

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#06-2019**

DATE: March 11, 2019
TO: Honorable Mayor Carol Dodge and City Council Members
THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*
FROM: Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture *ajp*
SUBJECT: Northglenn Youth Commission Annual Report

PURPOSE

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. Youth Commission Vice President Everett Renberg and Youth Commission Board Members Ben Cathcart and Jacob Tow will be in attendance at the Council meeting to present the narrative report.

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

BACKGROUND

The 2018 annual report is attached. The report includes an overview of the current board members, as well as a summary of all of the activities that the Youth Commission has been a part of in 2018.

During 2018, the Northglenn Youth Commission volunteered or participated in the following events and activities

- Recruiting new members
- Team Building
- Community Engagement
- Read Across America Day
- Farmers Highline Canal Cleanup
- Veteran's Memorial Flowerbed
- Derby Day
- Flapjacks and Fireworks Four Mile Run
- National Night Out
- Relay for Life
- Safe Street Halloween
- Noel Northglenn
- Bike Cleanup
- Little Libraries

STAFF REFERENCE

For additional information, please contact Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture at apeterson@northglenn.org or 303.450.8950.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Northglenn Youth Commission Annual Report

Northglenn Youth Commission



2018 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. 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

There are 9 seated Youth Commission Board Members. Youth Commissioners serve one-year terms, any member in good standing may be reappointed for consecutive terms.

- Lily Cunis, President
- Everett Renberg, Vice President
- Ben Cathcart, Secretary
- Jarrett Lobb, Treasurer
- Jacob Tow, Vice Secretary
- Miriah Christian, Board Member
- Aidan Earls, Board Member
- Elizabeth Donnici, Board Member
- Thomas Lovato, Board Member

This summer we said goodbye to eight board members as they graduated from high school and moved on to college. It was bittersweet to say goodbye to Savannah Van Duyn, Allie Donnici, Natalie Grambart, Chandler Sanchez, Cindy Ornelas, Peyton Larsen, Mariah Witkowski and Isabelle Cunis. 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, knowing that there were eight graduating seniors.

As a result of this effort, the board welcomed six new members— Everett Renberg, Jarrett Lobb, Ben Cathcart, Jacob Tow, Thomas Lovato and Elizabeth Donnici. Thank you for your commitment to giving a voice to Northglenn's youth!

As of the end of 2018, there are six vacancies available on the Youth Commission's Board of Directors.

2018 Team Building

This year was a new start for many of the Youth Commissioners. The Youth Commission board members spent some time this year becoming familiar with how the Youth Commission operates, developing goals and sharing ideas. The group chose to participate in many of the long-standing activities that Youth Commissioners have participated in during the nearly 17 year history, and took on some new challenges, as well.

As the year wrapped up, the team celebrated their successes and continued to get to know one another with a little fun. The Youth Commission enjoyed an outing to “Defy,” where they spent an evening eating pizza, having fun with a White Elephant gift exchange and challenging one another on the trampolines and other fun obstacles.



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 Food for Hope, the Adams County Youth Initiative and Northglenn Arts.

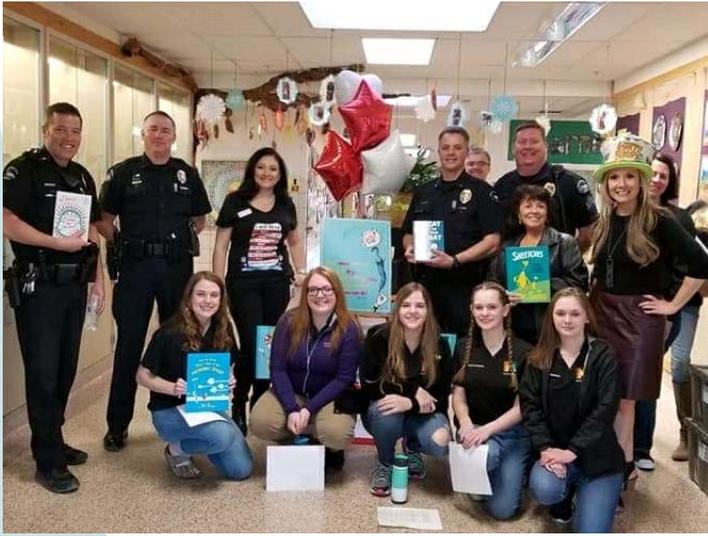
Last summer, we talked with staff from Adams County Youth Initiative, and learned about the Technology Assisted Girl Ambassador (TEGA) program. We spent on of our regular Youth Commission meetings talking with the staff from the TEGA program and learned that other teens are being trained to help gather survey data from youth in the community.



Staff from Food for Hope came to the board to talk about their goal of having food available inside of high schools for students who need it. We were able to provide feedback from a youth perspective, which we hope was beneficial to them.

Two of our board members, Lily and Everett, were members of the Northglenn Mural Committee. We fully participated in the process to review artist portfolios and provide an opinion regarding which muralist could best help Northglenn commemorate its 50th anniversary. We even got to meet with the selected artist, Chad Bolsinger, and give input on what we think the mural should look like.

The Northglenn Youth Commission is always willing to help at events inside of Northglenn and having more community engagement.



Read Across America Day

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 supports those goals. One of our goals this year was to improve literacy and help foster a love of reading with kids in our community.

One project that the Youth Commission worked on this year was Read Across America Day. We worked with two schools, Malley Drive and Studio School, as well as representatives from the Northglenn Police Department and City Council.

We worked together to put together a plan for the day, secured donations and met with the school staff to get approval to host this fun event. We made arrangements for a City Council member or a police officer to read a book to every single class in each school. We even donated a Dr. Seuss book to each class as a memento of our day together.



Little Libraries

For our second project this year, we decided to continue to build from our Read Across America Day efforts. We again thought about ways that we could encourage kids and the community as a whole to read.

We decided that we would like to work on the development of Little Libraries in our community. We evaluated a variety of areas in the city, and reviewed their proximity to a library, as well as the number of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. From there, we reached out to several elementary schools that we thought might be a good fit.

We developed a partnership with two local schools, North Mor 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 approval to install them.

By the end of the year, we purchased one Little Library, and are working on a plan to build a second one. We have started collecting books, too. Our goal is to be able to install the Little Libraries at each of the two schools in the spring of 2019, before school is out for the summer.



PROJECTS

VOLUNTEERISM

Flowerbed We also helped plant the flower beds 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.



Farmers Highline Canal Cleanup The Farmers Highline Canal Cleanup was held on Saturday, March 17th, from 8:00 am through 11:30 am. Throughout this event, over 500 bags of trash were collected throughout the parks and trails in Northglenn.

The Youth Commission was assigned to the Fox Run Nature Area. We collected many bags of trash from the open space, and even found a tire.

Bike Clean Up

The Youth Commission also helped with the Holiday Bike Clean Up hosted by the Bike Guys and Jenni Murphy. We helped unload bikes from shipping containers, moved them across the M&O lot, cleaned them, then place them in the correct spot based off of what repairs the bikes needed to make them better for the children getting them. Many volunteers

showed up and the event was a success. Hundreds of bikes were all cleaned, repaired and sent out for delivery.



Relay for Life The Northglenn Youth Commission took part in the annual North Metro Relay For Life again this past fall.

Youth Commissioners worked together to raise over \$1,500 from sponsorships, luminaria sales and fundraising events. Youth Commissioners also volunteered to help with event set up. We put up signs, set up stations, and set out pamphlets. We also helped set up the luminaria presentation.

The goal of Relay for Life is to raise money and awareness for cancer research. One component of this event is to have at least one member of each team on the track during the entire event, representative of the fact that cancer won't stop until a cure is found. It was a very immersive experience and powerful show of what people can do and what the Northglenn Youth Commission is capable of.



Fireworks & Flapjacks

On the 4th of July, the Youth Commission assisted with the Fireworks and Flapjacks 4 Mile Run and Walk. We set up water stations along the race route and handed out water. We also cheered on the race participants as they passed by. This event took place from 7-11 a.m. After all the runners were done racing, we stayed to help with clean up.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 7th, the Youth Commissioners joined the Northglenn Police Department for National Night Out. We visited block parties that residents of Northglenn were hosting, socialized, and got to talk with people about what the Youth Commission does. We got to visit residents of all ages and listen to them about their concerns with the city or their ideas that could benefit them or Northglenn. Each Youth Commissioner got assigned to a car and got to travel around, even with lights and sirens! It was a fun night for the city and the Youth Commissioners.



EVENT SUPPORT

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 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 we so long, that they wrapped around Huron Street. Hopefully, the event continues to grow!

Noel Northglenn

On December 7th, the Northglenn Youth Commission attended Noel Northglenn together. For the past several years, the Youth Commission has volunteered to help with event clean up. The Youth Commissioners had some fun visiting Santa and playing in the "Wow Bubbles." The Youth Commission also shared our Santa photo on our Instagram (@northglennyouth) and posted multiple times on our Instagram story throughout the event. The Northglenn Youth Commission love attending Noel Northglenn and hope to continue to volunteer at this event in the future.

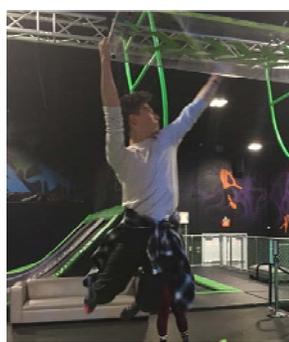
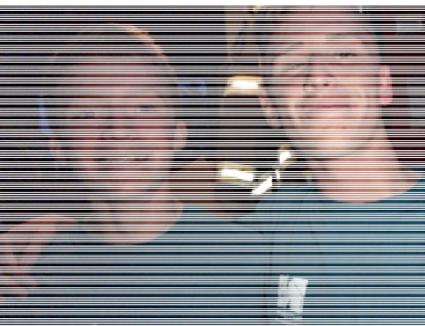


Derby Day

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!





Contact us at:
apeterson@northglenn.org
 303.450.8950
www.northglenn.org/nyc