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**CITY OF OREGON CITY  
YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

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City Hall Mt. Hood Room, 625 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045  
Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:15 PM

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Justin Evers at 7:18 p.m.

**PRESENT: 15**

*Bettie Chappell, Cole Solari, Donald Bredehoeft, Elyjah McFarland, Emma Artman, Evan Conley, Gaby Rysdam, Hadley Taylor, Hyrum Freestone, Jack Solari, Justin Evers, Max Bishop, McKenzie Gilmore, Myles Kinney, Sydney McFarland, Commissioner Adam Marl, and Mayor Denyse McGriff.*

**STAFF:** *Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist*

**EXCUSED:** *None*

**ABSENT:** *None*

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Please see the public comment guidelines below.*

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. Review of YAC Bylaws and OCMC 2.62

The Chair explained that this review was required by the Bylaws to ensure all members were up to date on rules and responsibilities midway through the year. Instead of reading through the entire document, the Chair suggested highlighting key points and addressing questions.

A commission member asked about the difference between "summer meetings" and "regular meetings" as described in the Bylaws. Staff Liaison, Hannah Schmidt, clarified that summer meetings were optional and had only been held during the commission's first year when they started the term late.

The Chair reviewed several key requirements from the Bylaws with the commission:

- Members confirmed they understood their roles and responsibilities
- The maximum number of excused absences permitted is three

- The Youth Advisory Commission should table at three community events, but has not yet done so this term
- Individual commissioners need to attend three community events

Gaby Rysdam asked whether personal community outreach counted toward the requirement, and Hannah Schmidt confirmed that it did, as long as commissioners notified her about their participation.

- b. Hannah Schmidt explained that unlike the previous year's long session when the commission participated in a specific youth summit, the upcoming short legislative session would be different. She asked if the commission wanted to meet with their legislators during this session to discuss their working group goals and priorities.

Several members expressed interest in traveling to Salem to meet with legislators. Hannah noted the short session would run from February 2nd through early March (35 days maximum) and that most legislators would be in Salem during weekdays.

After extensive discussion about scheduling options that would accommodate school and other commitments, the commission voted to propose February 5th and February 23rd as potential meeting dates. Justin and Sydney volunteered to reach out to the legislators to schedule the meeting.

The Chair noted the importance of meeting during the legislative session when decisions are being made, and Hannah offered to help coordinate a possible tour of the Capitol, which is now more accessible than it was during previous visits.

- c. Hannah provided an update on the If I Were Mayor Contest. She reported that outreach has been conducted to local schools, including:
- Distribution through school newsletters
  - Contacting individual principals
  - Posting information on the Oregon City Homeschoolers Facebook page
  - Sharing on Peach Jar (though most students weren't familiar with this platform)

Hannah encouraged commissioners to follow up with their social studies teachers and to take flyers available at the back of the room to help promote the contest. She noted that Justin Evers was the only high school applicant who submitted an entry the previous year, and they hoped to increase participation.

Hannah Schmidt reminded the commission of the special meeting on March 23rd to judge contest entries.

- d. Hannah Schmidt explained that the Spring Forward Community Resource Fair would be held on March 7th, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She suggested that instead of having a separate youth advisory commission table, members could staff the city's welcome table and distribute YAC information along with other city materials.

The commission agreed with this approach. Hannah Schmidt said she would bring a sign-up sheet to the next meeting for different time slots. Myles Kinney and Donald Bredehoeft volunteered to update the YAC brochure and other materials for distribution at the event.

#### **4. WORKING GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION**

The commission broke into working groups from approximately 8:15 PM until 9:00 PM.

#### **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Youth Nicotine Addiction Working Group  
Gaby Rysdam reported that the group discussed what they wanted to present to Representative Anessa Hartman. They plan to meet independently in the next week to further discuss options, including how to advertise awareness about youth nicotine addiction.
- b. Youth Houselessness Working Group  
The group reported they had met with both Parrot Creek and Northwest Family Services via Zoom to discuss goals and community struggles. They have scheduled a meeting with Father's Heart after their next regular meeting, and Jack is working with Hannah Schmidt to connect with a behavioral specialist for a possible presentation.
- c. Environmental Working Group  
The group sent emails to the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council and the Clackamas River Basin Council. They also followed up with Parks and Rec after their presentation at the OCPD meeting, asking about their plan and how the commission could get involved.
- d. Education Accessibility Working Group  
As new commission members, the group reported they are refining their focus to make their goals more achievable. They are working on creating a brochure about college education for the upcoming community event, deciding to focus on one aspect at a time rather than tackling broader issues.
- e. Staff Liaison Report

Hannah Schmidt mentioned that Oregon City Parks and Recreation Department has released a survey for Movies in the Park, and she encouraged commissioners to vote for which movies they would like to see this summer. She also reminded new members to collect their Youth Advisory Commission t-shirts after the meeting.

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. The commission discussed amendments to the December 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes, noting that Gaby Rysdam name was misspelled and that Jack Solari was incorrectly listed as seconding a motion when he was not present at that meeting.

Myles Kinney moved to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Cole Solari seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair Justin Evers adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist  
Date Approved: February 9, 2026