REPORT TO COUNCIL 29
City of Sacramento

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STAFF REPORT
June 8, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Sacramento Youth Commission Year-End Report

Location/Council District: All Council Districts

Recommendation: This report is for informational purposes only.

Contact: Ralph Pettingell, Recreation Manager, 808-6173, Sylvia Fort, Program Manager, 808-8381

Presenters: Youth Commissioners - Nakayla Rhone, Christina Lee, Andy Nevis, Noelle Dyer

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Youth Services

Organization No: 4723

Summary:

The Sacramento Youth Commission (SYC) worked on several projects since the last presentation to Council on April 25, 2005. Sub-committees were formed to further explore and identify a plan of action in the following areas: Skate Parks, Teen Homelessness, SYC Scholarship, and a mixer with the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. This is a report back on the progress the Commission has made in these areas and will be presented in part by the Youth Commissioners.

Committee/Commission Action: This report was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on June 1, 2006.

Background Information:

The following paragraphs outline and describe the SYC sub-committees and their projects:

Skate Park Sub-committee: Committee lead: Nija Fountano
Members: Rachel Watkins, Nakayla Rhone, Judy Saechao

The initial intent of the committee was to dispel the negative stereotypes and myths associated with skateboarders while also promoting the value of skating as a healthy recreational activity. The goal of this committee was to help establish the 28th and B skate park as a permanent skate park in order to get skaters from skating unsafely in the streets. In the past year, the park has expanded to include non traditional programs such as, art classes, mural painting design and silk screening. The park also hosted 5 skateboard camps taught by local professional skateboarders. The Youth Commission served as one of the sponsors for the Skateboard, Art, Music, Youth Festival (SAMY Jam) with Skylab Youth Production Studios. This event was held on October 22nd and included skateboarding demos, live art installations and live music and DJ's. Over 300 Sacramento youth were in attendance.

The site has become a staple in the midtown art, music and skateboard community. It has become a popular place to hold other community events like the 20/30 club Spring Party and the Thrasher Chick's (a group of 40+ women) annual event. Demands for use of this facility are increasing and more youth oriented events are being planned for the future.

Teen Homelessness Sub-committee: Committee lead: Christina Lee
Members: Sarah Gold, Coby Tamayo, Kristin Dong, Noelle Dyer, Chayla McDavid, Xavia Bryant, Nakayla Rhone, Rachel Watkins, Sonja Wolford, Rhodesia Kilson,

This committee was formed after a presentation to the SYC by a homeless teen. The Youth Commission was previously unaware of the severity of the teen homelessness problem in Sacramento. The committee spent the last two years developing a Green Ribbon Campaign in order to raise awareness about the issue of teen homelessness. The ribbons come with an information card containing statistics and websites to visit for additional information. In the past year, over $1,000 was raised through this campaign and we are working with WIND Youth Services to purchase items needed by homeless youth. The Commission recently voted to continue the campaign as the Duckee-QTLee Green Ribbon Campaign, named after its two founding Commissioners.

The committee also held a vigil on Friday, May 19th at McKinley Park in order to raise awareness about teen homelessness and promote the Green Ribbon Campaign. The Commission used this opportunity to present WIND Youth Services with a check with the money raised from the campaign. The money will be used to purchase gift cards for homeless teens to be used as incentives for community service projects.

Scholarship Sub-committee: Committee lead: Andy Nevis
Members: Andy Nevis, Chris Kaiser-Nyman

The Sacramento Youth Commission provides a $1500 scholarship each year to a graduating high school senior. This is the sixth year that the SYC will be awarding the

scholarship. The SYC scholarship is unique in that applicants are interviewed by their peers, rather than a panel of adults. The scholarship in not solely merit based. The recipient of the scholarship is one who the review committee feels outstanding strength of character and a sense of leadership.

This committee spent the year fundraising for 2006 scholarship by soliciting donations and participating in a "paint a pot" fundraiser in which the commission raised $500 for the scholarship fund. The Commission hopes to create a reserve to go toward the 2007 SYC scholarship.

Mixer Sub-committee: Committee Lead: Janneke Lang

The purpose of this committee is to organize the annual mixer between City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Sacramento Youth Commission. This event is intended to provide a fun and relaxing opportunity for the Youth Commission and their parents, the Parks and Recreation Commission and Council to network and build relationships. The mixer was held on Wednesday, May 17th at the Foundry Gallery Loft at 1021 R Street.

Financial Considerations: None

Environmental Considerations:

There are no environmental considerations with this report.

Policy Considerations:

This report is consistent with the Strategic Plan in that it promotes the achievement of sustainability and livability for Sacramento youth.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Robert G. Overstreet II, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

For City Council Information:

Cassandra H. B. Jennings

for RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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