



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes Youth Commission

11/18/2025

6:00 PM

Youth & Teen Center
2446 Cabrillo Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95051

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

This meeting was called to order by Chair Martin at 6:07 p.m.

Present 15 - Commissioner Allysa Domensino, Commissioner Mateo Espinal, Commissioner Seoyun Chong, Commissioner Namita Gaidhani, Commissioner Sriksa Gopiseti, Commissioner Julianna Arias Hernandez, Commissioner Neha Israni, Commissioner Drew Madriaga, Commissioner Rebecca Kunze, Commissioner Malia Martin, Commissioner Samaira Mehta, Commissioner Aneesha Vemu, Commissioner Brian Rong, Commissioner Samarth Suresh, and Commissioner Niharika Uppalapati

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [25-1587](#) Action to Approve the Youth Commission Minutes of the October 14, 2025 Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Israni, seconded by Commissioner Gopiseti to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was carried by the following votes:

Aye: 15 - Commissioner Domensino, Commissioner Espinal, Commissioner Chong, Commissioner Gaidhani, Commissioner Gopiseti, Commissioner Arias Hernandez, Commissioner Israni, Commissioner Madriaga, Commissioner Kunze, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Mehta, Commissioner Vemu, Commissioner Rong, Commissioner Suresh, and Commissioner Uppalapati

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [25-1588](#) Discuss and Take Action on Youth Commission FY 2025/26 Work Plan & Goals
- At the November 18, 2025 meeting, the Youth Commission will begin discussions regarding its work plan priorities and goals for the FY 2025/26 term. Commissioners developed mission statements for each committee to align with their work plan goals.
1. The Community building committee aims to foster a culture of inclusion, belonging, and connection among the Santa Clara youth through bonding events and collaborative opportunities.
 2. The Youth Empowerment committee seeks to empower the Santa Clara youth through projects including but not limited to panels highlighting local voices and activities to create opportunities for youth to serve our community.
 3. The Civic Engagement Committee seeks to facilitate community outreach and education, while providing better accessibility to city resources. Our goal is to broaden the awareness of Santa Clara's youth by highlighting essential services and information.

STAFF REPORT

Gayle Ichiho, Recreation Supervisor announced the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday, December 5th from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at Central Park. The event will feature live entertainment, local artist booths, arts and crafts activities, and food trucks. Santa will visit and distribute complimentary teddy bears and candy canes to children. A special guest tree lighter, Wanda Buck will illuminate the tree to mark the beginning of the holiday season. Community members are encouraged to attend this festive celebration.

Karen Guzman, Teen Librarian highlighted several resources and programs available to teens. Brain Fuze offers free live tutoring for students from kindergarten through college, accessible to library cardholders. The service includes test preparation for PSAT, SAT, AP, ACT, and other exams, as well as skills building, a 24-hour writing lab, and foreign language assistance with limited timing. Additionally, personalized e-learning opportunities are available. Upcoming programs include a Teen Yoga Workshop for destressing on December 11th and JIAREN. Teens are also encouraged to participate in the Library Card Art Contest designed specifically for their age group.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Chair Martin attended a meeting on November 16th with Jack and Jill of America focused on a mix of civic education, community service, and youth policy debate. The session began with a talk and Q&A featuring Council Member George Casey, who emphasized the importance of civic engagement and fostering youth participation in local government. Following this educational segment, the group collaborated on a community service project, preparing essential items for the upcoming Holiday Giveaway to benefit local families. The meeting concluded with a policy debate on the timely topic of whether 16- and 17-year-olds should be granted the right to vote for School Board members, a discussion that included a specific review of the new youth-voting laws recently enacted in Berkeley and Oakland.

Alternate Rayees, attended activities from late October to early November involved a mix of civic dialogue, regional volunteering, and attendance at official government proceedings. On October 18th, there were discussions about the SCPD Explorer program and a meeting with the Mayor of the City of Saratoga to learn about the initiatives of the Saratoga Youth Commission. This was followed by a community service effort on October 25th, where the participant volunteered for City's Halloween SpooktaClara event with students from different high schools. The reporting period concluded with attendance at the Joint City Council/Stadium Authority Board Meeting via Zoom on November 4th, and a SCUSD Special Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees on November 6th.

Commissioner Gopisetti, Commissioner Domensino, Commissioner Madriaga attended the Santa Clara Unified School District Board meeting on November 13, 2025. The superintendent presented wanting to increase student engagement.

Commissioner Arias Hernandez reported that the Santa Clara High School Marching band recently ended their historic record-breaking season, ending with 2nd place in the 2A Regional Division Level. They will be attending next month's City Council Meeting to be recognized by the mayor for their achievements and hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Suresh and seconded by Commissioner Vemu to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Aye: 15 - Commissioner Domensino, Commissioner Espinal, Commissioner Chong, Commissioner Gaidhani, Commissioner Gopisetti, Commissioner Arias Hernandez, Commissioner Israni, Commissioner Madriaga, Commissioner Kunze, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Mehta, Commissioner Vemu, Commissioner Rong, Commissioner Suresh, and Commissioner Uppalapati

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If a member of the public submits a speaker card for any agenda items, their name will appear in the Minutes. If no speaker card is submitted, the Minutes will reflect "Public Speaker."

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