Kinney at 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT: 15

Justin Evers, Jack Solari, Myles Kinney, Julain Guerra Molina, Cole Solari, Elyjah McFarland, Sydney McFarland, Sofia Weis, Gaby Rysdam, Max Bishop, Hyrum Freestone, Desi Hanson, Melanie Gabriel, Adam Marl, Denyse McGriff

STAFF: *Hannah Schmidt, Jakob Wiley*

EXCUSED: *None*

ABSENT: *None*

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Jakob Wiley, City Recorder for the City of Oregon City, overviewed the role and authority of advisory commissions within the City. Wiley emphasized the ways in which advisory commissions have influenced change throughout the City: Letters of recommendation, Resolutions, and Ordinances being the main outlet for this work. Letters of recommendation/opposition are statement made are not usually binding. Resolutions are formal and binding documents voted on by the City Commission and officially signed by the Mayor. Resolutions are typically instated for administrative functions and only need to be presented before the City Commission for one approval cycle. Ordinances area proposed to create City Code amendments and need to be presented in front of the City Commission twice for approval (at two separate meetings). Charter amendments cannot be changed by the City Commission but rather must be referred to voters for approval. Wiley explained that the Youth Advisory Commission can carry out letters of support/opposition to receive support on their initiatives from the City Commission, but they can not create and vote on resolutions or ordinances on the City's behalf. However, the Youth Advisory Commission, along with other advisory committee/boards can support/oppose certain resolutions/ordinances. The Youth Advisory Commission should be focused on working within the scope of what the City has power to do (the City of Oregon City does not have authority to change the voting age for school board elections).

Myles Kinney yields the Chair to Julian Guerra Molina at 7:31 p.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Cole Solari reported that the "If I Were Mayor..." Contest will be advertised on OCTV starting next week. A social media post has also been published on behalf of OCHS to help promote the contest as well.

Elyjah McFarland will share the contest information out to Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences. Youth Advisory Commissioners showed interest in conducting school visits to promote the contest. Hannah Schmidt will look into scheduling visits at the middle schools within the Oregon City School District to aid in promoting the contest.

- b. Hannah Schmidt reviewed the agenda for the 2025 City Day at the Capitol event on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. Schmidt emphasized that all members MUST turn in signed permission slips in order to attend the event in Salem. Commissioner Adam Marl may be available to conduct a personalized tour of the Capital for the Youth Advisory Commission.

Jack Solari motioned to wear matching Oregon City t-shirts to the City Day at the Capitol event. Myles Kinney seconded. Jack Solari, Julain Guerra Molina, Cole Solari, Elyjah McFarland, Sydney McFarland, Sofia Weis, Gaby Rysdam, Max Bishop, Hyrum Freestone, Desi Hanson, and Melanie Gabriel voted in favor. Myles Kinney and Justin Evered abstained. Motion passed.

- c. The Youth Advisory Commission expressed interest in having two meetings scheduled every month instead of one. Hannah Schmidt reported that upper management staff confirmed that given her current job duties, she does not have the time to be able to fulfil this request. The Youth Advisory Commission will continue to meet on the second Monday of every month, with flexibility to get work done outside

5. WORKING GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

The Youth Advisory Commission broke out into their Working Group sessions at 8:13 p.m.

Julian Guerra Molina called the meeting back to order at 9:00 p.m.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Julian Guerra Molina reported that he attended the City Commission meeting on January 7 where he officially requested that the City Commission create and pass a Resolution in support of banning flavored tobacco products on behalf of the Youth Advisory Commission. The City Commission voted in moving this initiative forward, and a Resolution will be presented at an upcoming meeting related to supporting a ban on selling flavored tobacco and synthetic nicotine products.
- b. Melanie Gabriel reported that the Youth Houselessness Working Group's goal moving forward is to conduct more outreach to local non-profit organizations and learn about volunteer opportunities within the community that they can participate in and help spread the word about.
- c. Justin Evers reported that the Election Involvement Working Group have been conducting research and have a plan to move forward with their initiative. They plan to provide a letter of support that they intend to present to the City Commission at a future meeting date. The letter of support will indicate the importance of lowering the voting age to 16 for school board elections. This letter will need to go before the Youth Advisory Commission for approval before moving forward to the City Commission level.
- d. Elyjah McFarland reported that the Youth Mental/Physical Health Working Group will be focusing their efforts on advising the Parks and Recreation Department about what they would like to see regarding youth programming.
- e. Hannah Schmidt inquired if the Youth Advisory Commission would like to take part in the 2025 Spring Forward Event to help spread awareness about the commission and the work they are conducting. Cole Solari announced that he will submit an application for the event on behalf of the Youth Advisory Commission. Sydney McFarland and Jack Solari showed interest in taking on creating brochure/pamphlet information to be distributed to the public at the event. The Spring Forward Community Resource Fair will take place on March 8, 2025 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Pioneer Community Center.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Myles Kinney noted that his last name was misspelled in the December 9, 2024, Youth Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes. Myles Kinney motioned to approve the Minutes as amended. Justin Evers Seconded. Unanimous approval.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Julian Guerra Molina adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt

Date Approved: 02/10/2025F