



SIMI VALLEY YOUTH COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Online Meeting

<https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/93076652848>

2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, California 93063-2199 • (805) 583-6766

Or by Telephone: Dial US: +1 669 900 9128 Webinar ID: 930 7665 2848

AGENDA

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE STAY AT HOME ORDER AND THE COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH OFFICER DECLARED LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AND LOCAL ORDER RESULTING FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, THE CITY IS NOT CONDUCTING IN-PERSON MEETINGS. TO FIND OUT HOW YOU MAY ELECTRONICALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING AND PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT, PLEASE REFER TO AGENDA ITEM 5.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

2. Agenda Review

This is the time to reorder and/or remove items from the agenda by consensus of the Youth Council. Any individual member who will be abstaining from a discussion item should announce his/her intentions at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2020

4. Correspondence

5. Public Statements/Comments

Time allotted for public statements on all items on the agenda, as well as matters not on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Youth Council. The following information is provided to help you understand, follow, and participate in the Youth Council meeting:

NEW COMMENT PROCEDURE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Youth Council in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items.

The following options allow for public participation:

a. Watch the Youth Council Meeting live online at Zoom:

<https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/93076652848>

Or listen by telephone: +1 669 900 9128 Webinar ID: 930 7665 2848

b. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please sign-on via this Zoom Link <https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/93076652848> and use the raise hand function when this agenda item is called. If you wish to make a



public comment, you must be signed into the meeting and available at the time this agenda item is called.

- c. Or, if you are unable to sign-on to Zoom and wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 4:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Youth Council meeting to youthcouncil@simivalley.org and include the Agenda Item topic and/or your comments. These emails will be provided to the Youth Council prior to the meeting and made a part of the record.
6. Continued Business
 7. New Business
 - a. Review and Discussion of the Results from the Secondhand Smoke Survey
 - b. Discussion of the Youth Council's Potential Participation in the Adventist Health Simi Valley Foundation's Annual Festival of Trees Event
 - c. Selection of the Name for the Youth Council's November 20, 2020 Art-themed Online Activity Event
 - d. Discussion of the Youth Council's Potential Participation in the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center's Virtual Día De Los Muertos Event
 8. Representative Reports
Youth Council Reports and Comments

This is the time for Youth Council members' statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Youth Council or to request a future agenda item. This is also the time to make any announcements related to community events and other items of interest.
 9. Coordinator's Report
 10. Adjournment: Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Online Zoom Meeting.



Anna M. Medina
Deputy Community Services Director

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Youth Council Coordinator at (805) 583-6766. Upon advance notification, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome

Youth Council Chair Riya Manimaran called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., and Youth Council Secretary Sumaiya Akbar took attendance, verifying that a quorum was present.

| Selection Districts | | Members-At-Large | | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| P | Mohnish Maini - AHS | P | Sumaiya Akbar | P | Peter Wang |
| P | Riya Manimaran-RHS | P | Mattheus Brocchi | | |
| P | Anna Sorensen-RHS | P | Synthia Mahmud | Alternates | |
| P | Abhishek AJ Jagannathan-SSHS | P | Ella McCrossan | P | Monishka Tanwani |
| P | Vivek Tarapara-SSHS | P | Rahul Naveen | E | Jasmine Esmail |
| P | Ashley Kilmnick-SVHS | P | Zainab Neemuchwala | P | Thaen-Mozhi Anand |
| P | Ashlyn Ro-SVHS | P | Ian Nelson | P = Present E = Excused A = Absent V = Vacant | |
| P | Priyaank Srinivasan-HMS | P | Alden Ta | | |
| P | Madelyn Herzer – SMS | P | Maya Tauber | | |
| P | Sanchita Karthik - VVMS | P | Rikka Tignac | | |
| *Arrived after approval of the minutes | | | | | |

Staff: David Yoshitomi, Community Services Manager; Stacey Bochenski, Administrative Assistant, Simi Valley Police Department; and Kristin Tignac, Community Services Coordinator.

Guests: Mayor Pro Tem Mike Judge; City Council Member Ruth Luevanos; Nikki Collier and Kelly Negrete with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District; and student Kalyssa Ro.

2. Agenda Review

Chair Riya Manimaran asked if members had any requested changes for the agenda. There being no objections, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2020

ACTION: A motion to approve the September 15, 2020, minutes as written was made by Ashley Kilmnick and seconded by Ian Nelson.

Youth Council Vote: 21 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstentions

The motion passed.

4. Correspondence

Ms. Tignac stated that she had received correspondence from Simi Valley Police Department Sergeant Patrick Zayicek approving her request to share information regarding the Youth Council's Secondhand Smoke survey and the October 16, 2020 Stop Bullying film screening and community discussion. Ms. Tignac also reported that she had received an announcement from the Adventist Health Simi

Valley Foundation confirming that they will hold their annual Festival of Trees in December. She also stated that correspondence had been received from Nikki Collier and Kelly Negrete with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and that she had invited them to be guest speakers during this meeting.

5. Public Statements/Comments

Chair Riya Manimaran reviewed the public statement and comment procedure required due to the Zoom meeting format.

Council Member Luevanos announced that those that had elected into the Clean Power Alliance program may be eligible for a few programs, including solar panels and bill credit for those with medical devices.

Stacey Bochenski from the Simi Valley Police Department introduced herself.

Kalyssa Ro introduced herself and stated that she was looking forward to attending the meeting to listen to the Youth Council discussions.

6. Informational Presentation

a. Volunteer Opportunities and Upcoming Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Events and Programs by Nikki Collier

Nikki Collier, Volunteer Coordinator with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD), announced an opportunity to volunteer on Saturday, October 31, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Ms. Collier stated that volunteers would help by giving out candy to kids in a drive-through format. She stated that the RSRPD needed at least ten people to volunteer. The following students volunteered to help at the Halloween Drive-through Boo event: Mo Maini, Rahul Naveen, Anna Sorensen, Maya Tauber, Rikka Tignac, with Riya Manimaran, Ian Nelson, and Vivek Tarapara as tentative. Ms. Collier stated that anyone else interested in sponsoring or volunteering should email her directly at nikkic@rsrpd.us.

Kelly Negrete, Recreation Specialist with the RSRPD stated that they need a lot of volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, and that they are still accepting vendors for the Halloween Drive-Through Boo event.

Ms. Negrete announced that the RSRPD would also be observing Unity Day on October 21, 2020 and asking everyone in our community to wear orange and paint rocks orange with messages of kindness to support unity and inclusion. She stated that the RSRPD was interested in collaborating or cross promoting events with other groups.

Chair Riya Manimaran asked the Youth Council Members if they had any suggestions for Unity Day. Ella McCrossan stated that the Social Media Committee could promote Unity Day and create a flyer to promote wearing orange on that day.

7. Continued Business

a. Discussion of the 2020 Suicide Prevention Campaign

Online Activities Committee Chair AJ Jagannathan stated that the Youth Council's Stop Bullying movie screening and community discussion would take place on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The committee was asking for assistance from all Youth Council members in promoting the event to peers, friends and family members, as well as to assist in developing questions for the community discussion.

Ms. Tignac stated that participation in the event was mandatory for all Youth Council Members.

b. Discussion of the 2020-21 Youth Council Work Plan and Selection of Work Plan Committees

Each temporary Work Plan Committee reported on their brainstormed solutions.

The Discrimination Prevention Committee developed the following solutions:

Issue #1 – Lack of knowledge of black history and struggles faced, along with continued present day struggles.

Solution – Increase awareness by hosting a movie night focusing on current experiences faced by real people.

Issue #2 - General discrimination based on race.

Solution – Increase cultural awareness by hosting movie night or a series of movies regarding a variety of cultures.

Issue #3 – Discrimination based on anti-Semitism.

Solution - Create an exhibit featuring Holocaust survivors and those that perished, to possibly be held at the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center.

The Homelessness Committee developed the following solutions:

Issue #1 – Homelessness

Solution - Increase awareness of financial assistance and programs available for homeless individuals, as well as creating access to sanitation, including masks, sanitizers, and gloves.

Issue #2 - Homeless individuals that do not want help.

Solution – Establish homeless “safe houses” where the homeless population may pick up supplies and create ways for them to help themselves (access to safe houses, maybe city jobs, flyers for financial assistance, i.e. financial aid for housing, transportation, food, and clothing).

Issue #3 – Homeless individuals struggling with mental health issues.

Solution – Form a homelessness task force composed of mental health professionals with experience in the area, dedicated to directly helping the homeless of Simi Valley. Additionally, develop a plan with the City Council to get more people involved.

The Online Learning Committee developed the following solutions:

Issue #1 – Lack of adequate education with shortened class time frame and those virtual students during the second semester will not receive the same amount of instruction time as the hybrid format students.

Solution – Develop and conduct a student survey. One idea was to encourage teachers to record their lectures given to on-campus Cohort A students, then to post during their prep break, so that online learning students could watch while the teachers were in class time with on-campus Cohort B students, allowing additional instruction time up to an hour long Zoom for online to ask the teacher questions and fill in any gaps in their learning.

Issue #2 – Students that need extra help in enhancing their learning due to the fast pace of the current 6-week curricula.

Solution – Create a free tutoring service for students of all ages, where homework aid would be available to all students of the Simi Valley Unified School District with qualified high school students as tutors.

Note. Maya Tauber stated that she had spoken with the Principal at Simi Valley High School and the school was aware of the issue. Vivek Tarapara stated that Santa Susana High School has a tutoring club that had received approval from the SVUSD to provide tutoring to middle and high school students. Monishka Tanwani also stated that she had contacted Santa Susana High School's Tutoring Club President Howra Alammara about branching out the program. The Tutoring Club requested assistance in advertising the free tutoring service. Maya Tauber reported that Simi Valley High School's National Honor Society Club, also focusing on tutoring, had contacted Santa Susana High School's Tutoring Club about joining forces to provide citywide tutoring.

The Student Mental Health Committee developed the following solutions:

Issue #1 – Stress associated with the college application process and financial aid.

Solution – Host webinar with Youth Council alumni sharing their experiences applying to various colleges with a question and answer session.

Issue #2 – Limited knowledge of mental health services available.

Solution a. - Increase awareness of resources (especially with online school), emphasizing that mental health issues are common.

Solution b. – Host fundraiser that raises money for services provided by organizations, such as the Trevor Project that raises awareness of mental health resources.

Solution c. – Create a website with information on resources, such as online therapy, free therapy or low-cost, in-person therapy in the Simi Valley area. Have schools share resources on their websites and in their weekly newsletter.

Council Member Luevanos mentioned a software program called screencastomatic, which records and reposts tutoring/teaching sessions.

After a dot vote, the following top five issues were selected for the 2020-21 Work Plan:

1. Students need extra help in enhancing their learning due to the fast pace of the current 6-week curricula – 20 votes
2. General discrimination based on race – 15 votes
3. Homeless people who don't want to be helped – 11 votes
4. Stress associated with college/college application process – 7 votes
5. Limited mental health awareness in schools – 7 votes

ACTION: A motion to approve the Youth Council Work Plan was made by Rahul Naveen and seconded by Matheus Brocchi.

Youth Council Vote: 21 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstentions

The motion passed.

The following committees were formed to address the 2020-21 Youth Council Work Plan:

Discrimination Committee: Sumaiya Akbar, Ashley Kilmnick, Synthia Mahmud, Anna Sorensen and Peter Wang.

Homelessness Committee: Sanchita Karthik, Riya Manimaran, Rahul Naveen, Ashlyn Ro, Anna Sorensen, Priyaank Srinivasan, and Maya Tauber.

Online Learning Committee: Sumaiya Akbar, Thaen-Mozhi Anand, Madelyn Herzer, AJ Jagannathan, Synthia Mahmud, Mohnish Maini, Ian Nelson, Anna Sorensen, Monishka Tanwani, Vivek Tarapara, Maya Tauber, and Rikka Tignac.

Student Mental Health Committee: Matheus Brocchi, AJ Jagannathan, Mohnish Maini, Riya Manimaran, Rahul Naveen, Zainab Neemuchwala, Ian Nelson, Ashlyn Ro, Anna Sorensen, Alden Ta and Rikka Tignac.

Two additional committees were formed:

Fundraising Committee: AJ Jagannathan, Sanchita Karthik, Ashley Kilmnick, Ian Nelson, Anna Sorensen, Vivek Tarapara and Peter Wang.

Multi-Cultural Festival Committee: Sumaiya Akbar, Matheus Brocchi, Ashley Kilmnick, Riya Manimaran, Rahul Naveen, Zainab Neemuchwala, Ashlyn Ro, Anna Sorensen, Alden Ta, Monishka Tanwani and Peter Wang.

ACTION: A motion to approve the six formed committees listed above was made by Ian Nelson and seconded by Synthia Mahmud.

Youth Council Vote: 21 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstentions

The motion passed.

8. New Business

a. Selection of the 2021 Youth Summit Committee

The following Youth Council members were selected to serve on the 2021 Youth Summit Committee: Sumaiya Akbar, Matheus Brocchi, Ashley Kilmnick, Synthia Mahmud, Rahul Naveen, Zainab Neemuchwala, Ashlyn Ro, Anna Sorensen, Vivek Tarapara, Maya Tauber, and Rikka Tignac, with Monishka Tanwani and Peter Wang as alternates.

ACTION: A motion to approve the 2021 Youth Summit Committee as listed above was made by Vivek Tarapara and seconded by Maya Tauber.

Youth Council Vote: 19 Ayes, 2 Noes, 0 Abstentions

The motion passed.

9. Representative Reports

Youth Council Reports and Comments

Online Activities Committee Chair AJ Jagannathan stated that the committee had a few openings for new members. Madelyn Herzer and Ashlyn Ro were selected to join the committee.

Vaping Research and Policy Recommendation Committee Chair Rahul Naveen reported that the goal for the secondhand smoking survey was to get a minimum of 355 completed surveys. Sumaiya Akbar and Monishka Tanwani stated that they would promote the survey through their schools and school clubs.

Social Media Committee Chair Ella McCrossan reported that the Social Media Committee would also create additional posts and flyers to promote the secondhand smoke survey.

Chair Riya Manimaran stated that she and five to six other Youth Council members recorded the Community Reads Author Talk on September 17, 2020. She stated that she really enjoyed the session and found *Seed folk's* author Paul Fleischman's responses and advice insightful. She recommended that members

watch the streamed video to be held on the Simi Valley Public Library's Facebook page, at 11:00 a.m., on October 17, 2020.

10. Coordinator's Report

Ms. Tignac reminded Youth Council members to promote the online Stop Bullying event beginning at 7:00 p.m., on Friday, October 16, 2020, and the Virtual Escape Room Game Night at 7:30 p.m., on Friday, October 30, 2020.

Ms. Tignac also reminded members of the Vaping Research and Policy Recommendation Committee meeting that their next meeting would be at 3:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

11. Adjournment Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Online Zoom Meeting.

Youth Council Chair Riya Manimaran adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.