

MINUTES
REGULAR YOUTH ADVISORY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF NICEVILLE, FLORIDA
AUGUST 11, 2015

The Niceville Youth Advisory Council met in regular session at 6:00 PM, August 11, 2015 in the City of Niceville Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. All members were present except for Caroline Schreck who had band practice. Also present was Youth Council Advisor, Councilman Nodjomian and Dan Doucet, City Clerk. Chairman Jason Nodjomian led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting, May 9, 2015

Regular Meeting, June 9, 2015

Jason Nodjomian asked for a motion to approve the May 9, 2015 minutes. Christine Marocchini moved approval. Annie-James Walsh-seconded. Council Vote: Marocchini-yes; Walsh-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Toledo-yes. Motion Passed

Mr Doucet stated that we did not have a quorum for the meeting on June 9, 2015. Discussion followed.

Old Business:

Tutoring Project - Update

Chairman Nodjomian stated that Caroline Schreck is the project coordinator for the tutoring project who is not here tonight. Councilman Nodjomian stated it may be good to discuss the project since we have new members present tonight. Chairman Nodjomian provided an update on where we stand on the project. He stated that early in the year Ms Karen Houston who works in the Library stated that they will provide adequate space to conduct the tutoring. He stated that timing has been our problem since end of year exams and everyone being very busy prevented us getting this program off the ground. Our plans were to seek help from school counselors to include talking to Dr Richardson which never materialized. Councilman Nodjomian stated that Caroline stated in her last meeting stated that she is heavily involved in band which is why she is not here tonight. He further stated to be a project manager you have to attend meetings on a regular basis. He asked Chairman Nodjomian if he is considering changing roles. Discussion centered around reassigning the roles to one or two members of the board to get this program off the ground. Christine stated she could partner with Annie-James to kick start the program. Councilman Nodjomian recommended to come up with a plan by our next meeting to have

some written ideas on what you want to discuss before meeting with Dr Richardson such as what subjects to tutor, and how to get volunteers to tutor the kids that need the help, etc. He suggested going thru the minutes to get up to speed on what was discussed before. She could e-mail him to comment on what they plan to bring before our next meeting. Discussion followed.

PRESENTATIONS:

Update on Parliamentary Procedures - Jason Nodjomian - Chairman

Chairman Jason Nodjomian stated that we follow Roberts Rules of Order. He stated he will ask for a motion to approve an item, a second, followed by any discussion from the public followed by any board discussion and the final step is to vote on the issue. Councilman Nodjomian stated that this method of operation is keep order and follow a process to get an action approved. If you have input to an action you can raise your hand to be recognized such as discussion on a topic, a motion, or second. The process allows the person recording the minutes to accurately record who made a motion, who seconded the motion and who voted on it (for or against). This is very important especially if you want to refer back to the minutes. Discussion followed.

Update on the Public Records Law and the Sunshine Law - Councilman Nodjomian

Sunshine Law

Councilman Nodjomian stated this leads into the second part of the process and that is we operate in the sunshine and the youth council falls under the per view of the Sunshine Law. He stated that Mr Dixie Powell our City Attorney drew up a document taken directly from the Florida States. He stated it was 3 pages long which is too long and cumbersome for our purpose. He stated that he will cover the highlights and will send all pages to Mr Doucet so he can e-mail them to you.

Councilman Nodjomian briefed the following key points of the Sunshine Law for the new members.

- What is the Sunshine Law?

Florida's Government -in-the-Sunshine law provides a right of access to governmental proceedings at both the state and local levels. It applies to any gathering of two or more members of the same board to discuss some matter which will foresee ably come before that board for action. He sated there is also a constitutionally guaranteed right of access.

Virtually all state and local collegial public bodies are covered by the open meeting requirements of the law.

- What are the requirements of the Sunshine Law?

The Sunshine law requires that meetings of boards or commissions must be open to the public; reasonable notice of such meetings must be given, and minutes of the meeting must be taken.

- What agencies are covered under the Sunshine Law?

The Government-in the-Sunshine Law applies to any board of commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation or political subdivision.

- What qualifies as a meeting?

The Sunshine law applies to all discussion or deliberations as well as the formal action taken by a board or commission. The law, in essence is applicable to any gathering, whether formal or casual, of two or more members of the same board or commission to discuss some matter on which foreseeable action will be taken by the public board or commission. There is no requirement that a quorum be present for a meeting to be covered under the law. Councilman Nodjomian stated that you guys are friends and that is fine. You must be careful to discuss matters such as tutoring plans, etc unless you are in a public setting like this room.

- Can two members of a public board attend social functions together?

Members of a public board are not prohibited under the Sunshine law from meeting together socially, provided that matters which may come before the board are not discussed at such gatherings. Councilman Nodjomian stated that the Mayor is present at our meeting. He is not here as the Mayor for this meeting. I would love to talk to him about City business, however, I will have to wait until that gavel falls at 7:00 PM to do it correctly and comply with the Sunshine Law. So, you have to be careful which is very important. He stated you have done some great projects in the City and you can be proud of those accomplishments. However, the real purpose of the Youth Council is to represent the youth population of the City and more importantly to learn about local government. He stated that someday you will be in a position to serve on the regular council and you will be better prepared to take over that role because of your exposure as a Youth Council member.

Other Business:

Youth Council member Katrina Sherwin suggested the youth council consider conducting Mock Trial at some time-frame in the future to learn more about the process. Discussion followed.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

RECORDING SECRETARY