



CITY OF OREGON CITY YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045
Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:15 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Julian Guerra Molina called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

PRESENT: 14

Cole Solari, Desi Hanson, Elyjah McFarland, Gaby Rysdam, Hyrum Freestone, Jack Solari, Justin Evers, Julian Guerra Molina, Max Bishop, Melanie Gabriel, Myles Kinney, Sydney McFarland, Commissioner Adam Marl, and Mayor Denyse McGriff.

STAFF: *Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist*

EXCUSED: *None.*

ABSENT: *Sofia Weis*

2. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Catherine McMullen, the elected county clerk for Clackamas County, gave a presentation on the county's elections, recording, and records management divisions. She explained that her office is responsible for conducting local to federal elections, maintaining voter registration data, county and special district candidate filing, voters' pamphlets, and maintaining 26 official ballot drop sites.

McMullen discussed the ongoing May 2025 special district election, which includes school boards, water, and fire districts. She mentioned that the office is in the process of updating and remodeling their ballot processing area, including a new mail ballot sorter and improved observation capabilities.

She presented voter participation rates by age in Clackamas County, highlighting the fluctuations in turnout between presidential and local elections. McMullen noted a significant decrease in participation among 18- to 24-year-olds between the 2020 and 2024 presidential elections.

McMullen emphasized the importance of election integrity, equity, and inclusion in their operations. She mentioned that 20% of clerk staff are multilingual, allowing them to serve diverse communities in the county.

The presentation concluded with a discussion on voter registration for 16 and 17-year-olds, and the potential for legislative changes to allow them to vote in certain

elections. McMullen also addressed questions about the most stressful aspects of election management and the importance of voter engagement.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. The commission discussed the Oregon City High School mascot, which is currently a pioneer carrying weapons. Concerns were raised about the appropriateness of weapons on the mascot, given the school district's policy on weapons. Some commissioners expressed that the pioneer mascot may not represent the diverse history and population of Oregon City.

Several viewpoints were shared:

1. Some commissioners felt that changing the mascot or removing the weapons could be beneficial.
2. Others expressed concern about the potential cost of changing the mascot, including repainting facilities and redoing branding.
3. The historical significance of the pioneer was discussed, with some noting that it doesn't represent the full history of the area, including Native American populations.
4. There was a suggestion to consider the mascot change as part of a larger conversation about representation and inclusivity.

No formal decision was made since this is a decision out of scope for the Youth Advisory Commission, but the commission agreed that this was a valuable discussion to have, and that student input would be crucial in any potential changes.

5. WORKING GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

Members broke out into their working grounds from 8: 20 – 8:50 p.m.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Kari Hampton from the American Cancer Society is seeking Youth Advisory Commissioners who would be interested in testifying in support of SB 702. The public hearing will be during the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee and is expected to be scheduled at 8 a.m. during the week of May 19.

- b. The Youth Houselessness Working Group have still received limited participation in the survey they sent out. The working group is looking for volunteering opportunities.
- c. The Election Involvement Working Group reported that they are finishing up their letter of support to be approved by the city commission. This letter will be sent to the county and state regarding a house bill that aligns with their original intentions. For future years, they plan to continue focusing on this as a smaller aspect of their larger goals, while also working on getting more youth actively engaged in elections.
- d. The Youth Physical and Mental Health Working Group discussed submitting proposals to the Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Community Grants program. Hannah Schmidt, the staff liaison, informed the group about upcoming idea workshops:
 - Saturday, May 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Gladstone Library
 - Sunday, June 1 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Milwaukee City Hall
 - Saturday, June 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oregon City Library

Schmidt encouraged at least one member of the working group to attend these events if they don't submit a proposal beforehand.

- e. Jack Solari indicated that he will provide more updates about the Clackamas County Tobacco Prevention and Education Program at the next Youth Advisory Commission meeting.
- f. Hannah Schmidt, the staff liaison, provided several updates:
 - 1. Outreach opportunities at local middle schools:
 - Gardner Middle School: Thursday, May 29th from 12:29 to 1:01 PM
 - Tumwata Middle School: Monday, May 19th from 9:15 to 9:35 AM
 - 2. End of term celebration: A barbecue will be held on Tuesday, May 27th at Elijah McFarland's family's home. Members are encouraged to bring sides and drinks.
 - 3. Presentation to City Commission: The Chair and Vice Chair of the Youth Advisory Commission will present a term report to the city commission on Wednesday, June 4th at 7 PM.
 - 4. Art for Every Heart competition: The deadline is May 21st.
 - 5. Ivy Pull event: May 17th from 9 AM to 12 PM.
 - 6. Economic Development Update: The last quarterly newsletter from the Economic Development Department was distributed.
 - 7. Oregon City Together: Information about a leadership opportunity on June 2nd was shared.

- g. Commission Adam Marl briefly mentioned that if members could get information about YAC applications into daily announcements at their schools, it would be helpful. The application deadline is June 27th.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes for both the April 14, 2025 and April 21, 2025 meetings.

Justin Evers moved to approve the minutes for April 14, 2025, and April 21, 2025. The motion was seconded by Myles Kinney. Motion was unanimously approved.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Julian Guerra Molina adjured the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist
Date Approved: 6/9/2025