



**CITY OF GILROY
YOUTH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**



MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 | 6:00 PM
GILROY SENIOR CENTER
7371 HANNA STREET, GILROY, CA 95020

Chair: Anna Nguyen

Vice Chair: Benedict Pham

Treasurer: Biruh Abaneh

Commissioners: Biruh Abaneh, Alazander Cruz Bermudez, Ashleen Bhandal, Diana Diakova, Logan Gill, Sophia Gutiérrez, Anna Nguyen, Jacob Ortega, Benedict Pham, Maya Sanchez, Thanmay Sarath

Staff Liaison: LeeAnn McPhillips, Assistant City Administrator & Adam Henig, Recreation Manager



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at (408) 846-0204 or cityclerk@cityofgilroy.org to help ensure that reasonable arrangements can be made.



Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the City of Gilroy Youth Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available with the agenda packet on the City website at www.cityofgilroy.org subject to the Staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE GILROY OPEN GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, task forces, councils and other agencies of the City exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE, TO RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF THE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMISSION STAFF AT (408) 846-0204.

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES:

During the **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** portion of the meeting, each person wishing to speak should prepare a presentation of not more than three (3) minutes. Persons wishing to address the Commission are requested, but not required, to complete a Speaker's Card located at the entrances. Completion of this speaker's card is voluntary. All persons may attend this meeting and speak, regardless if a card is completed

or not. Speaker's slips should be submitted to the Secretary **BEFORE** this portion of the meeting begins. Anyone wishing to address the Commission on any other item on this **AGENDA** is requested, but not required, to fill out a speaker's slip as well and submit it to the Secretary **BEFORE** the Commission takes action on the item.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the City of Gilroy Youth Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection with the agenda packet in the Recreation Division at Senior Center, 7371 Hanna Street, during normal business hours. These materials are also available with the agenda packet on the City website at www.cityofgilroy.org.

The agenda for this regular meeting is as follows:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **FLAG SALUTE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 5.1. Approval of the Minutes from April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Youth Commission
6. **INTRODUCTIONS**
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
8. **PRESENTATION**
 - 8.1. Blue Skies Initiative
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 9.1. Change Youth Commission Meeting Schedule in August 2026.
10. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - 10.1 Discussion of FY26 Youth Commission Work Plan
11. **STAFF/COMMISSION COMMENTS**
 - 11.1. Reflection of the 2025-2026 term
 - 11.2. Congratulations to outgoing seniors: Anna, Ben, Jacob, and Maya.
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**City of Gilroy
Youth Commission
Minutes
Monday, April 13, 2026 | 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Nguyen at 6:02 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Biruh Abaneh, Commissioner
Alazander Cruz Bermudez, Commissioner
Ashleen Bhandal, Commissioner
Diana Diakova, Commissioner
Sophia Gutiérrez, Commissioner
Anna Nguyen, Commissioner
Jacob Ortega, Commissioner
Maya Sanchez, Commissioner
Logan Gill, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Thanmay Sarath, Commissioner
Benedict Pham, Commissioner

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The meeting packet was posted on April 3, 2026.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the Minutes from March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Youth Commission

There were two edits that needed to be made to the March Minutes—an extra space by Commissioner Ortega's name and the misspelling of Commissioner Gutiérrez name. Ortega motioned to approve the minutes with the amendments. Gill seconded.

Motion passed 9-0-0.

6. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

1. Treasurer's Report for the Youth Commission as of April 1, 2026

Treasurer Abaneh reviewed the Treasurer's report. He reported that OpportuniTEEN Fair spent \$594.90, well below what was budgeted. He also informed the commission that each of the Youth Commission's budgetary accounts did not exceed the amount allocated from Council.

9. OLD BUSINESS

1. Receive and comment on the FY26 Commission Work Plan.

Chair Nguyen provided an update on the Commission's work plan.

- Overall, the Commission is on track to complete all its work plan items for this term.
- For the Legislative Committee, each of the committee members (Gill, Nguyen, Ortega, Bhandal, Sanchez) presented a draft to the Commission. They each spoke on a specific section of their proposed policy, which is a recommendation to Council to fund protective bicycle barriers when new traffic safety projects are proposed near schools and high traffic areas. The following areas were discussed: challenges, barrier options, scientific studies, comparable projects in other cities, and advocacy.
- The 2026 OpportuniTEEN event, overall, was a success. There were 23 vendors and 184 participants. There were a few suggestions for next year's event:
 - Adjust the microphone so it's louder and clearer.
 - Create a schedule for the raffle prizes.
 - Offer gluten free food for vendors.
 - Try to recruit more "job-based" vendors.
 - Market the event sooner.
 - Commission assignments should be decided upon in advance and provide opportunity for them to roam the event too.
- Lastly, the Commission is encouraged to participate in the Creek clean-up event on Saturday, May 16 from 9am-12pm.

10. STAFF/COMMISSION COMMENTS

Henig requested that the entire Commission be present for the end-of-year presentation to City Council on Monday, May 4 and to wear the

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.



City of Gilroy Youth Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Presentation on Blue Skies Initiative
Meeting Date: May 11th, 2026
From: Valerie Negrete, Senior Planner
Jonathan Olivas, Planner II
Department: Community Development

RECOMMENDATION

Receive presentation on the City of Gilroy's Blue Skies Initiative.

BACKGROUND

The City of Gilroy launched the Blue Skies Initiative in October 2025, a community-driven planning effort funded by a Caltrans grant. The purpose of the initiative is to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) that addresses air quality, transportation, energy use, and climate resilience in Gilroy. The Safety Element will be updated to address climate-related hazards.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Blue Skies Initiative includes three key planning components. The first component will be the Climate Action Plan (CAP) which will establish a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Gilroy. It will include a summary of local climate conditions, emissions sources, and future projections. The CAP will also identify strategies the City can implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and provide an implementation and monitoring framework to track progress over time.

The second part of the plan will be a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Guidelines. The VMT Reduction Plan will include strategies to reduce the frequency and distance of vehicle trips of Gilroy residents. The plan will include an overview of local travel patterns, strategies to reduce those trips, as well as tools to streamline new project review. The guidelines will also identify ways to encourage alternative transportation options in new projects, including walking, bicycling, transit, and ride sharing.

The last part of the Initiative will be the Safety Element Update. This update will revise the General Plan Safety Element (Potential Hazards) to address climate-related hazards. Some of the topics that will be addressed include consideration of wildfire risk, flooding, drought conditions, and extreme heat events. The update will establish a plan to reduce risks to vulnerable populations and ensure alignment with State requirements for updated safety planning.

Community Outreach To Date

As of May 2026, the Blue Skies Initiative team has conducted focused meetings with local stakeholders and community organizations. The project team is continuing outreach efforts to the broader community, and we're excited to announce a community survey to gather public input. Several pop-up events are planned throughout April and May and a full list of events, as well as interactive activities are posted on the Blue Skies websites at (insert city link) and (insert ascent website link).



City of Gilroy Youth Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Change Youth Commission Meeting Schedule in August 2026.

Meeting Date: May 11, 2026

From: LeeAnn McPhillips, Assistant City Administrator
Adam Henig, Recreation Manager

Department: Youth Commission

Submitted by: Adam Henig, Recreation Manager

Prepared by: Adam Henig, Recreation Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to change Youth Commission Meeting Schedule in August 2026, from August 10, 2026, to August 24, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The commission meeting date in August is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Staff is recommending it be changed to August 24, so the meeting occurs when the school year is underway.

ANALYSIS

Staff is recommending the date change since the meeting occurs nearly before the first day of school (August 19) for Gilroy Unified School District students. Potential scheduling conflicts for commissioners include student orientation and being on summer break. The rescheduled meeting (August 24) will be held at the same time and location, 6:00 p.m. at the Gilroy Senior Center Meeting Room.

ALTERNATIVES

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

Attachments:

None



City of Gilroy

Youth Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Receive and comment on the FY26 Commission Work Plan
Meeting Date: May 11, 2026
From: LeeAnn McPhillips, Assistant City Administrator
 Adam Henig, Recreation Manager
Department: Youth Commission
Submitted by: Adam Henig, Recreation Manager
Prepared by: Adam Henig, Recreation Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and comment on the FY26 Commission Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the work plan is to serve as a guide for the Commission's goals. During the budget adoption for FY26 and FY27, the Youth Commission approved the following work plan:

1. Identify a legislative issue that impacts youth and teens of Gilroy or community atlarge.
2. Participate in a Community Clean-up day
3. Organize and host an Intergenerational Dance at the Senior Center
4. Support Breakfast with Santa
5. Assist seniors with their technological devices
6. Organize and host OpportuniTEEN Fair

ANALYSIS

The following are updates to the current work plan:

- **Legislative:** The legislative committee—Sanchez, Nguyen, Bhandal, Gil and Ortega—presented their report to the City Council on Monday, May 4.
 COMPLETED

- **Participate in a Community Clean-up day** — On May 16, from 9am-12pm, the Recreation Division is hosting a community clean-up event at Christmas Hil Park. Meet at Solorsano Middle School. See attached flyer.
- All other work plan items were completed:
 - OpportuniTEEN Fair
 - Organize and host an Intergenerational Dance at the Senior Center
 - Support Breakfast with Santa
 - Assist seniors with their technological devices

ALTERNATIVES

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

Attachments:

None