



FLORIDA YOUTH COMMISSION

Blake Maier, Chair

Maya King, Vice Chair

MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2014

11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Secretary: The general meeting of the Florida Youth Commission was called to order November 19, 2014 at 11:35 a.m. by the Commission Chair, Blake Maier.

Leadership Update

FYC Manager Caitlin Camechis states that it is imperative to respond to emails within 48 hours and deadlines must be complied with. Commissioners needed to share FYC related social media posts more often in an effort to spread the word about the Commission and moderate the types of personal statements they make on such sites, remembering that they are always representing the FYC. The Commission was reminded to mark in their calendars that the mandatory events of PeaceJam and Children's Week will take place April 10-14.

Committee Updates

Communications Committee Chair Matthew Nadel states that the Commission's November commemorative month topic is National Youth Homeless Awareness Month. Commissioners Christal Hector and Marilu DuQue are managing this topic. The Commission has a new Policy Objective: *A campaign to motivate Florida's students to advocate for the opportunity to evaluate proposed state education policies.*

- 1) Creation of a forum on which students can voice some of their comments about the education system
- 2) Creation of a video featuring FYC highlights, initiatives, and voices the opinions of Florida students
- 3) Dissemination of resources to youth of Florida to further impact their society
- 4) Aid students in communicating with their local legislators

The committee is currently developing an FYC pamphlet that can be distributed in schools and handed out to the public.



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We, the Youth Commissioners of Florida, desire to produce a cohesive and unified platform for the students of Florida to voice their concerns and provide feedback and suggestions to the leadership of Florida. We will serve as a liaison between the youth of Florida and the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet through inclusion and engagement of our peers to craft effective suggestions, legislation, and projects to aide in the progression of youth across Florida.



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Outreach Committee Chair Salma Abdelrahman states that only one person showed up to the last committee meeting, so attendance needs to improve. Outreach is now focused mainly on a “ground up” approach to reaching out to the community. The main targets of outreach are now students and teachers, rather than high profile officials.

Government Affairs Committee: Chair Elias Rosenfeld states there has been a bit of trouble with promptness of communication, so members are urged to check and reply to emails more frequently and attend committee calls.

Research has been done and compiled. Initiatives will now be focused more at the local level.

Vice Chair of the Commission Maya King adds that committees should feel encouraged to work with each other so that everyone will stay on the same page and committee specific plans and operations won’t clash with those of the others.

Old Business

Vice Chair of the Commission Maya King states that Committee Chairs must email Maya by the Friday before all general meetings with any additional points they want added to the agenda.

FYC Manager Caitlin Camechis reiterates that Committee meetings must be held within a week after the general meetings each month. Contact information for mentors and key note speakers encountered during the

Retreat can be attained by requesting them from Caitlin through email.

Chair of the Commission Blake Maier states that the Commission should have accomplished something concrete by January 1, 2015.

New Business

Chair of the Commission Blake Maier states that the policy objective created during the Retreat was too ambiguous. A new policy objective (mentioned earlier by Matthew Nadel) is proposed. The proposed policy objective passed in a unanimous vote.

Chair of the Commission Blake Maier proposes a membership bylaw amendment, where in a commissioner with three unexcused absences from a commission call will be terminated from the Commission. An absence may be excused if Caitlin is notified of it prior to the meeting, or the commissioner who misses the meeting



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provides a doctor's note or some form of excusal. The membership termination guidelines passed in a unanimous vote.

Communications Committee Chair Matthew Nadel states that in an effort to keep all disseminated information consistent when introducing schools and communities to the FYC, it is recommended that no large scale formal speeches are done regarding the FYC until the video and pamphlets are released.

Communications Committee Chair Matthew Nadel presents that "Students of Florida" campaign. Every commissioner will be involved in this project that functions much like "Humans of New York". Each commissioner will be given a monthly schedule for when they need to turn in photos and an interview for the campaign. The people in the pictures must not be identifiable. The picture should be of an interesting part of the student, like a unique backpack, colorful hair, etc. Pictures and interviews should be focused on students in the public education system, but other things relating to education that are not necessarily "classroom related" but still impactful to the school environment may be turned in. Interview questions will be emailed out.

The "Students of Florida" initiative passed in a unanimous vote.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Christal Hector

2014-2015 Secretary, Florida Youth Commission, Southwest Ranches



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