



CITY OF OREGON CITY YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045
Monday, June 9, 2025 at 7:15 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Julian Guerra Molina called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

PRESENT: 13

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

STAFF: *Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist*

EXCUSED: *Jack Solari and Cole Solari.*

ABSENT: *Sofia Weis*

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Hannah Schmidt reminded the commission that they review the bylaws at least once every term. She noted that last year, the commission had instructed to review the bylaws in the fifth week, but they were reviewing them now due to scheduling conflicts.

Hannah Schmidt emphasized that there was currently no maximum number of Youth Advisory Commissioners within the bylaws or code, only a minimum. She suggested that solidifying a maximum number would be helpful for staff and commissioners moving forward, especially as they had already received several applicants. She mentioned that last year, 13 was discussed as the ideal number.

Julian Guerra Molina, who was not going to be part of the commission next year, encouraged the returning members to base their decisions on what worked and what didn't from this year and last year.

Gaby Rysdam suggested focusing on the discussion about setting a maximum number of commissioners, as brought up by Hannah Schmidt.

Justin Evers proposed amending the bylaws to allow for flexibility in meeting dates. After some discussion, the following motion was made:

Justin Evers moved to amend part 5(a) from "regular meetings of the YAC shall be held on the second Monday of each month from September through June" to "regular meetings of the YAC shall be held on the second Monday of each month unless another date is selected for a specific meeting from September through June." Myles Kinney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission also discussed setting a maximum number of members. After deliberation, the following decisions were made:

Desi Hanson moved to set a maximum of 15 members for the Youth Advisory Commission. Elyjah McFarland seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote of nine to one.

Justin Evers moved to make the minimum of 9 members visible in the bylaws. Myles Kinney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. WORKING GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

- a. The commission broke into working groups to reflect on their accomplishments and challenges during the term. They used SMART goal reflection sheets to evaluate their progress. The working groups discussed their achievements, challenges faced, and potential goals for the next term. They also reflected on the importance of setting realistic standards and understanding the limitations and capabilities of the commission.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Myles Kinney provided an update on Senate Bill 702A, which was still in the Senate Finance Committee. He mentioned that a working group session was scheduled for Wednesday, June 11th, where a decision might be made to move the bill to the Senate floor.

Myles Kinney and Julian Guerra Molina had previously given testimony to the committee, presenting the Youth Advisory Commission's position. They discussed the amendments proposed to the bill, including one that Myles described as a "protest amendment" that would essentially make the bill useless by allowing sales to those over 21.

The Commission discussed the arguments for and against the bill, including concerns about the impact on small businesses and the cultural significance of

hookah in some communities. They also talked about the importance of education and involvement of youth in understanding the impacts of nicotine addiction.

The Commission generally felt that they had completed their goal regarding youth nicotine addiction advocacy. They discussed potential future actions, such as advocating at the county level.

- b. Clackamas County Tobacco Prevention Program - Jack Solari: This item was not discussed as Jack Solari was not present at the meeting.
- c. Hannah Schmidt provided updates on several opportunities for the commission members:
 - Oregon Youth Tobacco Webinar on Wednesday, June 18th.
 - Youth Advisory Board Research Study, encouraging members to participate in a 30-minute Zoom interview.
 - Ivy League work party at Waterboard Park on June 21st.
 - Honorary Page Program with Representative Annessa Hartman's office.
 - Upcoming events: First City Celebration on July 26th and National Night Out on August 5th.
 - Concerts in the Park following July 4th.

Hannah Schmidt encouraged members to email her if they were interested in any volunteer opportunities over the summer.

- d. Myles Kinney and Julian Guerra Molina mentioned that they had presented the annual Youth Advisory Commission report to the City Commission on June 4, 2025.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Hannah Schmidt introduced a survey for the Commission members to evaluate their experience during the 2024-2025 term. She emphasized the importance of providing honest and critical feedback, as it would be anonymous and crucial for planning the next year.

Hannah Schmidt gave the commission about 10 minutes to complete the survey during the meeting, encouraging those who needed more time to finish it later. She stressed the value of getting responses from all 13 members to have a comprehensive understanding of their experiences.

- b. Hannah Schmidt congratulated Melanie Gabriel, Desi Hanson, and Julian Guerra Molina on their graduation. She expressed appreciation for their service,

especially noting Melanie Gabriel's and Julian Guerra Molina's involvement since the commission's beginning, and Desi Hanson's valuable perspective as a new member.

Hannah Schmidt also acknowledged the accomplishments of the entire Youth Advisory Commission during the term, highlighting their dedication, momentum, and increased volunteer involvement compared to previous years.

As recognition of their work, Hannah Schmidt presented each member with a copy of the resolution passed by the City Commission for supporting a state ban on flavored nicotine and synthetic flavored tobacco products, signed and stamped by the Mayor.

Commissioner Adam Marl and Mayor McGriff also expressed their gratitude to the graduating seniors and the entire Commission for their engagement and contributions.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The Commission reviewed the minutes from the May 12, 2025 meeting.

Justin Evers moved to approve the minutes for May 12, 2025. Hyrum Freestone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Myles Kinney, Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM, concluding the final meeting of the 2024-2025 Youth Advisory Commission term.

Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist
Date Approved: 9/8/2025