

# Agenda

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## MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Main Library

Community Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

145 Washington Avenue

4:45 – 6:00pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes – April 28, 2011, July 30, 2009
5. New Business:
  - A. Drugs and Alcohol
  - B. Things to do in Santa Fe
6. Old Business:
  - A. Mentorship Festival
  - B. Filling the Vice Chair
  - C. Advertisement
7. Discussion items for next meeting and choose next meeting place.
8. Matters from the Committee
9. Matters from the Floor
10. Adjournment

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MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD  
May 26, 2011

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD  
Main Library  
Community Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
145 Washington Avenue  
May 26, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Mayor's Youth Advisory Board, was called to order on Thursday, May 26, 2011, at approximately 4:45 p.m., by Caitlin Smith, Vice-Chair, in the Community Room, Main Library, 145 Washington Avenue.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Caitlin Smith, Vice-Chair  
Lauren Buchanan  
Vaughn Fortier-Shultz  
Adrian Salazar  
Kamon Maris Tari

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Alex Wirth, Chair [resigned]  
Nick Gordon [resigned]  
Laura Lopez [resigned]  
Moises Saenz Tarango

**STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT:**

James Garduno, Carlos Ortega Teen Center – Staff Liaison  
Isaac Green (New Board Member to be appointed)  
Martin Soto [New Member to be appointed]  
Randy Raffensparger, Youth Services Volunteer  
Melessia Helberg, Stenographer

There was a quorum of the membership in attendance.

Responding to a question from the Board, Mr. Garduno said the new members haven't been appointed by the Mayor, although he thinks that should be done at the next Council meeting.

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Adrian Salazar moved, seconded by Lauren Buchanan, to add a presentation from Bette Booth, Chair, Parks Advisory Commission, under Item #6, and to approve the Agenda as amended.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 28, 2011 and July 30, 2009**

**MOTION:** Kamon Tari moved, seconded by Vaughn Fortier-Shultz, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 28, 2011, as presented.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

**MOTION:** Kamon Tari moved, seconded by Vaughn Fortier-Shultz, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 30, 2009, as presented.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

A copy of SFHS Youth Forum Question and Answer Summary is incorporated herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "1."

**Jessica A. Apodaca, Prevention Specialist, Santa Fe Public School,** said four forums were done at St. Michael's, Santa Fe High, Capital High and Monte del sol, about underage drinking. She said she is a member of the Underage Drinking Prevention Alliance [UDPA], and they do a lot of work around underage drinking, in terms of policy formation and legislation. They also talk to youth in the forums and ask what alcohol and drugs mean to them, and what role it plays in their life.

Ms. Apodaca said some of the answers about alcohol use is that kids use it to reduce stress and to cope with life, as well as for social acceptance. She said the answers are confidential and kids can feel free to talk about what is going on in their lives. She said the biggest thing they hear is that kids use alcohol and drugs "to get away," and for stress.

Ms. Apodaca said she works with kids that get in trouble with Teen Court. She said they talk about where they get alcohol and drugs and it is mostly from friend's houses whose parents drink or someone else buys it for them. She said kids tell them where there are parties. She said she hears that there is nothing to do and they are bored. She said she is working to let kids know that there are things to do. And if there's not, then they work with kids to see what they can do to create activities. She said they want to work with kids to create an atmosphere where alcohol doesn't have to be an escape, and to create a support group. She said she would like to hear the thoughts of this group in this regard.

Vice-Chair Smith asked if it would be worth going into specifics and trying to address those.

Ms. Apodaca said it would help to hear from you in terms of what we can do to make the community better. She said they have gathered a lot of information over the past year, and they now need to know what to do with that information. She said they want to know how we can, as adults and as a community, make things better for kids. She believes that is something on which they can work with this group. She said each school is different, in terms of using drugs or alcohol, and issues with parents – there are different dynamics in each school.

Ms. Apodaca said, since this group represents youth from the whole City, you can look at these issues and give us your ideas, and we can work together to create a plan of action.

A member asked what kinds of resources Ms. Apodaca has to address these things.

Ms. Apodaca said right now it is the Underage Drinking Prevention Alliance. She said they are having a core meeting of that group tomorrow so they will be ready when school starts in the fall – determine what they will be working on for the year. She said they really want to do something with the information they have gathered.

Ms. Apodaca said she would like to do a forum where parents hear youth talk, and really hear them. She said they hear kids say, "I wish I could talk to my parents," or "I wish my parents trusted me." She would like to have such a conversation with parents and youth, commenting that "it's out there" and we need to talk about it. She said she hears kids say they need parents guidance and role models, instead of a "cool parent" who lets kids do what they want.

Vice-Chair Smith said then this group can look at this list and come up with ideas of what this Board can do and what assistance it needs, and Ms. Apodaca said this would be good.

Lauren Buchanan said, with regard to kids saying they have nothing to do, there is a Facebook page that lists what's going on each week. She said Elliott Fisher at Santa Fe Preparatory really works on this.

Ms. Apodaca said the Santa Fe Underage Drinking Prevention Alliance wants a youth representative on the Alliance. She said it would be great if one of this group could attend and give them some insight. She said she feels sometime that their efforts are wasted if they are not hearing from the youth.

**B. PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION (Bette Booth, Chair)**

Bette Booth, Chair, Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission, said the City Council has asked the Commission to put together projects for a new Parks Bond, noting there weren't sufficient funds from the proceeds of the first bond to complete everything that needs to be done. She said she wants to open a dialogue with the youth in this process, noting she spoke with the Warehouse 21 Board and it recommended that she speak with this Board. She said Warehouse 21 will be putting out big sheets of paper where kids can write their comments and say what they like, what they want, and what kinds of improvements are needed in the City park system.

Ms. Booth would like to know what this group likes and doesn't like about our parks, what they would like to see in parks, and in what specific parks.

*The Board members commented/made suggestions for Parks improvements/enhancements as follows:*

- They appreciate the renovations in the skate parks, but more is needed.
- It is important to have well regulated parks with usable/functional playground equipment, park benches, etc., which are in good shape and are not covered with graffiti.
- They would like to see working drinking fountains in the parks.
- They really like the movies in the park, and would like to see them more often at different parks, because it is fun and attracts a lot of people.
- There is a problem in the parks with the prairie dogs and gophers, and people always to have to look down to be sure they don't trip in one of the holes. People need to be able to play games at Franklin Miles without getting hurt. This issue needs to be resolved.

- The MRC soccer fields are not safe. There are not covers on all of the irrigation tubes, some of which have become overgrown with weeds, and people have been seriously injured by stepping in the holes which they couldn't see.
- When watering the fields at the MRC the "outside gets watered but the inside doesn't."
- We need more "green" at the parks – grass, trees and other vegetation are attractive.
- Water is a big issue in Santa Fe, and there has been a big issue of having grass in the parks.

Ms. Booth said water is a big issue, and part of the Parks Bond was to bring the irrigation systems up to scale, commenting that it still isn't perfect, and she still is hearing about problems in terms of watering, but the systems are greatly improved.

Ms. Booth said, "We're in Stage 3 Water, and at this point, the Resolution says, or whatever they are, says that if we are under pressure we will only cut back to 80%. Well we cut 20% back. What happened that our parks got so bad, was 10 years ago during the drought they cut off all water to the parks.... at some point, if it does not rain, we will cut them back 20%. If we go into Stage 4, probably the first thing will be to turn off water to grassy areas, but trees will still be watered. If it goes beyond that, we're going to be out there with our buckets."

- It would be good to plant more trees along the edge of the park, not just pine, but shade trees.
- Need to plant trees which don't need a lot of water, and create a xeriscape landscape with drought tolerant low water plantings.
- In parks in other states, such as Michigan, there are exercise machines in the parks.
- In the current economy, a free way to exercise is very good.
- There is a need for more skateboard parks. Skateboarders feel under-nourished, and more skateboard parks and skateboard area are definitely good for teens.

Ms. Booth said she has been working with top skateboarders in the City about what is needed, noting there are going to be public meetings, commenting that Brian and Carlos each have a Facebook page.

- It is important to have parks which provide activities for the older kids, such as skateboard parks.

Ms. Booth said it is hoped with the new Parks Bond to build a “skate thing,” by the new BMX trail at Ragle Park. She said they are working with Henry Lennon to do a pump track at the back of Majors Field, in the back by the tennis courts.

- It would be good to renovate the big dog park – more green grass, water fountains and such – dogs and people get thirsty.

Mr. Booth said they spent the money at the dog park on the parking lot, putting in one drinking fountain and renovating the small park around the corner.

- Need to put in more artistic aspects such as at the Railyard, which is entertaining to all ages. Community art is great.
- Continue to offer free parking at the parks and enforce parking.
- There is an issue with graffiti in parks.

Ms. Booth said it is a real issue and she is pushing for free walls for graffiti.

- Kids have told them they don’t want to use the free walls because it’s no fun.

Ms. Booth said the issue is that when people see graffiti in a park, they don’t feel safe. She said the “less loved parks,” are where there is gang-related graffiti. Ms. Booth said her perspective is that some parks aren’t safe after dark.

- It is just plain intelligence for people not to go into a park at night, especially if you are alone.
- City parks should be safe. A member commented he walks the River Trail at night, where there is graffiti, but never felt unsafe there or in any Santa Fe park.
- There are lot of homeless people in the park after dark, doing drugs and alcohol.
- Rose Park is unsafe at night, and one member said he wouldn’t walk there alone after dark. Concerns also were expressed about Ashbaugh Park.

Ms. Booth said Ashbaugh Park is being completely renovated. She said Salvador Perez Park is really an issue right now, noting the adults go in and clean the park of syringes, liquor bottles and such before the kids come in the afternoon.

- What can be done to keep people out of the park at night.

Mr. Garduno said we possibly could ask the Police Department to step up its park patrols at night.



- There are possible unintended consequences of cracking down on the graffiti in the parks, because some of the kids think it is "cool" to be wanted by the police. Perhaps the Board could work with the Police Department about changing its approach to graffiti and park behavior, making it less "cool."

Ms. Booth said the Graffiti Task Force began looking at increased jail time for offenders, rather than working toward more free walls, and graffiti as an art form. She reiterated people feel less safe in parks where there is a lot of graffiti.

- Gang-related graffiti is one thing, but graffiti, in general, isn't a big problem. A member said if he feels there is a gang-related presence in his neighborhood, then he will be more cautious in going to the park. Graffiti can be constructive and a great form of art, but having a gang element associated with it needs to change.
- There are two different forms of graffiti – high school kids doing it because they think it's cool and art, and then the gang members doing graffiti. Gangs will continue graffiti and violence until the Police deal with the gang issue here in Santa Fe.
- What can be done about graffiti, what is an alternative.
- There needs to be outreach and education of the greater population so there is less of a divide between the kids doing graffiti and the older population in the park, as well as not making it a crime. It would be good if the Police would go into the schools as part of the outreach and education effort, and talk about graffiti in a more constructive way, and not make it such an "illegally daring" thing to do.

Mr. Garduno said there is "more cool stuff" now in the parks, and this graffiti is not like the old gang related graffiti. He doesn't know why people are afraid of this graffiti.

- A suggestion was made to do art presentations in the school where kids can demonstrate graffiti.
- We need to control where people put graffiti. We also need to do whatever is needed to warn people with regard to gang related graffiti.
- There needs to be better lighting in the parks, especially along the sidewalks, so people will feel safe. People feel less safe in areas which are not well lit.

Mr. Garduno said there will be a meeting at the Southside Library on June 7, 2011, with regard to the proposed Southwest Regional Park, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., noting Councilor Carmichael Dominguez is seeking input in this regard. He said it would be nice if some of the members of this Board could attend and speak.

Ms. Booth said this is related to the effort to build a new park in Tierra Contenta on Jaguar Road. She said the largest percentage of the youth live on the South side, but most of the parks are on "this side" of town, and we need to build new parks. She said Tierra Contenta has 97 acres where it is proposed to build what is called the Southwest Regional Park. She said this is the second public meeting to discuss the Southwest Regional Park. She said there were a lot of skateboarders at the first meeting and there was a lot of reaction to that. She said it would be great to have a lot of youth at the upcoming meeting, noting there will be a lot of skateboarders and disk golfers in attendance.

Ms. Booth said part of the issue on the proposed park is that it has been 97 acres of open space, and the neighbors want it to remain open space and don't want to have large fields and huge lights in this densely populated area and want to leave it as it is. She said there was a lot of open prejudice about skateboarders at the last meeting, noting the tone of the remarks by many of the neighborhood members was completely unacceptable. Ms. Booth wants to open more dialogue with the kids.

Ms. Booth asked the Board members to email her with more suggestions and/or comments regarding how to make City parks better, more attractive and more safe. Her email address is: [ebooth13@comcast.net](mailto:ebooth13@comcast.net)

Ms. Booth thanked the Board for its input.

### **C. THINGS TO DO IN SANTA FE**

Vice-Chair Smith said Genoveva Chavez has a list of activities, as well as the 505 Program at Prep, and other organizations have activities as well. She suggested searching through things, and compiling information on everything that is happening in Santa Fe, and get the word to the teen community, so there is one place for teens to go for ideas and information about activities which are happening in Santa Fe during the summer.

Mr. Green suggested adding a teen section in *Pasa Tiempo* and in *The Santa Fe New Mexican*. There is also the Community Calendar in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* where the advertising is free.

Mr. Garduno suggested getting all of the ideas together and then moving forward with this, commenting he thinks it is a good idea.

It was suggested contacting the editor of *Generation Next* to see if something for us could be posted there.

Mr. Fortier-Shultz said he can talk with his editor at the next meeting about including events listings. He said it is most likely that those could be put on the website because there is unlimited web posting space, but there is a small amount of newspaper space.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. MENTORSHIP FESTIVAL**

Miss Tari said the Mentorship Festival has been moved to August 27, 2011. She said it's a lot of work and they need some help, noting there will be a lot of meetings around the planning and organizing of this event.

Miss Tari said, for the benefit of the new members, the Mentorship Program is a bi-annual program where teens can go into the Festival and meet with mentors. If they like each other, they can exchange numbers, create a schedule and hopefully create a mentorship.

A member asked if this is teens going to other teens.

Miss Tari said no, they will be adults, and it will be open to anybody from any school. She said she needs to contact the Boys and Girls Club to see if they can provide background checks for the mentors, noting we need a list of mentors first and foremost.

Mr. Fortier-Shultz said Miss Tari definitely needs to talk to Kristin Slater, and Miss Tari said she has her telephone number and will do that.

Miss Tari said Simon Brackley is on board, and she will tell him what is going on, noting he is the Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and he can get us a lot of contacts with people who want to participate in the Program. She asked Board members to let her know of other adults who can assist with this effort.

Miss Tari said she believes by-laws are needed for the whole program, because she wants the Program to be consistent. She wants to be sure the group is meeting, at least once a week. She wants to be sure there are no problems between the mentors and the mentorees, and to be sure they are learning something.

Responding to a question from the Board, Miss Tari said the mentors can mentor on any subject.

Mr. Fortier-Shultz said the mentor should be someone who has learned a skill or trade, and is able to teach that to someone in the younger generation, so they can prosper later in life based on that knowledge, for example blacksmithing, carpentry.

Miss Tari said she believes people should be at least 21 years old to be a mentor, and at least 19 years old to be mentored.

Vice-Chair Smith suggested forming a task force.

Ms. Tari said she will write-up what we would like to see in the Program, for edit by the Board. She said we need to begin to create a list of Mentors, and she will contact Kristin Slater.

After discussion, it was the consensus among the group to meet about the Mentorship Festival on Sunday, June 5, 2011, at 12:00 noon, at The Baking Company.

## **B. FILLING THE VICE-CHAIR**

Vice-Chair Smith said at the last meeting, the Board discussed waiting until she left and then choosing a new Chair and Vice-Chair. She is going back to college in California in August. She asked when the new officers would take over.

Mr. Garduno said one of the senior members of the Board would take these positions.

Vice-Chair Smith asked if members of the Board would like an opportunity to run for one of these positions.

Mr. Salazar said he believes the offices should be open to anybody who wants it, but seniority is all right.

Ms. Tari said unless she, or Mr. Salazar or Fortier-Shultz don't take the positions, she thinks an election could be held.

## **C. ADVERTISEMENT**

Ms. Tari asked the Board for their ideas on how to draw more attention to this Board and what we do.

*The members made the following suggestions:*

- Put signs on the bulletin boards of our respective schools – “If you have an issue with something in Santa Fe, bring it to the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board

representative,” and give the name.

- Work to become known as someone other people can talk with and express ideas to.
- Mr. Garduno suggested the members of the Board could ask to speak at a school assembly and talk about what the Board does.
- Mr. Soto suggested holding an open Board meeting and inviting others to attend.
- Mr. Fortier-Shultz said it is up to us individually to bring the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Board to our schools, and there are things the group can do collectively to get our name out there, like the Facebook thing, talking to friends and such.
- Miss Tari said when Board members attend other meetings and activities they need to let everyone know who we are and what we do.

#### **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AND CHOOSE NEXT MEETING PLACE**

The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2011, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., at Warehouse 21.

#### **8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Tari said a lot is happening at Warehouse 21 right now. She suggested the Board invite Ana Gallegos y Reinhardt, Executive Director, to attend one of the meetings of the Board.

Ms. Tari asked what is happening at the new Teen Center. [Mr. Garduno’s response is inaudible].

Ms. Tari said she asked Ms. Gallegos y Reinhardt if she is interested in creating a dance studio at Warehouse 21 which would be free for teenagers, and she said she would. She said she offered to help fundraise for it. She said it would be another aspect to Warehouse 21. She talked to the Chair of the Dance Department, and he said mirrors, curtains to cover the mirrors and the dance floor would cost roughly \$10,000, and she thinks we can raise that much money.

**9. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mr. Garduno introduced Randy Raffensparger, who works with him during the summer youth program.

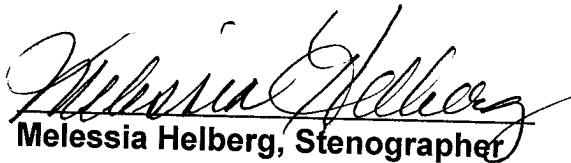
**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** There was no further business to come before the Board, and Vaughn Fortier-Shultz moved, seconded by Kamon Tari, to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

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**Caitlin Smith, Vice-Chair**

  
**Melessia Helberg, Stenographer**