



**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#3-2021**

DATE: Feb. 27, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager 

FROM: Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture 

SUBJECT: Youth Commission Annual Report

PURPOSE

To present City Council the 2022 Northglenn Youth Commission Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

Throughout the year, members of the Northglenn Youth Commission provide City Council with a brief narrative report. At the end of the year, both a written report and a narrative report are provided to summarize the entire year.

This report is for the year 2022. Youth Commission members Meera Bipin and Nazly Soufiani will attend the City Council meeting to present the report. They will provide an update regarding the following topics:

- Board membership and recruiting
- Healthy beverages initiative
- Gaming with the Chief
- Addressing homelessness
- D.I.S.E. Power Imbalance
- Flower bed planting
- Safe Street Halloween
- Recent graduates
- Goal setting
- Holiday fun

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or time impacts to the City.

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 & Culture, at apeterson@northglenn.org or 303.450.8950.

ATTACHMENT

1. 2022 Northglenn Youth Commission Annual Report

Northglenn Youth Commission



2022 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. 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.

Board Openings

As of December 2022, there were 10 vacancies available on the Youth Commission's Board of Directors and two pending applications to be finalized in 2023. During 2022, several applications were submitted, and one new member joined the board. The openings are posted on the Youth Commission's webpage, social media, Northglenn Recreation Guide, and have been promoted in the Northglenn Connection, a direct-mail postcard to residents, and on social media. Additional outreach was done to fill vacancies by having a presence at Northglenn events and local back-to-school nights, increasing social media presence and updating language on existing outreach efforts to be more inclusive.

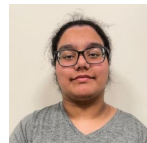
Current Members

The following individuals served on the Youth Commission's Board of Directors at some point during 2022. Youth Commissioners serve one-year terms; any member in good standing may be reappointed for consecutive terms.



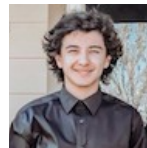
Meera Bipin*
President
Legacy High School

Elizabeth Donnici*
Vice President
Mountain Range



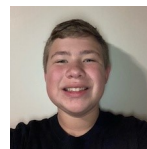
Akaam Alex Sandhu*
Treasurer
Horizon High School

Nazly Soufiani*
Secretary
Legacy High School



Ben Cathcart*
Board Member
Horizon High School

Isaiah Salgado Rael*
Board Member
Horizon High School



Griffin Wood*
Board Member
STEM Lab

Not pictured:

- Zen Kretsinger, Board Member
- Breezy Johnson, Applicant
- Suyash Shrestha, Applicant*
- Mikayla Utt, Applicant*

*denotes December 2022 active board members

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TCHD Healthy Beverages

By Meera Bipin and Nazly Soufiani

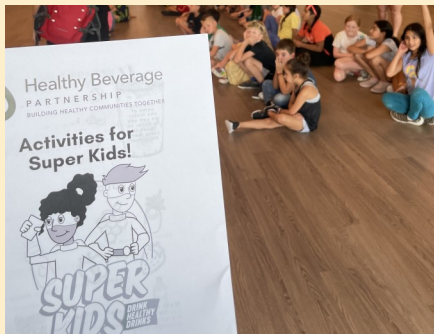
The Youth Commission continued to assist the Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) Healthy Beverages Committee in 2022. Over summer break, Elizabeth and Isaiah developed informational activity booklets for children to be handed out to summer camps and schools. They led a presentation about how to make healthy beverage choices for the Northglenn Day Camp and provided them with some of the booklets to take home.

In September, staff from the TCHD (now Adams County Health Department) joined a Youth Commission work meeting to present a documentary titled “El Susto.” This film was about the effects of widespread Coca-Cola marketing in Mexico and how the daily consumption of sugary soda has led to life-limiting health issues for millions of Mexican families. This documentary influenced Meera and Nazly to join the Healthy Beverages Committee.

TCHD’s Healthy Beverages Committee continues to work on passing a local ordinance that requires Northglenn restaurants to advertise healthier drink options in kids’ bundle menus. Sugary drinks for kids would still be available by request only, but the marketed drink of choice would include milk or water.



Isaiah and Elizabeth presenting to Northglenn Day Camp.



A guest youth, Nazly and Meera filming a promo video with Chief May.

Gaming with the Chief

By Griffin Wood

While collaborating with the Diversity, Inclusivity, and Social Equity (DISE) Board on a priority project, the Youth Commissioners were introduced to Chief May, the Chief of Police with the Northglenn Police Department. Chief May talked with the Youth Commission about wanting to connect police officers with youth in Northglenn by running a ‘Gaming with the Chief’ activity either at schools, at the Recreation Center, or at the Police Department.

The Youth Commission provided feedback, recorded content for a video advertisement, and offered to help make the flyer for the Chief’s Info Session.

Starting February 1, 2023, Gaming with the Chief now takes place at the Northglenn Recreation Center during the Wednesday Club REC teen program. During that time, youth ages 10 to 17 can play video or board games with Chief May and other police officers.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Address Homelessness

By Alex Sandhu

Homelessness is a growing problem in Colorado, and Youth Commission was proud to show continued support for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) this year. Projects that Youth Commission have done this year include: assisting PEH by purchasing supplies for meals served at the City's temporary shelter, meeting with the Northglenn Crisis Response Unit (CRU) to learn about CRU and issues that people experiencing homelessness are facing, and meeting with the director of ACCESS Housing to coordinate a school supply drive for children experiencing homelessness. The first pop-up supply drive was at Noel Northglenn. In 2022, Youth Commission made a dent in this crisis.



Nazly and Alex at Noel Northglenn collecting school supplies and sharing information about Youth Commission.

D.I.S.E. Power Imbalance

By Alex Sandhu

The 2021 listening session sparked the Youth Commission's desire to uplift youth voices and be more involved with the Diversity, Inclusivity, and Social Equity (DISE) Board in 2022.

This began with Youth Commissioners sitting in at DISE Board meetings to gain an understanding of the DISE Board's goals and needs in the community. The Youth Commission then invited a DISE liaison to attend a Youth Commission meeting and explore ways that their combined efforts could make an impact for youth in the community. The Youth Commission and DISE Board then held a joint meeting in May and decided to collaborate at the AAPI booth during Food Truck Carnival.

The Youth Commission also spoke with a representative from Adams County Pride and provided advice and guidance on youth-focused activities for their Pride event, supported the use of gender-neutral language in the Municipal Code, and normalized the use of asking about preferred pronouns at Youth Commission meetings, activities and events.

The community involvement that spawned from these partnerships are now become ingrained in future Youth Commission priority projects.



Isaiah and DISE Board members at the AAPI booth at Food Truck Carnival.



VOLUNTEERING

Flower Bed Planting

By Nazly Soufiani

This May, Elizabeth and Nazly volunteered to plant flowers in the Youth Commission's flower bed at E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park. The Commissioners planted marigolds with the hope of beautifying our park for the summer season. This is an annual tradition that we wish to continue as it allows our members to explore nature in Northglenn and bond with one another, as well as those in the community.

This collaborative and immersive experience is one of the many activities that inspired the Youth Commission to focus on community outreach in 2023.



Nazly and Elizabeth planting the Veteran's Memorial planter bed at E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park.

Safe Street Halloween

By Alex Sandhu

This year's Safe Street Halloween was a blast, with many families almost overwhelming the Youth Commission's sugar cookie decorating stand. Being able to dress up and serve cookies to happy kids was nothing but a delight, despite decorative sprinkles scattering everywhere. Past and present Youth Commissioners volunteered to create a surprisingly efficient factory line of decorating cookies for the hectic onslaught of incoming kids. The return of the traditional cookie decorating booth proved extremely popular with the community, and Commissioners ended up giving away all 700 cookies before the event was over.



Alex, Elizabeth, Isaiah and a guest teen icing and decorating sugar cookies at Safe Street Halloween.



Recent Graduates

By Meera Bipin

This year, we are honoring two graduating seniors from the Youth Commission, Elizabeth Donnici and Ben Cathcart.



Elizabeth accepting City Council's Service Award.

Elizabeth Donnici

Elizabeth has been on the Youth Commission for about 7 years and has participated in many different events within Northglenn. One of her most memorable Youth Commission projects was establishing Free Little Libraries at three different elementary schools to increase literacy rates within the community. As a Youth Commission, we were able to present these Little Libraries to the schools and excited students. One of Elizabeth's favorite Youth Commission memories is working together on an escape room for a past holiday party. After being a part of the Northglenn Youth Commission, Elizabeth learned the importance of addressing issues that youth face. During her time on

the Commission, she has held President, Vice-President, and Secretary Roles. Her future plans are to attend Colorado State University and pursue a Business Management and International Business degree.

Ben Cathcart

Ben Cathcart joined the Youth Commission right before he turned 13 and has been able to participate in a variety of different community events. Ben enjoyed being a part of the Free Little Library project in 2018, selling burritos during events, the Farmers Highline Canal Clean-ups, and meeting existing and new members of the Youth Commission. Attending the Youth Commission has helped him grow his work ethic and help him socialize with peers. Ben will graduate from Horizon High School this spring and plans to attend Colorado State University in the fall.



Ben painting Free Little Libraries.

Congratulations to both of our graduating seniors and thank you for your many years of service as board members for the Northglenn Youth Commission!

NORTHGLENN YOUTH COMMISSION PRIORITY PROJECTS

By: Meera Bipin & Nazly Soufiani

Public Health

1. Learn more about public health with a focus on the Northglenn community.
2. Host events throughout the year that concern public health.

Community Engagement

1. Volunteer at various Northglenn events and create opportunities for others to join.
2. Promote events through social media to raise attendance.

Updating By-Laws

1. Take time to review and revise bylaws.
2. Dedicate a work meeting to this process. Date to be set.



2023 Goal Setting

By Meera Bipin and Nazly Soufiani

As we reached the end of our 2022 year, it was time for us to start preparing for our 2023 year by brainstorming what we wanted our priority projects to be. By using the SMART goal method, we were able to narrow down some of our ideas into efficient and effective goals. When discussing, there were a few common interests within the group.

Public health was selected due to many of our members volunteering with the Tri-Country Health Department this year.

Community engagement was inspired by our community-centered volunteer work, and our desire to further connect with the Northglenn community.

Updating our by-laws is a side project inspired by wanting to know our own bylaws better and updating them to incorporate some of the 2022 goals, such as including gender-neutral language.

For the 2023 year, we hope to develop and carry out specific projects that will help us achieve our goals.

2022 Holiday Fun

by Alex Sandhu

With such a busy year, Youth Commissioners were able to take a moment to de-stress with some Holiday cheer. Playing some Mario games on the Nintendo Switch, eating casual party snacks, and building a gingerbread house together were great ways to end the year, even if some members reasonably prioritized studying for finals over attending. Truly, what is better than wholeheartedly aiming to win against your friends in a series of video games while eating snacks?



Gingerbread house made by attendees of the holiday celebration.



Contact us at:
teens@northglenn.org
303.450.8844
www.northglenn.org/nyc