

**Minutes
Garland Youth Council
November 4, 2008**

Members present:

Jennifer Sims
Brianda Reyes
Katie Bosler
Phillip Graham
Valencia King
Jade Crutch

Phillip Graham, vice-chair, called meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

1. Approved Minutes from October 7, 2008 Meeting

2. Recreation & Cultural Services – Youth Focused Activities

Representatives from City of Garland Parks, Libraries and Arts departments provided an overview of available and future programs geared toward the Youth audience. Due to budget considerations, the Skate Park is postponed until at least 2011.

3. Committee Reports

- a. **Ordinance Committee** – proposed changes to GYC structure and bylaws. Specifics will be presented at next full meeting.

TDS/Projects Committee –

TDS Spring Event: The committee wanted to be involved in that, of course, and wanted to use last year's event agenda as a model. "Promise bracelets" craft project might be a good hands-on activity to include.

Garland Goes Green: Would like to have a presence at that event. Mild interest in the fun run/walk. Apparently the high schools do not provide can/bottle recycling in the cafeterias, which is a problem. The subcommittee thought that school recycling is an important issue to present. One idea was to have each high school campus collect cans/bottles and bring them to the event, showing how much could be recycled and then give a prize to the school that brings the most cans/bottles. Some sort of craft project, similar to above but "green"-themed, was another idea.

Reach Out Now: Reviewed the written materials and thought they needed to be updated with more graphics and color. Interactive elements, like games, coloring, or something similar would make it more interesting. One idea was to do a skit about alcohol use. They wanted to "make it real" by using statistics or stories or people who have been touched by underage drinking. They all agreed that the presentation should (a) emphasize the causes and situations that students might find themselves in when confronted with the choice not to use alcohol under age and (b) illustrate the consequences of underage drinking. All the science and medical stuff isn't necessary or worth the time to explain.

Christmas Caroling: Yes! Santa hats and candy canes were two pieces the subcommittee thought should be included.

Promotions Committee –

How and where to reach out to teens: Students join and participate in organizations their friends are in, so those committee members in organizations should use those connections to spread the word about GYC. The subcommittee liked the idea of lunchroom tables set up and would volunteer to man a table. Organizations like NHS that require service hours are a great source of volunteer labor.

Meetings – government education: We talked about how to integrate government education. “Government class” topics, like typical government processes, et cetera, got only a mild reaction from the subcommittee. Learning about city services that teens regularly access would be better. This could include parks & recreation programs (sports, rec centers) and library programs (like resources, computers, homework help, teen open mic event). The current election cycle is of interest to students, too, so maybe voting and voter registration could be used in as a timely topic sometime in May or November. Community involvement got some interest – like how people get involved in government, including voting, being active in a homeowners association, or even volunteering on a board or commission. One of the schools did a “youth in government” day and another school, Lakeview I think, has a law program.

Meetings – forum for important teen issues: They said that TDS, which is driving safety, is one of the top teen issues. Other very top issues for education and discussion are college/scholarships, sports, and jobs/career. These would appeal to broadest teen audience, especially high school students.

4. Reports from other GYC Activities

- a. TDS Summit – Katie Bosler reported on activities.
- b. Garland Neighborhood Summit – Celeste Vielma, Christa Vielma, Jennifer Sims reported on activities.

5. Upcoming Opportunities

- a. Youth Leadership Garland Presentation – November 13 – Phillip, Brianda and Katie agreed to participate.
- b. Lakeview HS Fall Festival – target audience is geared to much younger students.
- c. Christmas on the Square – GYC members encouraged to volunteer

6. Citizen Comments

none

7. Future Agenda Items

- a. Review December 2 Agenda
- b. Other items – DCCCD Opportunities for Feb?

8. Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.