

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 9:30am
CRPD Administrative Offices at Hillcrest Center
403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:36am by Chair Holt.

2. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Susan Holt, Board Member, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Councilmember, City of Thousand Oaks
Cindy Goldberg, Board Vice President, Conejo Valley Unified School District

Rochelle Callis, Administrator, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Rebecca Stelmar, Counselor, Conejo Valley Unified School District

Robin Britt, Executive Director, Community Conscience
Sarah Daub, Teen Services Director, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Pete Martinez, Youth Outreach Worker, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Tracy Noonan, City Attorney, City of Thousand Oaks

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. Youth Outreach Program

Pete Martinez, Youth Outreach Worker, presented on the Youth Outreach Program. The program is a partnership between CRPD and CVUSD, administered by CRPD and housed at the Alex Fiore Thousand Oaks Teen Center. There are three components to the program: School Sites, Recreation, and Community.

On school sites, students are referred by teachers, counselors, administrators, and even other students who believe their friends could benefit from speaking with an Outreach Worker. The goal is to learn and understand their needs and then work to meet those needs. Each Outreach Worker conducts Life Skills Groups on a weekly basis focusing on topics such as tolerance, self-esteem, bullying, and relationships. Bullying Awareness Workshops are especially impactful and focus on teaching the students empathy.

Recreation activities are planned and hosted by Outreach for teens either on school campuses, at the Thousand Oaks Teen Center, or neighborhood parks.

Youth Outreach partners with the Area Housing Authority of Ventura County to engage with youth in the community. This includes field trips, providing snacks, and outdoor activities. Outreach Workers also volunteer for the City of Thousand Oaks Youth Commission. Outreach participates in “Reality Parties” which give parents insight into what it is like to be teenagers in today’s society, and these demonstrations open the door for important conversations between parents and their children.

Obtaining feedback from students is essential. Outreach Workers know they are successful when students show up to school more often, turn in homework more consistently, communicate better with parents and family, and feel valued.

b. Vaping & Smoking

Tracy Noonan, City Attorney for the City of Thousand Oaks, answered questions about vaping in relation to the law. The City is not able to become involved to much extent. Vaping products are commonly ordered online, not necessarily at stores within the city limits. Ordinances against the sale of tobacco within a certain radius of schools would not impact businesses already established.

In 2016, the California Legislature amended the STAKE Act—STOP TOBACCO ACCESS TO KIDS ENFORCEMENT ACT—which prohibits tobacco use on school property to begin including vaping. School Boards were directed to take steps to discourage the use of tobacco products. Per Education Code 48900 (H): “a pupil may be suspended or expelled for possession of a tobacco product.” However, Penal Code Section 308 was also amended, resulting in the possession of tobacco products by a minor no longer being considered a criminal act.

The result of these changes is that the burden of discouraging vaping rests solely on the School Districts. The Conejo Valley Unified School District and the City of Thousand Oaks are separate legal properties, meaning neither can dictate what regulations are in place on one another’s property.

A large percentage of suspensions recently had been for vaping, so CVUSD changed the practice in order to reduce suspensions. The first offense is now the assignment of Saturday School session, which includes vaping education. The second offense is a referral to BreakThrough and a parent conference. From there, suspension or expulsion become the last resorts.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of May 7th, 2019 Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Bill-de la Peña, seconded by Goldberg, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

b. Review of Account Balance (as of 09/12/2019)

Total funds available are \$3,704.12 currently.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Outreach Meet & Greet - Tuesday, October 3rd at 7:30am

The event connects school counselors with agencies who offer services that can be extremely valuable to students who are in need. The Board Members of all three member agencies will be given invitations. Representatives from the Conejo Coalition for Youth & Families will plan to speak at the formal program to spread awareness of the Coalition and its goals.

It was moved by Goldberg, seconded by Bill-de la Peña, and carried unanimously to allocate funds—not to exceed \$250—for the Meet & Greet event.

b. Youth & Family Summit 2020

Proposed date is Wednesday February 26, 2020 at 7:30am. It was discussed to end the formal program at 9:00am, allowing for participants to remain in the room to network after if they choose to. The budget last year was \$1,500 (not all of which was spent). The format may change to group discussions at the tables.

It was moved by Goldberg, seconded by Bill-de la Peña, and carried unanimously to allocate funds—not to exceed \$1,500—for the Youth & Family Summit.

c. Future Guest Speakers

Suggested Guest Speakers / Organizations:

- Ohana Health (formerly the Conejo Pregnancy Center)
- Teresa Seeley, Conejo Free Clinic
- Leanne Petras, Conejo Youth Employment Services
- Dichele Harris, Lutheran Social Services
- Kirsti Thompson, Give an Hour (Free Family Therapy Sessions)

d. Regular Committee Meeting Dates

Discussion of various options for a regular meeting date each quarter ensued. It was decided the second Wednesday of each quarter would be the new routine. The tentative schedule for 2020 would be January 8, April 8, and September 9.

7. AGENCY REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Conscience will be hosting a Wine Tasting fundraiser event at Sunland Vintage Winery starting at 6:30pm on October 12.

The Healing Garden at Conejo Creek North Park will open on November 7.

The *T.O. Remembers* event will be November 8 at 7:00pm at the Civic Arts Plaza.

8. ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT AGENDAS

None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 13 at 9:30am at Hillcrest Center.

10. ADJOURN

It was moved by Goldberg, seconded by Bill-de la Peña, and carried unanimously to adjourn at 11:10am.