



Please respond...

When we adjourned the October meeting, we neglected to notice that the regularly scheduled 3rd Wednesday meeting in November is the day before Thanksgiving. We will reschedule the meeting to the following Wednesday, November 28th at 4:00 p.m. I have a lot to update you on. Be sure not to miss November's meeting!

Thank you,
Christine

**Youth First Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
Oct. 17, 2007**

1. Minutes were approved as read
2. Introductions/Attending: Cynthia Soares- Sycamore School Counselor, Gary Keeler- GPD Chief, Maggie Hepworth – Teacher/Parent, Pedro Mota – City Council Member, Clark Redfield – GUSD Superintendent, Christine Havens- Youth First Coordinator
3. Maggie Hepworth gave an update on the revised mission statement. Maggie, Jinny Valle, and Suzanne Robinson coordinated efforts and written suggestions made by Mary Ann Boeger all combined to form the revised Youth First Mission Statement which reads as follows:

The mission of Youth First is to ensure our community is safe for our families, schools, businesses, and visitors by valuing youth. We will do this through coordinating and supporting existing community resources and supporting the creation of additional resources that will provide positive experiences to help develop the necessary qualities that will enable our youth to make positive life choices and avoid criminal activity, substance abuse, and gang activity.

A motion was made by Chief Keeler to adopt the revised Youth First Mission statement as written by Jinny Valle, Maggie Hepworth, Suzanne Robinson and Mary Ann Boeger.

A discussion ensued led by Clark who was concerned about how success could be measured through the revised mission statement and how would we know when we reached success. Maggie, Cynthia and Christine agreed that a portion of the success could be verified through police logs and new programs or activities formed in the community.

The motion was seconded and approved by all in attendance.

4. An update was given by Christine on plans for the Vision Team Mtg. – October 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Sycamore School library. Invitation letters and email reminders went out the second week of October. The proposed agenda for the meeting is:

Reports on successes

1. Keep the Peace – Alternative to Gangs- Pedro
2. Community Survey – Cynthia
3. Cesar Chavez Mural – Maggie

On-going projects

4. Speaker's Bureau – Kaliska Wooton
5. Family Night – Mary Ann Jenkins
6. Gang Awareness Program – Clark Redfield

Proposed New Projects

7. Scholarships for disadvantaged youth – Christine
8. Mentoring Project (Ms. Edwards)
9. Music/Skateboard – B. Shackelford

5. Treasurer update – Patti Kilby has agreed to be the treasurer for Youth First. She will write checks and do the monthly treasurer's report. Christine will deliver the checkbook to Patti this week. Gary Keeler did get his signature on the account at the bank.
6. Cynthia reported that Ken Taylor has agreed to file the necessary forms at tax time to keep non-profit status for Youth First. Patti Kilby will need to speak with Ken regarding important and necessary year end documents.

Due to time constraints the report on by-laws by Cynthia was tabled until the next meeting.

7. Cynthia gave us a Community Survey Update. Cynthia informed us that Professor Dick from CSU Chico who wrote, directed and organized the community survey will have it ready to present November 30th. It was briefly discussed what would be the best way to reveal this to our community. We will decide that at a later date.
 - a. In relation to the community survey, Pedro spoke how as a city council member he attends conferences in other cities. He specifically attends workshops related to gang activity. Discussion continued between Pedro, Cynthia, Gary and Christine about the make-up and traditions of Mexican families in our community. Pedro stated that the Mexican family is complex in its behavior and beliefs in raising their children. Cynthia, as a school counselor has found that parents do not accept school evidence that their children may be involved in gang activity.
8. Pedro suggested that Christine keep the City Council informed of Youth First progress by attending City Council Meetings. Christine will contact Jack Slota.
9. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 28th at 4:00 p.m. at the District Office.