

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT
January 9, 2013

For the Meeting of January 14, 2014

TO: Town Council

FROM: David Donery, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Boards and Commissions – Additional Youth Membership

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the expansion of the membership of the Arts Commission, Historical Commission, Open Space Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Library Advisory Board and Quality of Life Commission, if desired, to allow for two youth members for a trial period of 12 months.

BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Parks and Recreation Commission added a Youth Commissioner position. This has been a very successful, and as the youth commissioner has been a very valuable addition to the Commission

At the October 26, 2010 Town Council meeting, Councilmember Kay Coleman requested that staff explore the possibility of developing a Youth Commission. The subsequent Council discussion produced a prevailing opinion that there is not adequate existing staffing to manage such a commission. After further discussion, the Council agreed that having youth participation on existing boards, commission and committees was a more feasible tactic for involving youth in community discussions and decision-making.

At the December 14, 2010 Town Council meeting, Council accepted the temporary expansion of membership for the Boards and Commissions that were interested in adding a youth member. This has been very successful and has produced not only a youth voice on the Commissions, but also created an important link to the local High Schools' Leadership Programs.

Over the years, the program has gained popularity and participation continues to increase. Last year, there were fourteen students interested in participating in the program and only six seats available.

DISCUSSION

If Council approves this change, staff will contact the identified boards, commissions and committees to request feedback on the addition of a second youth member. The Open Space Committee and Quality of Life Commission have already expressed interest in having more than one youth member.

ITEM 2

Staff recommends expanding the capacity of participating boards, commissions and committees to a maximum of two seats for the addition of youth members for a period twelve months beginning in July of 2014. This will provide a trial period for multiple youth participation on a board, commission or committee without necessitating the modification of resolutions and ordinances. At the end of the term, the process will be evaluated.

The criteria for the additional youth membership will be identical to the criteria used already.

The youth member must:

1. Reside within Ross Valley.
2. Be a high school sophomore, junior or senior.
3. Be in good academic standing with their school.
4. Submit an application by deadline to Town Hall requesting to be appointed.
5. Serve on the Commission or Committee for a one year term.

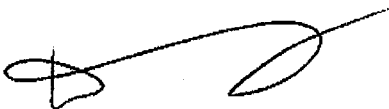
Recruitment for the youth members will be provided by the Community Services Director. An announcement will be developed that will include information about the potential opportunities. Each board, commission, and committee will be given the choice to participate, or to continue with one youth member. This decision would be voted on and announced prior to the beginning of each term. Once the terms begin, the board, commission, or committee will need to wait until the next term to make changes to their youth membership.

If approved, the recruitment process for youth members would begin in February of 2014.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends expanding the capacity of participating boards, commissions and committees to two youth commissioner seats for a period twelve months beginning in July of 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Donery
Community Services Director