



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Youth Commission

02/10/2026

6:00 PM

Youth & Teen Center
2446 Cabrillo Ave. Santa Clara, CA 95051

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

This meeting was called to order by Chair Martin at 6:03 p.m.

Present 13 - Commissioner Allysa Domensino, Commissioner Namita Gaidhani, Commissioner Srikha 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

Absent 2 - Commissioner Mateo Espinal, and Commissioner Seoyun Chong

A motion was made by Commissioner Israni, seconded by Commissioner Vemu to excuse Commissioner Chong and Commissioner Espinal from the February 10, 2026 meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 13 - Commissioner Domensino, 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

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Espinal, and Commissioner Chong

CONSENT CALENDAR

[26-82](#)

Action to Approve the Youth Commission Minutes of the January 13, 2026 Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the Youth Commission Minutes of the January 13, 2026 Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Gaidhani, seconded by Commissioner Arias Hernandez that this item by recommended for approval. This motion was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 13 - Commissioner Domensino, 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

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Espinal, and Commissioner Chong

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Tabitha Kappeler-Hurley discussed the upcoming American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Santa Clara. The event takes place on May 2, 2026 from 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Franklin Mall. This fundraising event celebrates survivors remembers loved ones and prevention information is shared. Commissioners were also informed on the various ways community members can support the event.

Marlon Aumentado, City Staff, Public Works Street Division, talked about the SV Hopper which is a grant subsidized, ride share program. SV Hopper operates Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in Cupertino, Santa Clara and San Jose. Commissioners were informed that Phase 2 is coming in July.

GENERAL BUSINESS

[26-83](#)

Discuss and Take Action on Youth Commission FY 2025/26 Work Plan & Goals

Recommendation: Discuss and take action on the activities and efforts in support of the Youth Commission's Work Plan & Goals for FY 2025/26.

At the February 10, 2026 meeting, the Youth Commission continued discussions regarding its work plan priorities and goals for the FY 2025/26 term.

The **Community Building Committee** continues their preparations for the SC Hacks hackathon by finalizing the event flyer and registration forms. They are still updating event materials and have discussed securing event sponsors. The committee plans to open registration on February 21, 2026.

The **Youth Empowerment Committee** discussed logistics for their video "What Can You Do with a Library Card?" and has plans to start filming soon.

The **Civic Engagement Committee** is working on hosting a NARCAN demonstration and continues their work on the Welcome Package by creating a promotional flyer.

STAFF REPORT

Lorena Romero, Librarian - Youth Services, shared information about STEM Zone, an event that will take place on April 19, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Santa Clara Convention Center. The Library Card Design Contest is now closed and staff are reviewing the designs and will vote on the top five.

Jon Kawada, Recreation Coordinator, informed Commissioners that the 2026/2027 Youth Commission term application is available. The deadline to submit applications is March 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. and applications can be emailed, mailed or dropped off at the Youth & Teen Center. There will be an informational session at the Youth & Teen Center on February 25, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Israni had the opportunity to participate in the MLK Jr. Day choral reading of "I Have a Dream", hosted by City of Santa Clara Public Library. **Commissioner Israni** shared her experience meeting City officials and residents from various walks of life. She also attended the Super Bowl Flag Raising Ceremony with fellow **Commissioner Madriaga**, where they met NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Steve Young and the Bay Area Host Committee CEO.

Commissioner Gaidhani talked about the Welcome Party for the Sister Cities exchange high school students from Izumo, Japan on January 24. Sister Cities is looking for host families for middle school exchange students from March 26 - April 1, 2026. Applications are open for Santa Clara students to travel to Izumo, Japan this summer. Interested applicants are highly encouraged to attend an upcoming Sister Cities meeting. The next meeting is on February 11, 2026.

Commissioner Domensino attended a recent Santa Clara Unified School District Superintendent Student Council meeting. Discussions took place regarding the impact of upcoming budget considerations.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Mehta, seconded by Commissioner Vemu that this meeting be adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Aye: 13 - Commissioner Domensino, 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

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Espinal, and Commissioner Chong

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