



CITY OF OREGON CITY YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045
Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:15 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Julian Guerra Molina.

PRESENT: 13

Justin Evers, Jack Solari, Myles Kinney, Julain Guerra Molina, Cole Solari, Elyjah McFarland, Sydney McFarland, Gaby Rysdam, Max Bishop, Hyrum Freestone, Desi Hanson, and Denyse McGriff.

STAFF: *Hannah Schmidt*

EXCUSED: *Melanie Gabiel, Sofia Weis, and Adam Marl.*

ABSENT: *None*

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments. The chair noted this was the first time a member of the public attended the meeting.

3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. Members found the City Day at the Capitol event valuable for engaging with youth organizations and officials, gaining insights into expanding operations. They had discussions with Senator Mark Meek and Representative Annessa Hartman; Julian Guerra Molina stressed clarifying legislation language as "flavored nicotine" rather than "flavored tobacco". Jack Solari mentioned the necessity for support systems like jobs over housing for homeless youth. Cole Solari appreciated learning from other youth commissions, which was insightful for handling issues like homelessness and nicotine in youth contexts. Gaby Rysdam valued the day's educational aspect, fostering dialogues with various youth commissions and local elected officials. Desi Hanson proposed boosting public awareness of the commission's work. Hannah Schmidt, the staff liaison, commended their professional interactions and noted expanding collaboration efforts with the Oregon Youth Summit and League of Oregon Cities towards potential future youth advisory roles.

- b. Cole Solari reported that he submitted the commission's application for the Spring Forward Community Resource Fair, scheduled for March 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The plan is to showcase the Commission's current projects and goals. Sydney McFarland and Jack Solari were tasked with creating outreach materials for the event. Members discussed volunteer shifts and the need for set-up and take-down assistance.
- c. The Commission discussed strategies for promoting the "If I Were Mayor" contest, which has a submission deadline of March 30th. They noted that no submissions had been received yet, but this was not unusual based on previous years' experience. The Commission planned to continue advertising the contest, especially to elementary and middle schools.
- d. Justin Evers presented a draft letter of support for allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections. The Commission received feedback from Mayor McGriff on the letter's structure and content. They discussed the need for more data to support their argument and planned to revise the letter based on the feedback received.

The working group decided to meet the following Monday to discuss revisions and potentially set up an appointment with the county clerk for more information. They also considered addressing the letter to both Oregon legislators and the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners.

4. WORKING GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

The commission broke into working groups from 7:55 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. to discuss their respective projects.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. The Youth Advisory Commission indicated that they were interested in providing written testimony in support of Oregon legislation for the state ban of flavored tobacco and nicotine products. Julian Guerra Molina and Jack Solari were tasked with drafting the testimony. Hannah Schmidt reported that she will be in communication about any further opportunities for the Youth Advisory Commission to take a trip down to Salem to further advocate for a state ban on flavored tobacco and nicotine products.
- b. The working group discussed potential ideas to provide mailboxes for homeless youth to receive important mail, such as checks. They emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for youth to escape poverty rather than just providing housing.

- c. The group reported on their plans to revise their letter of support for youth voting in school board elections based on feedback from Mayor McGriff. They planned to meet the following Monday to discuss revisions and potentially set up a meeting with the county clerk.
- d. Elijah McFarland and Desi Hanson reported that the group is focusing on gathering local statistics on youth sports participation and mental health resources in Oregon City. They plan to invite Representative Annessa Hartman to observe one of YAC's meetings and discuss potential collaboration opportunities.
- e. Jack Solari reported on upcoming programs from the Clackamas County Tobacco Prevention Program, including an opportunity for youth to participate in convenience store assessments to observe tobacco product placement. He also mentioned parenting programs and tobacco-related seminars being organized by coalition members.
- f. Hannah provided information on several opportunities for the commission members:
 - 1. The Honorary Page Program at the state capitol during the legislative session.
 - 2. Clackamas County Suicide Prevention Coalition meetings, which offer a \$50 stipend per meeting attended.
 - 3. Volunteer opportunities for the upcoming Lunar New Year celebration on February 16th.
 - 4. Love One's laundry and shower events for those experiencing homelessness.
 - 5. Greater Oregon City Watershed Council's call for artists, with submissions open until March 10th.
- g. Mayor McGriff reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee still has an open youth position available. She also mentioned that the City Commission passed the resolution presented by the Youth Advisory Commission regarding flavored tobacco products. The Mayor plans to present this Resolution to the County Commissioners in the near future.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Justin Evers moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Jack Solari seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt

Date Approved: 03/10/2025