

City of Thousand Oaks Youth Commission

Youth Summit Implementation Plan 2016-2018

Translating the Youth Voice into the Voice of Action

"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough, we must do." - Leonardo da Vinci

Thousand Oaks City Council

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Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Mayor Pro Tem

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City of Thousand Oaks

Youth Commission

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Special thanks to City of Thousand Oaks Library; Conejo Valley Unified School District, local private schools, and Thousand Oaks Teen Center for selecting students to apply. Thank you to our guest speaker and community leaders who attended this summit. Thank you also to students who participated in the discourse.

Community Leader Attendees

City of Thousand Oaks (CTO): Joel Price, Mayor; Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Mayor Pro Tem; Al Adam Councilmember; Scott Mitnick, City Manager; Heather Cousin, Library Director; Ed Beauvais, Senior Deputy Sheriff

Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD): Chuck Huffer, Chair; George Lange, Vice Chair; Ed Jones, Director; Susan Holt, Director; Brenda Coleman, Recreation Services Manager; Micah Akerson, Teen Center Director; Pete Martinez, Youth Outreach Worker

Conejo Valley Unified School District (CVUSD): Betsy Connolly, Boardmember; Ann Bonitatibus, Superintendent; Kathleen Murvin, Breakthrough Counselor

Business and Non-Profit: Leanne Petras, Director, Conejo Youth Employment Service; Janice Wise, Development Director, YMCA; Heather Danko, Senior Marketing Director, NewMark Merrill Companies

Student Attendees

Arz Abdelhadi	Joy Collins	Zoe Haines	Jared Mayer	Nicholas Salstrom
Shaylin Archer	Caden Cope	Amy Hamaker	George McGuigan	Julia Santos
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Bella Bonvino	Lizbeth Fernandez	Aidan Jimenez	Michael Mitnick	Rylee Tilton
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BACKGROUND

The City of Thousand Oaks Youth Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in July 2002 and all strategies were initially completed in June 2007. Community agencies and businesses were involved in plan development and implementation. Some of the more current and ongoing programs developed through the Youth Master Plan, Youth Summits, and youth input include:

- Conejo Connections.org (2011 - ongoing)
- Stress reducing dodgeball event in partnership with Teen Center (2011 - ongoing)
- Anti-bullying Society (ABS) at school sites (2011 - ongoing)
- Middle School Bullying Workshops (2012 - ongoing)
- Reality Party and Social Change Theatre in partnership with CVUSD Breakthrough Program, Straight up VC, Thousand Oaks Police Department, Teen Center, and Engage (2013 - ongoing)
- C.I.T.Y. Internship Program in partnership with California Lutheran University, Greater Conejo Chamber of Commerce, CVUSD, and Conejo Youth Employment Services (2014 - ongoing)
- Youth vs. Experience Sports Exhibitions in partnership with California Lutheran University, the Senior Adult Master Plan Recreation Team, and the Reserve of Thousand Oaks (2014 - ongoing)

In September 2007, the Youth Commission reviewed the Youth Master Plan Implementation Strategies and determined that although they had been implemented, some should be ongoing, specifically, the Youth Summit. The Commission determined that in an effort to follow up on previously implemented strategies and determine if they were effective or if needs/situations had changed, the Commission would host a biennial Youth Summit. This would allow them to gather information one year and follow up and implement some of those recommendations the next year. It also assists the Youth Commission in setting annual goals. The most recent Youth Leadership Summit was February 20, 2016.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

February 2016 Youth Leadership Summit

After several months of planning, the Youth Commission hosted its fourth full day Youth Summit to continue open dialogue with community youth. The event included 82 high school and middle school students, including Commissioners, as well as 20 community leaders.

Methodology

Local schools, home school agencies, and youth centers were asked to invite students to fill out an application to be considered for participation in a full-day leadership summit. Applications were reviewed and 68 students were selected to attend.

In addition to name, school, and grade, students were requested to answer the following questions on the applications:

1. List any hobbies and interests.
2. Name three things you would like to improve in the City for youth.
3. What is your favorite activity to do in the City of Thousand Oaks?
4. What do you think is the biggest issue facing Thousand Oaks youth today?
5. Why are you interested in attending this youth summit, and what do you hope to gain from it?
6. What are three questions you would like to see discussed at the youth summit?

The Commission believed by leaving the questions open ended, topics could be ascertained for discussion based on what youth are interested in and what they feel was important to discuss. The Summit Chairs then summarized the responses from the applications to develop the Summit guidelines and topics. The most suggested topics are very similar to the 2012 Summit and are summarized below:

7-9th Grade suggestions for improvement

Better marketing on what activities and volunteer opportunities are available through a website and social media
Environmental/recycling awareness

More activities/safe places to hang out

7-9th Grade biggest issues

Drugs/alcohol/depression

Cyber Bullying

7-9th Grade discussion suggestions

Cyber bullying

Volunteer opportunities

Environmental issues

Educational classes

Recreation

10-12th grade suggestions for improvement:

Tutoring/educational assistance

Internships/meaningful volunteering

Drug/alcohol/mental health programs

Recreation for older high school students

10-12th grade biggest issues:

Drugs/alcohol/mental health

Recreation/activities

10-12th grade discussion suggestions:

Mental health/suicide/depression

Drug/alcohol use

Environment

Safe evening activities

In planning the day's activities for the Youth Leadership Summit, the Youth Commission wanted to accomplish the following:

- Provide an inspirational, local speaker to energize the attendees
- Allow students to become comfortable with group leaders and each other
- Offer students time to have open discussions with a variety of community leaders
- Provide time for students to have organized discussions on amongst themselves
- Make the main goal of the day to determine what concerns are on the minds of the attendees.

The schedule for the day was as follows:

8:45 a.m.	Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Welcome/ 2014Summit Accomplishments
9:30 a.m.	Keynote Speaker Evelina Godecki, Miss Teen California
10:15 a.m.	Ice Breakers
11:00 a.m.	Roundtable Discussions with Community Leaders
12:00 Noon	Lunch with Community Leaders
1:00 p.m.	Youth Focus Group Discussions
2:00 p.m.	Reports, Evaluations, and Wrap Up

Ten groups of 6-8 students were formed by age group with a Youth Commissioner assigned to each group to facilitate. At the Leadership Roundtable Discussions, two leaders were assigned to each table and every 20 minutes the groups rotated to provide students the opportunity to meet and discuss with a minimum of six leaders. Although the suggested topics were provided, discussions were not restricted. Students could share information and suggestions with community leaders and ask questions. Following the Leadership Roundtable, students could join whichever leader table they preferred for lunch and further discussion.

After lunch, adults were dismissed and students worked in teen-only focus groups by age, again with Youth Commission facilitators. By utilizing responses on the student applications, Youth Commissioners developed questions specific for each age group. Information on existing programs and progress in this area was distributed to students for reading prior to discussions.

Participants were encouraged to discuss successes, challenges and suggestions for improvement in each area. At the conclusion, each age group selected a spokesperson to provide a two-minute synopsis of the group's discussions to the whole room of participants.

Following the event, each participant was asked to complete an outcome based evaluation form, and each Commissioner was asked to summarize both the leadership roundtable portion of the day and the youth focus group portion. The evaluations indicated that 100% of the youth thought they learned valuable information by participating. Youth evaluation responses are available upon request.

OUTCOMES AND DISCOVERIES

Community Leader Roundtable Summary

During the community leader discussions, students were rotated through several sets of leaders in order to broaden their exposure. Highlighted topics included:

- Education: All students in attendance were appreciative of their teachers and quality of education they receive. Suggestions to improve were: Tutoring, mentoring programs, visual approach to learning, opportunities to take more classes related to the real world life skills, career preparation classes, job shadow programs, engineering classes, and better technology in middle school classes.
- Drugs/Alcohol: Successful programs - Tobacco Bus, Social Host Ordinance, Reality Parties; Suggestions - DARE, more educational programs
- Mental Health/Suicide: More prevalent than adults realize; Suggest – more education, counseling, youth support groups
- Internships/meaningful volunteer opportunities, more opportunities for middle school
- Bullying: Cyber bullying is more prevalent, safe reporting, consequences
- Youth Transit: Beach Bus is very successful; suggest better marketing through posters, contests, transportation needed to special events
- City needs Multi-use recreational center, bowling alley, skating rink
- Marketing: Need for outside program information and volunteer opportunities to be available at schools. School all calls are effective.
- Park programs: soccer goals, pools, tennis courts, Drive in movie night, additional skate park
- Teen Center Programs: Suggest animation class, more 10-12th grade evening programs
- Coordination of community wide service days
- Job Shadowing of public officials
- Better involvement of students in the caring for community homeless
- Suggest student discount at more popular teen stores and restaurants

Youth Focus Group Summary

Each Youth Commissioner in the roll of facilitator and scribe reviewed the many responses from applications and notes from the days discourse to summarize the view of their participants. The results are below:

Table 1 (7th grade – Commissioner Tovey)

Environment:

- Successes
 - City's earth day festival is something they look forward to attending each year
 - beach bus
 - School hydration stations
- Suggestions/concerns
 - free passes to beach bus if you spend some of the time cleaning up
 - hydration stations at all schools
 - school environmental clubs enforce more recycling
 - study hall classes take turns and have an assigned day to clean up campuses

Bullying:

- Successes
 - bullying is not as big of a problem (adults make it seem worse than it is)
- Suggestions/concerns
 - The real issue is cyber bullying, text message or social media
 - Anti-bullying assemblies should start earlier
 - A support club on campus would be helpful

Education:

- Successes
 - teachers
 - after lunch CORE programs
 - leadership programs
 - minimum/shortened days
 - lunchtime activities
 - School Site Council
- Suggestions/concerns
 - Drug prevention could be started earlier
 - More middle school tutoring for elementary school students
 - Trade in homework for more class time
 - Addition of new clubs to serve all interests

Recreation:

- Successes
 - Conejo Valley Days
 - Teen Center
 - Arbor Day
- Suggestions/concerns
 - more events where the community can come together to have a good time
 - better transportation from the Dos Vientos area to teen center
 - Mini golf
 - book clubs
 - bowling alley
 - beauty pageants

Volunteering:

- Suggestions/concerns

- Unfair that many volunteer opportunities start at age 16
- Recommend adding a builders club at all middle schools
- WEB program is not helpful at schools and the students should be spending time doing other things
- A service to link parents who need babysitters to teens looking to babysit should be created for local families

Table 2 (7th & 8th grade – Commissioner Nash)

Recreation:

- Concern
 - High school students don't like to go to Teen Center
- Solution
 - Host high school dances, host concerts, and other events

Transit:

- Concern
 - Inadequate bus system
- Solution
 - Get a "student discount deal" with Uber

Bullying:

- Concern
 - cyber bullying is a bigger issue than regular bullying
 - easier to be a keyboard warrior
 - people don't understand the harm they're doing
 - parents are unaware
- Solution
 - negativity should be reported earlier so it is taken down faster
 - teach students to let their parents know
 - create better films and presentations on cyber bullying

Education:

- Concern
 - School is boring and repetitive
- Solution
 - Allow students to make custom schedules for themselves, have more varieties in curriculum
 - More organized sports at school, Art/photography classes

Drugs/alcohol:

- Concern
 - Peer pressure into doing drugs
- Solution
 - more presentations on avoiding it and why not to succumb to peer pressure

What is missing in T.O.?:

- Students want more running events
- Pot holes in Dos Vientos soccer fields
- Not a single field hockey pitch in Thousand Oaks; closest one is at Moorpark College

Table 3 (8th grade – Commissioner Emanuel)

Recreation:

- Successes
 - variety of activities offered
 - sense of community those activities built
 - safe community we live in
- Suggestions/concerns
 - public transportation to/from the skate park, schools, library, parks, and teen center
 - bowling alley would greatly improve the recreation of our city
 - increased advertising in schools about recreational activities

Schools:

- Successes
 - good environment
 - activities offered
 - effort made by schools to reach out to students
 - block schedules
 - Boys and Girls Club
- Suggestions/concerns
 - a later start time, more life skills/career classes
 - hands-on classes
 - more clubs
 - a job shadow program
 - better food in the cafeteria including good pizza

Bullying:

- Successes
 - Bullying is not a problem at most middle schools in our community and cyberbullying is less of a problem than it has been
- Suggestions/concerns
 - Problems with rumors and cliques that create drama in the middle schools, school counselors do not always understand what the target students are experiencing

Volunteering

- Successes
 - there were lots of volunteer opportunities in the community
 - the Teen Center Advisory Committee was great
 - they like the service hours requirement
- Suggestions/concerns
 - a summer teen volunteer program for 12 and older
 - more advertising at schools (flyers, announcements, social media)

Environment

- Successes
 - recycling programs in the community are great
 - smoking is a problem in our community.
- Suggestions/concerns
 - host a planting day at parks to plant environmentally friendly plants

- create a community garden to help the homeless people of our community

Table 4 (8th grade – Commissioner Ye)

Recreation

- Successes :
 - Teen Center Dances
 - abundance of family-oriented activity centers, such as the Teen Center, Sky High, etc.
- Suggestions/concerns
 - more live-theater programs such as plays or musicals
 - more miscellaneous non-academic classes
 - more real-life applicable classes
 - more trips sponsored by the Teen Center
 - Teen Center sponsored camping trips
 - Movie on the Lawn events
 - family events such as mud races and carnivals open to a wider age group

Schools and Education:

- Successes
 - Good teachers and a good honors class setup
 - Dedicated ASB within schools
 - Lots of lunch activities
- Suggestions/concerns
 - Too much homework (should be less than 30 min. for each class)
 - There should be less emphasis on academics and more on work ethics and citizenship
 - P.E. should be more diversified in terms of activities with less emphasis on running

Volunteering:

- Suggestions/concerns
 - More opportunities for middle school students
 - aware that the apathy of giving out volunteer opportunities to their age group results out of a fear of a lack of responsibility among them; however, they believe that an application system would quell such misgivings
 - parents should have more trust over their children and give them the opportunity to do more
 - by giving the youth more opportunities, they get a chance to prove themselves as capable
 - youth should be able to plan events and experience trial and error to learn from their own mistakes and failures
 - denying middle school students the opportunity to volunteer hurts them once they enter high school, as they have little/no experience
 - more helping organizations such as Boy and Girl Scouts
 - an online database of volunteering opportunities tailored to middle school students (Although such websites exist, they believe the current ones are too cluttered and need to be better organized and more accessible)

Environment and Recycling

- Suggestions/concerns
 - Recycling Centers should be open more days of the week rather than just Sunday to prevent issues such as the stealing of recyclables at Redwood Middle School
 - People/volunteers willing to take recyclables from schools to the recycling centers and pay schools all the compensation money
 - more environmental cleanup days available to middle school students

Table 5 (9th grade – Commissioner Bird)

Recreation:

- Successes
 - parks
 - Conejo Valley Days
 - Beach Bus
- Suggestions/concerns
 - community barbeque (like pot-luck,)
 - more organized hikes
 - an outdoor movie night
 - more outdoor festivals (like music festivals,)
 - a huge community pool
 - better public transportation
 - more events that brought the community together
 - better marketing of the events currently available

Drugs/ Alcohol:

- Successes
 - Anti-Drug programs start early, which is good
 - Red Ribbon week
 - reality parties
 - tobacco bus
- Suggestions/concerns
 - many of the programs get repetitive, and don't include enough examples of real people
 - schools have a great anti-smoking program but the anti-drinking is sub-par
 - more examples of the bad medical side of drinking
 - focus more on the importance of staying healthy rather than scare tactics

Mental health:

- People are afraid to ask for addiction/ mental health help because of the stigma associated with it

Schools/ Education:

- Successes
 - counseling department at Westlake is good
 - reliable help/ tutoring available
 - variety of clubs available
 - good specialization programs available
 - good school pride

- Suggestions/concerns
 - more underclassmen class options should be available
 - more school sponsored extracurricular activities
 - teach more real life skills, like a home finance class

Volunteering:

- Successes
 - Key/INTERACT clubs were good
 - there are a lot of opportunities for volunteering in the neighborhood
- Suggestions/concerns
 - extremely hard to find out about opportunities
 - better marketing is a need

Recycling:

- Successes
 - good Earth day celebrations in the community
- Suggestions/concerns
 - put trashcans next to all recycling bins so there is less trash in them
 - better job of promoting less water usage

Table 6 (9th & 10th grade – Commissioner Shao)

Schools

- Successes
 - minimum/shortened days at their school, and are generally
 - content with the classes offered at their school
- Suggestions/concerns
 - need for classes regarding real-life skills, such as finance and technology fluency
 - intervention classes for freshmen was a beneficial aid to the transition between 8th and 9th grade.
 - updated facilities. Westlake students in particular want to see more automated water bottle fillers, and increase the number of bathrooms open on campus
 - increased communication between teachers about scheduling tests and assessments

Drugs/Alcohol/Mental Health:

- Suggestions/concerns
 - school intervention in the form of drug education was ineffective.
 - lack of options for peer intervention,
 - youth are using drugs in public environments like parks.
 - Need for more regular communication with counselors to ensure mental health among youth remains robust.
 - anonymous support groups to counter this problem.
 - debunk “peer pressure” in the way many adults seem to view it. They feel that adults see “peer pressure” as an overt offer, where someone offers drugs and warns that they may not be “cool” for taking it. They strongly feel that peer pressure is far more subtle - the interaction above would rarely happen.

Environment:

- Successes
 - environment is beautiful in Thousand Oaks
 - it is a “common sense issue” by now
- Suggestions/concerns
 - need for greater awareness issues like the drought

Volunteering:

- Successes
 - beneficial organizations included the Thousand Oaks Library Teen Advisory League (TOTAL)
- Suggestions/concerns
 - need for some sort of city-wide volunteering network
 - freshmen have few opportunities

Recreation/Activities

- Successes
 - Teen Center
 - Library
- Suggestions/concerns
 - transportation is a missing piece to youth’s active usage of local shopping centers and recreational sites.
 - bowling alley and skating rink in the immediate area would benefit healthy recreational opportunities.
 - transit focus on getting students from their high schools to other areas in an efficient amount of time.
 - offer student discounts to encourage use of local popular food and clothing stores.

Table 7 (10th grade – Commissioner Cutler Dye)

Environment/Recycling:

- Suggestions/concerns
 - messes on campuses/ students not finishing water bottles
 - recycling and cleanups for classes and clubs at school
 - more cans for trash and recycling at schools
 - “water bottle” fountain stations in parks
 - more recycling centers with monetary incentives
 - volunteer opportunities for clean-ups
 - more information on preventing water waste/videos
 - advertisements in newspapers

Volunteering:

- Suggestions/concerns
 - too competitive
 - not advertised enough
 - help finding programs to match your interests
 - not enough options, need more in fields like medical, animal, sports, trail cleanups, younger at risk students, and health, etc.
 - too many age restrictions

- more responsive volunteer agencies
- clubs don't open up opportunities to entire school
- College and Career Center
- portion of school websites dedicated to volunteering with the times and dates of availability

Drugs/ Alcohol:

- Successes
 - health classes
 - tobacco bus
 - drug dogs
 - teen chat night - more convincing and emotional rather than informational; included actual addicts
- Suggestions/concerns
 - less punishments and more approachable and helpful authority figures
 - education through sports teams
 - recovery not punishment
 - helpful links of places to get help on school and city websites
 - more healthy stress relieving options
 - healthy option to help keep students focused and awake during testing

Recreation:

- Successes
 - beach bus
 - availability of trails
 - CVD
 - clean and open parks
 - well-kept sports stadiums
 - availability of stores
 - Art walk
- Suggestions/concerns
 - bowling alleys and ice skating/roller blading rinks
 - transportation for youth
 - Organized hikes/runs
 - high school spirit night
 - target high school students at the Teen Center; e.g., sports competitions for amateurs for money, high school talent show
 - more program advertisements –monthly teen calendar in the acorn
 - a magazine run by teens for teens
 - bus for other places than the beach; e.g., Disneyland, local fairs/ carnivals, 6 flags, Universal Studios

Education:

- Successes
 - clubs
 - college and career center
 - rallies
 - school newspapers
 - common planning days

- Suggestions/concerns
 - list of student tutors
 - “help” programs
 - writing, math, and science centers
 - advertising at schools for opportunities outside of school
 - more technology in classes
 - volunteer activities after school
 - combined school dances
 - school discounts at local businesses
 - high school spirit night
 - school-wide trips
 - skiing, beach
 - exchange students and study abroad for high school
 - cleaner and more bathrooms
 - more official office hours for teachers
 - more district-wide motivational speakers

Table 8 (10th & 11th grade – Commissioner Schooley)

Recreation/Activities:

- Successes
 - local park offerings: disc golf courses, plenty of trails for hiking, how the parks are saving water
 - YMCA
 - Library
- Suggestions/concerns
 - pamphlets in the mail is a good way to inform teens of local activities
 - need efficient way to connect teens to programs during the summer
 - teen center - more community service opportunities, more teen-centric programs, less structured classes, teens mentoring younger kids, discover programs to help teens find their passions
 - parks - wall-ball courts to practice sports
 - library - bus that runs to the Newbury Park Branch, and more book signings with teen authors

School/Education

- Successes
 - police resource officers on campus because it keeps parking lots safer and officers serve as a neutral resource for teens
 - college and career center is a great resource spot
- Suggestions/concerns
 - resource hour at school where teachers can provide extra help (in addition to having teachers more available at lunch)
 - in addition to school announcements, teens feel that community events should be announced during announcements at school
 - teachers expect too much of their students
 - new technology and gadgets used in class (iPad for example) can be distracting

- lack of sex education (some schools don't even have a health class) and should be more education about the topic
- Westlake High School, bathrooms are shut down because of vandalism which causes there to be only one bathroom available for the entire school population
- there should be more balance of level between same leveled classes (i.e. say there are 2 AP English classes, one class should not be more difficult or harder than the other)
- mixed feeling about smartboards - good for math and science classes, considered a waste of money in English classes

Drugs/Alcohol/Mental Health

- Successes
 - drug and alcohol awareness week at school is good
 - police officer is a good resource
- Suggestions/concerns
 - programs are not at all campuses and they should be
 - more of these drug and alcohol awareness programs should be implemented
 - mental health should be addressed as a normal thing
 - those without friends turn to alcohol
 - one on one education - teens and experts should have personal connections
 - more emotionally based programs
 - raise awareness of mental health
 - there should be more mental health support groups for teens
 - all schools should have health class
 - create easy accessibility for those suffering from drugs/alcohol/mental health

Volunteering/Jobs

- Successes
 - college and career centers (CCC) at schools are good resources and have good accessibility
- Suggestions/concerns
 - apart from CCC at school, teens don't know how to get connected to volunteer/job opportunities or where to start
 - difficult to volunteer as a young teen
 - it's difficult to find an opportunity involved with your interests
 - there should be more environmental cleanups in TO (as oppose to driving down to the beach)
 - there should be more advertisement for these types of opportunities

Environmental/Recycling

- Suggestions/concerns
 - drought is not taken very seriously and it should be
 - more water saving programs
 - more education about the drought
 - teach young kids in addition to teens and adults

- recycling bins should be as accessible as trash cans at high schools
- hallways at school that have too much litter should be shut down
- goats should be placed on campus because they eat trash
- encourage helping the environment
- have hand dryers instead of paper towels in restrooms
- make recycling a positive - having recycling a detention punishment at high school is sending the wrong message and making it a burden instead of something we should all do

Table 9 (11th grade – Vice Chair Bryman)

Recreation/Activities:

- Successes
 - parks of the city
 - variety of teen center options
 - hiking trails
 - food and dining experiences
- Suggestions/concerns
 - add murals to the city, painted by community volunteers
 - more interaction between the public and private schools
 - an accessible community garden
 - communal website
 - more safe and local hang out spots for teens, such as a late night diner or arcade

Volunteering/jobs

- Successes
 - volunteerism and community service is easily accessible and there are so many different types of programs if you know where to go
- Suggestions/concerns
 - Just for our city, listing local job positions
 - Service Fair, so more of the community can be aware of all the opportunities

Schools/Education

- Successes
 - teachers
 - career center
- Suggestions/concerns
 - more life and social skills should be taught in schools
 - female education and defense/safety classes made mandatory

Drugs/Alcohol/Mental Health

- Suggestions/concerns
 - enforcing the “Every 15 minutes” program at all schools in the district

Environment/recycling

- Suggestions/concerns
 - more water bottle friendly “hydration stations” throughout the city
 - more compost bins

Table 10 (11th & 12th grade – Commissioner McGuigan)

Recreation/Activities:

- Successes
 - hiking trails/parks/open space
 - food and dining
 - library
 - teen center
- Suggestions/concerns
 - community website for programs and activities
 - evening programs/place for older teens to go to on weekends

Volunteering/jobs

- Successes
 - College and Career Center
 - Teen Center Advisory Committee
 - Thousand Oaks Library
 - C.I.T.Y. Internship Program
 - Conejo Youth Employment Services
- Suggestions/concerns
 - listing local job positions through the Chamber
 - teen website listing opportunities that businesses/agencies can post on

Schools/Education

- Successes
 - teachers
 - career center
 - sports
 - clubs and extra activities
- Suggestions/concerns
 - Real life career prep classes – interviewing skills, applications
 - defense/safety classes

Drugs/Alcohol/Mental Health

- Successes
 - Reality Parties
 - Every 15 Minutes
 - Tobacco Bus
- Suggestions/concerns
 - Education/support focusing on mental health

Environment/recycling

- Successes
 - GoGreen Website
 - Arbor Day
- Suggestions/concerns
 - Additional Trail/park clean ups
 - Better incentives
 - School club campus cleanups

GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

After careful review and consideration of all youth and leader discussions and suggestions, the Youth Commission developed goals including implementation strategies to begin next term (FY 2015/16). All of these activities include collaboration between agencies as indicated. Some of these goals may require additional staff and other expenses. In light of fiscal challenges, the Youth Commission recognizes that research on these goals may begin now, and actual implementation may be considered in future budget cycles. These are not in order of importance.

Overall/Recurring:

- Publicity of volunteer opportunities, events, and programs should be improved possibly through an overarching social media, or single website with regularly updated information. The site information should be provided through school all calls.

1. Develop an effective youth outreach program to market volunteer and job opportunities and programs (CVUSD, CTO, CRPD, CYES)

Based on most reports from students who attended our summit, it seems clear that many of the programs requested already exist, they just did not know of them. Depending on age group depends on the type of marketing tool that is effective. Most students however have access to a website. To meet this goal, some suggestions are as follows:

- a. Work with the Teen Center in development of a website or program where teens can be matched with volunteer information and programs.
 - i. Promote website information through school all calls or mass emails.
 - ii. Connect website with social media so that new additions will automatically send out notification through Instagram.
- b. Encourage agencies to develop programs or provide opportunities to students under 16 so they can get experience.

2. Increase and improve the visibility of youth recreational options in Thousand Oaks. (CTO/CRPD)

Every Summit the Youth Commission receives recommendations for a bowling alley, and an older teen “night” club, this year was no exception. The Commission provides this information to businesses that may be interested in providing these services. In addition, some specific ideas for programs were suggested that the Commission believes should be researched and possibly implemented. To meet this goal the following is proposed:

- a. Provide Summit results to Conejo Recreation and Park District, Conejo Valley Unified School District, Teen Center, Thousand Oaks Library, local Chamber of Commerce, and businesses.
- b. Work with the Teen Center and other organizations to host outdoor concerts, movies, and activities, especially in the evenings during the summer.
- c. Co-host activities with Library and Teen Center such as an open mike night or movie night.
- d. Improve teen area at both Thousand Oaks libraries.
- e. Assist Teen Center and Library in advertising programs and events through our website, shared ads in school newspapers, and increased marketing materials.
- f. Develop a Friday night older teen event in partnership with Art Trek.

3. Increase awareness substance abuse and mental health. (CVUSD/CTO/CRPD)

There are many different types of programs that are being and have been used to combat alcohol and drug abuse, but few for mental health. The Youth Commission researched programs and has found that many of these are successful and reach different age groups and parents. Many of them are under-funded and/or not well known. To meet this goal, the following is proposed:

- a. Host speakers at televised meetings and events that can discourage teens from abusing alcohol or drugs or talk about mental health, including available programs. These can be leaders of non-profits against substance abuse, or people with personal stories of overcoming drug use as a teen.
- b. Continue to support Reality Parties, Social Change Theatre, Teen Chat Night, and Heroin Conferences through marketing and recruiting volunteers.
- c. Develop new Depression/suicide awareness educational programs with community partners.
- d. Collaborate with TOTAL to develop educational programs at the library on healthy alternative opportunities.

4. Engage youth, businesses, and non-profits in development of internships and volunteer opportunities.

- a. Continue development of C.I.T.Y. Internship program. Work with the Greater Conejo Chamber of Commerce, California Lutheran University, Conejo Unified School District, Conejo Recreation and Park District, and Conejo Youth Employment Services to improve on the program for summer 2017 and 2018.

- b. Contact local non-profits and encourage them to provide volunteer opportunity information and assist them in distributing that information.

5. Educate and engage youth in local transportation.

- a. Host transit trainings.
- b. Encourage involvement in the Ventura County Transportation Commission Teen Council.

NEXT STEPS

It was unanimously agreed upon at the 2015/2016 goal setting that the Youth Summit and Youth Implementation Program would operate on a staggered biannual schedule. This means that we use the Youth Summit to identify the biggest issues the youth of Thousand Oaks would like us as a Youth Commission to address. Then the following year we create volunteer implementation committees to create programs and events to address these issues. This year we held a Youth Summit, and in the 2016-2017 term, Commission will arrange the implementation committees, recruit members, and commence the monthly meetings.

The Youth Commission reconvenes each year in September. At that time, specific activities will be chosen for the 2016/2017 term. A recruitment letter with copies of the plan will be sent to schools to develop implementation teams for the term. These teams will focus on the term goals. Adult representatives from each agency will be asked to participate.

The Youth Commission will strive to maintain attendance and enthusiasm within Implementation Committees by establishing and updating goals in each category. At the end of the year, the Commission will report on the progress of our Implementation Committees to City Council.