

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#9-2020**

DATE: February 24, 2020
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 2019 Annual Report

PURPOSE

Youth Commission members Jacob Tow, Abhiyan Barailee and Kiera Carillo will be in attendance at the Council meeting to present the 2019 annual report.

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 annual report and a narrative report are provided.

The Northglenn Youth Commission 2019 Annual Report is included as Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is informational in nature; no action is necessary.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any questions or comments, they may contact Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, at apeterson@northglenn.org or 303.450.8950.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Northglenn Youth Commission 2019 Annual Report

Northglenn Youth Commission



2019 Annual Report



CITY OF
Northglenn

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. at the Northglenn Recreation Center. 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 just 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 Board of Directors at some point during 2019. Youth Commissioners serve one-year terms, any member in good standing may be reappointed for consecutive terms.

- Meera Bipin, Board Member
- Ben Cathcart, Secretary
- Miriah Christian, Board Member
- Lily Cunis, President
- Elizabeth Donnici, Vice President
- Aidan Earls, Board Member
- Jarrett Lobb, Treasurer
- Thomas Lovato, Board Member
- Everett Renberg, Vice President
- Isaiah Salgado Rael, Board Member
- Shelby Rosner, Board Member
- Jacob Tow, President, Vice Secretary



This summer we said goodbye to two board members. Everett Renberg graduated from high school and went on to college; Lily Cunis left to spend her junior year of high school in Germany for a study abroad program. We hope to have her back as a member of the Youth Commission for the 2020-2021 school year, as she completes her senior year of high school back in Colorado. Each was honored at a City Council meeting with a dedicated service award.

New Members

During the past year, the Youth Commission began to seek additional members.

As a result of this effort, the board welcomed six new members who have either been appointed or are in the application process — Abhiyan Barailee, Meera Bipin, Kiera Carillo, Zen Kretsinger, Carlos Manriquez, Isaiah Salgado Rael and Shelby Rosner. Thank you for your commitment to giving a voice to Northglenn's youth!

2019 Team Building

To finish off a great year, the Youth Commission had their annual Christmas party. We celebrated the many accomplishments the Youth Commission reached. The commissioners got together at Puzzle Effect. Both teams followed the clues, worked together (and “escaped” on time!) which made a fun night. After completing the escape rooms, Youth Commissioners went to Jim ‘N Nick’s BBQ, ate delicious food and shared gifts in a white elephant exchange. It was a great way to finish the year!



Community Engagement

As a youth commission we try to be involved inside of Northglenn individually or in small groups. This past year we have interacted with outside organizations including the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and Adams County Youth Initiative (ACYI).

In 2018 we talked with staff from ACYI, and learned about the Technology Assisted Girl Ambassador (TEGA) program. We learned that other teens are being trained to help gather survey data from youth in the community. This year, we again worked with ACYI and the TEGA's to conduct research about youth tobacco use. We are looking forward to receiving the results of the research early in 2020, and using that information to help make a recommendation to City Council about youth access to tobacco products.

In November, the Northglenn Youth Commission began an exciting new collaboration with 17 other youth commissions and councils from around the Denver metro region as part of the DRCOG Youth Advisory Panel. DRCOG is in the process of developing the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, which will shape transportation in the Denver area over the next several decades. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Panel is to offer youth input in the development process. The Northglenn Youth Commission sent a delegation of two Commissioners to the panel's first meeting, at which we discussed the issues we would like to see most prioritized in the new transportation plan. The Youth Commission will continue to work with DRCOG and the Youth Advisory Panel over the coming year.

The Northglenn Youth Commission is always willing to participate in community engagement activities, and has a desire to continue to participate in events that ensure the voices of Northglenn youth are heard.

Little Libraries

Each year, the Northglenn Youth Commission discusses our goals for the year and then selects one or two projects to take on as a group that support those goals. One of our goals during the past two years has been to improve literacy and help foster a love of reading with kids in our community.

Using our Read Across America Day efforts as a starting point, we thought about ways that we could continue to encourage kids and the community as a whole to read. In late 2018, we decided that Little Libraries would one way that we could continue supporting literacy in our community. By the end of the year, we purchased one Little Library, and were working on a plan to build a second one.

In 2019, we developed a partnership with three local schools, North Mor Elementary, Malley Drive Elementary and Hillcrest Elementary. We met with their school staff, talked about where the Little Libraries could be installed and worked with district level staff to obtain the necessary approval.

Youth Commissioners secured donations from Lowe's, Home Depot, King Soopers and Wal Mart for building supplies and the purchase of new books. In addition, Youth Commissioners collected gently used books from friends and family and received additional donated books from a book drive at Hulstrom Options. Books were for all ages, and included books in Spanish and a variety of genres.

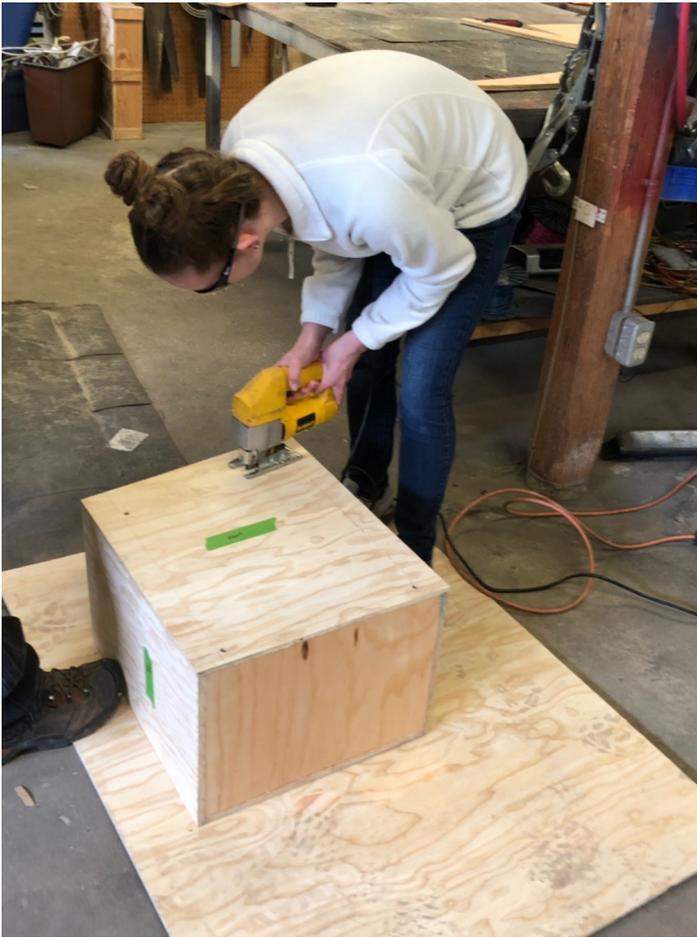
The Little Libraries were installed in early May at each of the three elementary schools. Official dedication ceremonies were held at all three schools on Monday, May 13. Youth Commissioners, along with students, teachers, principals, the Mayor and City Council members, presented the brand new Little Libraries to each school. During the dedication ceremonies, students were taught how to responsibly use the libraries by practicing the take-a-book, leave-a-book principle. Youth Commissioners each selected their favorite book, either from when they were younger or a current favorite, to place in the Little Libraries. The students even got the chance to tell us about some of their favorite books, and helped fill the Little Libraries with books.

The ceremonies were the culmination of over a year of planning, building, and organizing, and it was so rewarding to see how excited the students were! We hope the Little Libraries will be a source of pride and enjoyment for Northglenn.



PROJECTS

VOLUNTEERISM



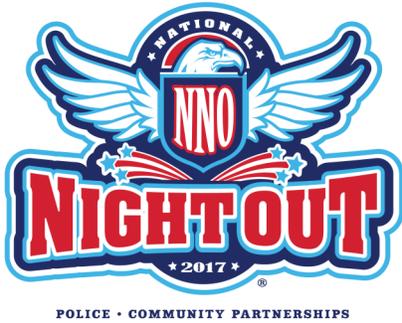
Flowerbed

We also helped plant the Veteran's Memorial flower bed with new flowers for the summer season. This has been an event that we do annually and was originally created to honor veterans in our community. Each year we work with city staff to plant, weed, and eventually clear the bed.

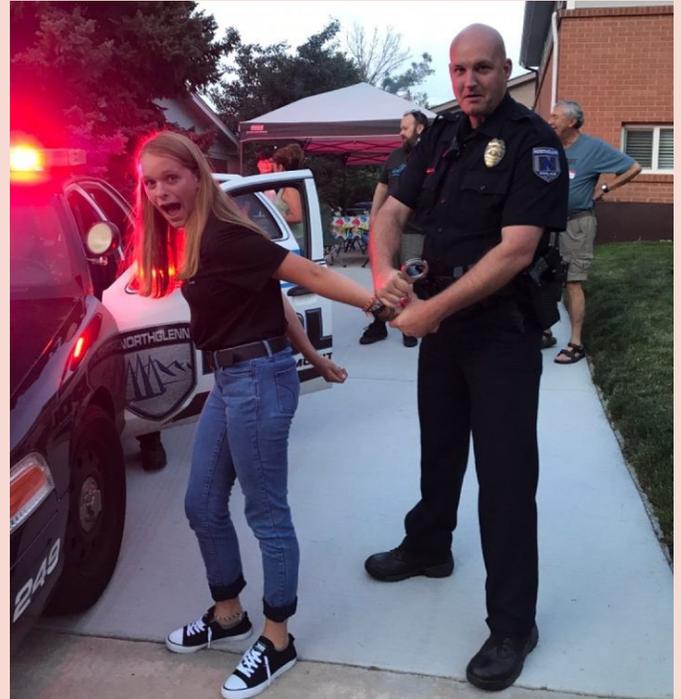
The bed is always planted in red, white and blue, in honor of our veterans. The bed is located on the west side of E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park.

National Night Out

On August 6, the Northglenn Youth Commission sent some of their members out to ride along with police officers and visit block parties that community members were holding. This is a great experience for Northglenn to come together and the Youth Commission to recruit. As the commissioners go around to the neighborhoods, they get a chance to meet new people, get people involved, have people understand what the Youth Commission is, and most importantly, build the relationship between Northglenn citizens and the police officers. It was a great chance to build the sense of community on top of having some fun.



EVENT SUPPORT



Derby Day

This was the first year that the Youth Commission participated in Derby Day. We sold burritos and water as a fundraiser for Relay for Life.

It was fun to see children participate in a fishing competition at E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park. Youth that attended this event could also get free bikes and a free helmet, and finally could also learn how to do minor repairs on bikes with a free workshop. We enjoyed being a part of this long-standing community event!



Safe Street Halloween

Another event the Northglenn Youth Commission helped with this year was Safe Street Halloween. The purpose of Safe Street was to ensure that children got to participate in a safe trick or treating environment, and having all the fun in the world while doing so. Safe Street was hosted by Chief May and the rest of the incredible Northglenn Police Department. There were many different activity booths and “haunted” rooms, each one having its own theme and candy. Our own Northglenn Youth Commission hosted the final booth, a sugar cookie stand. We were lucky to have Cakes by Karen provide us with our delicious cookies. The Northglenn Youth Commission gave out more than 1,200 cookies to kids and families throughout the night, and while that number seems huge, it was nothing compared to how many people attended the event. Over 5,000 people were in attendance, and the lines were so long, that they wrapped around Huron Street. Hopefully, the event continues to grow!



Noel Northglenn

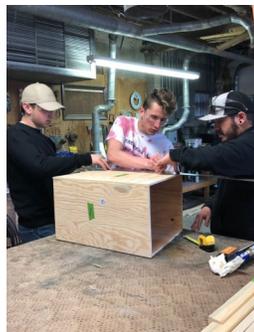
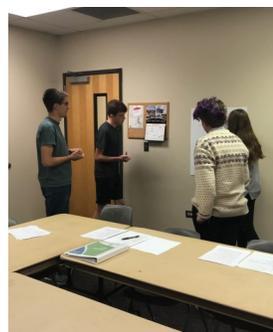
On December 7th, the Northglenn Youth Commission volunteered to help with clean up after Noel Northglenn. Many hands make a huge task a little easier, as we packed all of the holiday festivities away for next year. The Northglenn Youth Commission love attending Noel Northglenn and hope to continue to volunteer at this event in the future.



50 Years of Photos Open House

On February 5, Youth Commissioners attended the 50 Years of Photos Open House at the Northglenn Senior Center. At this event, the commissioners had a chance to meet Chad Bolsinger, the artist selected to complete the 50 year anniversary tunnel mural project. Along with fellow community members, we shared ideas and inspirations to help inform the design of the mural. We also had the opportunity to reflect on some of our favorite memories of Northglenn.

50 YEARS • 1969-2019



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