

Changes in RED

**City of Gilroy
Youth Commission
Minutes**

Monday, December 8, 2025 | 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Nguyen at 6:01 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

Present	Biruh Abaneh, Commissioner Alazander Cruz Bermudez, Commissioner Ashleen Bhandal, Commissioner Diana Diakova, Commissioner Sophia Guterrez, Commissioner (late 6:05pm) Anna Nguyen, Commissioner Jacob Ortega , Commissioner Benedict Pham, Commissioner Maya Sanchez, Commissioner Thanmay Sarath, Commissioner
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Absent	Logan Gill, Commissioner
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4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The meeting packet was posted on December 5, 2025.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes from the November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Youth Commission

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Abaneh.
Commissioner Diakova seconded. Motion passed 9-0-0 (Gill and Gutierrez absent)

6. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of FY26 Youth Commission Work Plan

The Commission discussed the following items on its work plan:

- Nguyen acknowledged that the Commission has already completed half of its work plan—Intergenerational Dance, Senior Digital Assistance, and Breakfast with Santa.
- Intergenerational Dance— The dance occurred on Friday, November 21. Overall, the dance was a successful event. The seniors had a great time and were glad to have attended. Commissioners shared comments about what went well and areas for improvement.
 - Positives - Dinner; interaction with seniors; being personal waiters; games were fun; photo booth; Jeopardy; Hollywood theme; decorations; popcorn and song selection
 - Improvements - Photo booth process took too long to produce keychains; seat seniors first and then they can come up on their own to the photo booth; popcorn containers should be small and start popping at the beginning of the event; commissioners should rotate duties (photo booth, popcorn, etc.); have a seating chart and make sure commissioner have their own seat; Seniors grabbed their badge without waiting to be given it; allow a better way for teams to answer questions during Jeopardy; have the right amount of utensils.
- Digital assistance - Nguyen, Pham, Sarath, and Bermudez supported providing digital assistance to the seniors during the week of Thanksgiving. They served 22 seniors.
- Breakfast with Santa - Ten commissioners attended and supported the event. They helped with arts and crafts projects as well as serving breakfast.
- Legislative — The committee met the previous week and came up with the idea of creating a policy to make streets in Gilroy safer for bicyclists/scooters/walkers riding to school.

For example, there is significant vehicle traffic during the morning commute to Gilroy High School. What could the commission propose to alleviate the vehicular traffic? What would it take to encourage students to ride their bike instead of going by car? Would protective barriers on bike pathways, for example, encourage riders to ride their bike/scooter/skateboard as opposed to driving?

It was noted that several schools are impacted by the morning commute, including Gilroy High School and Solorsano Middle School. The committee will meet before the next regular meeting.

- OpportuniTEEN Fair - Commissioners divided themselves into three committees:
 - Logistics: Ortega, Bermudez
 - Marketing: Diakova, Tham, Guitierrez, and Sanchez
 - Vendor: Bhandal, Nguyen, Tham, Abaneh, Sarath

Before the next meeting, the vendor committee will meet to identify which organizations and business the Commission will reach out to. Commissioner Gill, who was absent, will need to select a committee to serve on.

2. Treasurer's Report for the Youth Commission as of December 1, 2025

Treasurer Abandeh presented the treasurer's report, which was included in the meeting packet. Abandeh asked if the unspent monies could be rolled over into another budget category such as the OpportuniTEEN Fair. Henig said he would look into it and follow up.

10. STAFF/COMMISSION COMMENTS

During comments, Nguyen and Tham mentioned that they both attended the virtual conference organized by the Commission of California Youth Commissions. During the conference, topics such as electric e-bikes, AI, mental health and sleep were discussed.

Henig mentioned that there is a regional in-person conference for youth commissioners on Saturday, March 7 that he encourages everyone to attend. More details to follow.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.