

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#4-2021**

DATE: Feb. 22, 2021
TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members
THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*
FROM: Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture *ajp*
SUBJECT: Youth Commission Annual Report

PURPOSE

To provide City Council with an update regarding recent activities of the Northglenn Youth Commission.

BACKGROUND

At the conclusion of each quarter, members of the Northglenn Youth Commission provide City Council with a brief narrative report. At the conclusion of the first, second and third quarter, the report includes a narrative summary of activities and accomplishments from the last three months, as well as a preview of upcoming events and activities. At the end of the fourth quarter, both a written report and a narrative report are provided to summarize the entire year.

This report is for the year 2020. Youth Commission members Abhiyan Barailee, Isaiah Salgado Rael and Nazly Soufiani will be in attendance at the City Council meeting to present the report. They will provide an update regarding the following topics:

- Community Co-Production Policing research and discussion
- Race and equity training
- Voter registration support
- Virtual meetings
- Teen vaping
- Cold weather kits
- Goal setting
- DRCOG Regional Transportation Plan Youth Advisory Committee
- Holiday fun

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

This item is for informational purposes only.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is for informational purposes only.

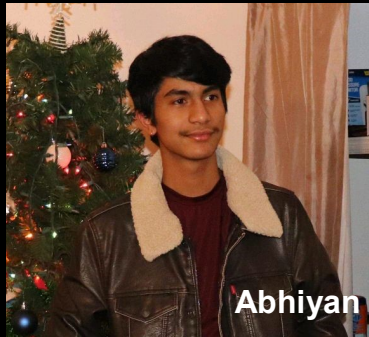
STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any questions, please contact Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, at apeterson@northglenn.org or 303.450.8950.

ATTACHMENT

1. 2020 Northglenn Youth Commission Annual Report

Northglenn Youth Commission



Abhiyan



Meera



Lily



Elizabeth



Isaiah



Nazly



Zen



Ben

2020 Annual Report

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Meetings

The Youth Commission Board of Directors holds a meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., these meetings are currently being held virtually. The first meeting of the month is a formal business meeting; the second is a working meeting. Agendas and minutes, along with other board documents, can be found at www.northglenn.org/NYC. All Youth Commission meetings are open to the public. Youth who are interested in joining the Youth Commission or those that have an idea to share are encouraged to attend.

Join the Board

To be eligible, interested youth must be between the ages of 13 and 18, and live in Northglenn or attend school in the Adams 12 Five Star School District. Applications are available on the city's website at www.northglenn.org/nyc.

Current Members

The following individuals served on the Youth Commission's Board of Directors at some point during 2020. Youth Commissioners serve one-year terms, any member in good standing may be reappointed for consecutive terms.

- Abhiyan Barailee, Vice Secretary*
- Meera Bipin, Secretary*
- Kiera Carillo, Board Member
- Ben Cathcart, Board Member*
- Lily Cunis, President*
- Elizabeth Donnici, Vice President*
- Zen Kretsinger, Vice Treasurer*
- Carlos Manriquez, Board Member
- Isaiah Salgado Rael, Treasurer*
- Shelby Rosner, Board Member
- Nazly Soufiani, Board Member*
- Jacob Tow, President, Vice Secretary

* denotes December 2020 active board members

Recent Graduates

This year we said goodbye to two graduating seniors, Shelby Rosner and Jacob Tow.

Shelby joined the Youth Commission in the fall of 2019, as a senior at Horizon High School. Throughout high school she was heavily involved in her school's theatre program. She also earned the AP Scholar with Distinction award, and helped found her school's first chapter of the Science National Honor Society. Shelby is attending CU Boulder, as a double major in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Jacob joined the Youth Commission in March 2018, and served as the Youth Commission President. He graduated from Stargate and is now attending Colorado College, majoring in math and political science.



Board Openings

As of the end of 2020, there were 7 vacancies available on the Youth Commission's Board of Directors. Recruitment for new board members was challenging in 2020, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several applications have been submitted, but none of the applicants have been able to attend a meeting due to scheduling conflicts with school or other extra-curricular activities. The openings are posted on the Youth Commission's webpage, and have been promoted in the Northglenn Connection and on social media. Once meetings are able to fully resume in person, additional outreach will be initiated to fill any remaining vacancies.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Police Department Assessment

By Zen Kretsinger

Over the summer of 2020, discussions about policing were happening on a national level, and Northglenn was not an exception. The Youth Commission wanted to help make the community a better place, and so decided to do research and find out more about the options that Northglenn was looking at. We spoke with City Manager Heather Geyer to find out more. Northglenn had requested an assessment of the police system several months before, and it just happened to be complete around the times many conversations were happening. In addition to our discussion with the City Manager, we also reviewed the executive summary of the assessment, as well as listened to the Telephone Town Hall discussion that was held with community members, police department representatives and City Council members. The type of system that seemed the best choice was Community Co-Production Policing, or CCPP, which is a way that residents are able to assist with shaping how public safety services work. The Youth Commission voiced our support for CCPP to Becky Brown, our City Council Ex-Officio, in the hopes that this can be a step in making Northglenn a safe and inclusive place for all members of our community.

Race and Equity Training

By Nazly Soufiani

The Race and Equity training with Dr. Naomi Nishi was one of the first events that I was a part of while in Youth Commission. It was eye-opening to learn about how crucial the articulation of our words and language is when it comes to combating harmful microaggressions and racial stereotypes.

One of the most important parts of working towards bettering the community is hearing from a diverse range of voices that have different perspectives to offer than we do, and a big factor that affects many people's daily lives is fighting racism, whether on an individual or systemic basis. Diversity, equality, and inclusion all lead us to a healthier, and more positive, atmosphere and help keep all members of the community safe.

I even had the opportunity to look at my individual experience with microaggressions and how they impacted me, which is something I never thought to look back on. Along with learning about racism in the modern world, we also had the opportunity to learn about the origin of race and how it has largely worked hand and hand with colonialization during the 15th and 16th century. People of color face a multitude of obstacles due to systemic racism, and this training not only helped me see race differently on a systemic level but also on a personal and individual level. Overall, with today's climate and social progress, I think that it would be helpful for everyone to take a race and equity training course in order to effectively and efficiently address encounters with racism in our day to day lives.

Naomi W. Nishi

As a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver, Naomi's research focuses on building racial inclusivity and deconstructing whiteness in the higher education classroom. Specifically, through her work, Naomi explores the interplay of whiteness and identity in college/university students and identifies and deconstructs projections and performances of whiteness particularly in the classroom.



PROJECTS

Voter Registration

By Abhiyan Barailee

One of the Youth Commission's goals this year was to support participation in the 2020 general election. The City Clerk, Johanna Small, was able to join us for our August meeting. She provided us with information about voter registration, helping us better understand eligibility for voter registration in Colorado and how voter registration drives work. Although we would have liked to do an in-person voter registration drive, this just wasn't an option for us this year. In addition to the challenges posed by the pandemic, there was only about two months left until the election. With encouragement from Amanda Peterson and a push from some members, the Youth commission decided to move forward with the project.

Our next step was to discuss and decide on the logistics of this project. Many different ideas came along, and the Youth Commissioners decided to hold a virtual voter registration drive (VRD). Utilizing resources from the Colorado Secretary of State that the City Clerk provided, Amanda held a VRD training with all of the Youth Commissioners. We also developed a fact sheet and graphics that could be posted on social media or printed and put up at schools.

Register to Vote!

It's Simple!

1. Scan the QR code or visit www.govotecolorado.gov
2. Have a Colorado drivers license or ID? Register online in minutes
3. No Colorado ID? Complete the paper form and submit it (instructions are in the link)

Northglenn Youth Commission
Giving a Voice to Northglenn's Youth!

Each Youth Commissioner contacted their school administrators to get permission to promote the VRD. Youth Commissioners at Northglenn High School, Legacy High School, Mountain Range High School, Horizon High School, New Vista High School and Faith Christian Academy encouraged students who were 16 and older to participate. Some schools allowed for posters to be put up in the hallways, in others, individual classroom teachers shared the fact sheet and gave students the opportunity to register to vote during class. Representatives from Hulstrom Options K-8 promoted voter registration to parents, teachers or older siblings.

We look forward to being able to hold an in-person voter registration drive in the future.

Virtual Meetings

By Elizabeth Donnici

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Youth Commission held off meetings to maintain CDC guidelines amid city and county closures. We did not have any meetings through the month of March with the uncertainty of knowing when places would open back up. On May 19 we had our first meeting using RingCentral and got to catch up and see how everyone was doing with remote education and work. These virtual meetings were continued all through the summer and we still meet the first and third of each month (virtually). It has been great for the Youth Commission to have this continued source of support and sense of community through tough times on top of us creating that community for other people. We can't wait to get back in person but in the meantime, we're going to have plenty of fun online!



TEEN VAPING FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR



Devan Lorimer
Health Education Specialist
Tri-County Health Department



Molly Huffman
Dean of Students
Northglenn High School



Lynn Riemer
President and Founder
ACT on Drugs, Inc.



Dr. Evan Stepp
Faculty Pulmonary and
Critical Care Physician
National Jewish Health

Abhiyan Barailee
Board Member
Northglenn Youth Commission



Teen Vaping Project

By Abhiyan Barailee

The Youth Commission has been working with the teen vaping project team from Rocky Mountain Cradle to Career (RMC2C) since the fall of 2019. We worked with RMC2C team side by side to conduct research about teen vaping and attitudes towards vaping. We learned about vaping and data collection methods and we helped to create the survey that they used to complete their research. The Youth Commission also helped to get survey takers from their community and school. Every youth commissioner reached out to their community and school to get both teens and parents of teens to take the survey. Many of us took the survey, as well.

Once the RMC2C team completed their research, we again met as a group. They presented all of the data they had collected, and were beginning to prepare a presentation of their results and recommendations to the Northglenn City Council. We had the opportunity to share our reactions to the data and provide feedback regarding each of the recommendations that the RMC2C team intended to bring forward to City Council. Although we supported City Council moving forward with legislation that would make it more difficult for youth to access vaping supplies or other nicotine products, we also felt like education about the dangers of vaping to both teens and their parents would be of the greatest benefit. Based on our own experiences, we believe this can best be accomplished by providing factual information and direct discussions with a trusted and knowledgeable adult.

In August 2020, Northglenn's HEAL (Healthy Eating & Active Living) committee, with support from RMC2C, the Tri-County Health Department and city staff, contacted us with an invitation to plan and design a virtual webinar to help educate the community about teen vaping. Abhiyan represented the Northglenn Youth Commission during the planning process, and also participated in the live webinars.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
CRADLE TO CAREER
PARTNERSHIP

Cold Weather Kits

By Meera Bipin

One of the projects that we identified as a high priority this year was to address the issue of homelessness in the community. We met with the Community Resource Navigator, Jessica Hulse, to learn more about how we could help support people that are experiencing homelessness. She told



us about a program operated by Almost Home, the Severe Weather Activation Plan (SWAP). During our brainstorming session we decided that we wanted to take action to develop a project to support SWAP. We decided to seek out funding to assemble cold weather kits that would be donated to Almost Home that they could distribute out when SWAP was activated. The Northglenn Community Foundation agreed to donate \$500.00 to purchase items for these kits. We assembled 24 cold weather kits that included protein bars, blankets, gloves, hats, hand warmers, neck gaiters, and socks. These kits were delivered to Almost Home in January.

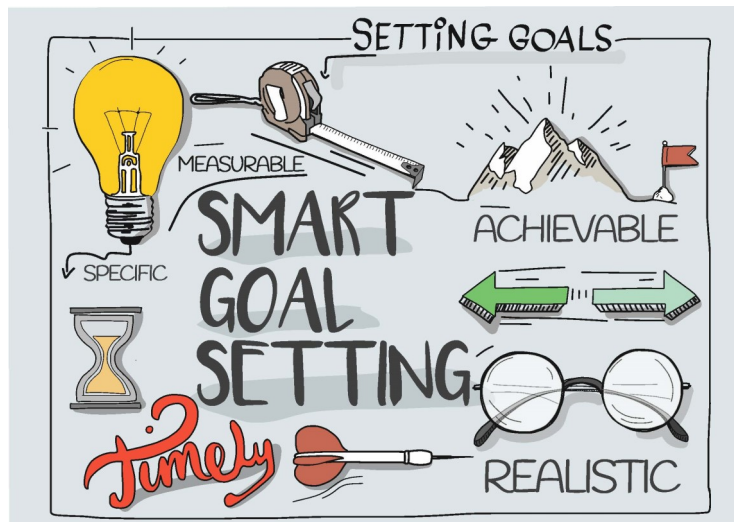
Goal Setting

By Nazly Soufiani

During our goal-setting session in August we were all able to come up with issues that we wanted to tackle, and ideas to help us accomplish the new goals that were set.

It was riveting to hear everyone introduce new goals, concepts to work on and break down larger topics into more approachable sections, as well as each member's subjective solution to the problem presented. We were able to set a timeline, come up with a list of resources within the city that we could contact to help, and the steps we can take to access our project solution. Personally, this session made me realize what issues my fellow youth commissioners are interested in working with and also disclosed topics that I later researched my own interest in. Due to Covid-19 we also had to think about how to adapt to the circumstances of this year, and how we could implement safe and easy solutions in order to reach our common goal. One goal that we had thought of during this brainstorming session was how we could contribute to the homeless epidemic happening in the city, especially during this cold winter. The solution that we thought of was teaming up with SWAP to deliver kits full of necessities that people experiencing homelessness are in need of. As a team, we were able to collaborate, compromise, and come up with an effective solution to the goal that we were trying to reach.

All in all, this goal-setting session was a productive way to see what my fellow youth commissioners were interested in accomplishing, and how their ideas intertwined with my own! Through hard work, cooperation, and a positive mindset we were able to follow through with our plans and reach our goals!



DRCOG Regional Transportation Plan

By Lily Cunis



MVRTP Youth Advisory Panel
April 29, 2020

The Northglenn Youth Commission was invited to participate in the Youth Advisory Panel for the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). The role of this advisory panel is to provide feedback on the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. DRCOG wanted to have a panel of youth leaders throughout the Denver-Metro area to share their thoughts on the long-term transportation plan since this generation will be most affected. The Northglenn Youth Commission chose to participate because we wanted to voice Northglenn youths' opinions on a regional scale. We had three representatives who participated throughout the year - Jacob Tow, Isaiah Salgado Rael, and Lily Cunis. The meetings began in 2019 with in-person meetings and continued in a virtual format through 2020.

During the meetings, we discussed what we would like to see Colorado transportation look like in 2050. The most critical transportation challenges which we wanted to address were traffic congestion, transportation costs, and transit service. While discussing ways to fix Colorado transportation, we also wanted to highlight the importance of reducing impacts on the natural environment.

In addition to providing our opinions, we learned about the process used to develop a large-scale, long-term plan. We were given different scenarios, and learned how to set priorities and address budget challenges.

The priorities identified by the Youth Advisory Panel provided to some of the other advisory panels and were taken into account when finalizing the draft of the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. There still remains at least two more meetings in the upcoming year to review the draft and see the final plan.

2020 Holiday Fun

Although things looked a bit different this year, the Youth Commission still set aside some time to celebrate the year's accomplishments. This year's celebration took place virtually, with Youth Commissioners spending some time learning more about one another with a little Kahoot! trivia. Youth Commissioners submitted little-known facts about themselves, and played against one another to see who could accumulate the most points. In addition, each Youth Commissioner received a box of goodies in the mail, complete with cookies, cocoa, a notebook and a few other fun items.





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