



**MINUTES**  
**Youth Board**  
**City of Huntington Beach**

Monday, November 14, 2022  
3:30PM – Regular Meeting  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Osborne calls to order at 3:30PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Bartel, Blankenbaker, Nguyen, Pham, Osborne, Rizvi, Wong  
Absent: Vo (excused), Parrott (excused)  
Staff Present: Molly Uemura  
Council Liaison Present: Natalie Moser, Kim Carr

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Maureen Anzivino from the Sister City Association is present to discuss the student exchange program to Anjo, Japan.

For over 40 years, Huntington Beach has been sister cities with Anjo, Japan. When the Huntington Beach Pier was damaged, Anjo, Japan donated \$100,000 towards the rebuilding of the Pier.

The Cherry Blossom Festival, held each year in the spring at Central Park, generates proceeds that support the student exchange program and pays the travel expenses for the students. Families are only responsible for the outings and food for the students while they stay at their house in the US.

This year, 6 students will be chosen for the Ambassador program in 2023. Bartel inquires when the applicants will be chosen. The interview is planned for January 21 and the decision will be made shortly afterwards. After that point, meetings will be between the Ambassadors and the chaperones to help prepare for the trip.

Pham inquires what kind of activities students get to participate in while in Anjo. Anzivino advises that activities include participating in a community parade, visiting Toyota, Den Park, and temples/sacred spaces.

Wong inquires how American students are able to navigate the language barrier while in Japan. Anzivino advises that their exchange students all know English and are able to help them navigate while in Anjo.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Theme/Topic for 2023 Youth in Government Day**

Chair Osborne opens the discussion by inquiring if any Board members have any ideas regarding potential themes for YIGD 2023.

Bartel suggests that offshore drilling could be a potential topic. Councilmember Moser advises

that offshore drilling is tough because it is not something that can be impacted and changed on a municipal level. There are certain initiatives, like the Ocean Friendly cities initiative through Surfrider that could perhaps better serve as a topic for YIGD. Students could argue that Huntington Beach should join an initiative such as Ocean Friendly Cities.

Wong inquires if there was a 100% green energy initiative directed by the current council. Councilmember Moser believes Wong is referring to the Orange County Power Authority initiatives. Orange County Power Authority could be an RCA topic for YIGD if the Board is interested.

Rizvi requests that all Board members come to the December meeting with three topic ideas for consideration.

### **2022-2023 Youth Board Ad-Hoc Updates**

#### **Mental Health:**

A Day of Dialogue event is still of interest to the Ad-Hoc member. Uemura will get list of dates that are open in February and provide to the committee for consideration.

The main focus of the Day of Dialogue would include mini groups with one person in charge, situated in a circle, with guided conversations on topics relating to teen mental health. Would like to open the event with an informal breakfast/mingling time.

Chair Osborne has an event planning guide from her school that she will forward to the Ad-Hoc members to use as a guidepost while planning a new event.

Discussion is held regarding the timing of the event, and the Board agrees that morning hours on a Saturday would work best.

Wong suggests that the Ad-Hoc committee meet with members of the Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee who have hosted similar events and see if the members have any advice for planning a Day of Dialogue.

Councilmember Moser lets the Board know that the HBUHSD is hosting something at the Library for mental health. This event may be more geared towards parents than students.

#### **Sustainability:**

Blakenbaker advises that the Ad-Hoc is looking to focus on refillable water stations at the schools. They want to go further than just a statement on sustainability from the Youth Board.

Chair Osborne advises that Marina does have some drinking fountains already, but they are not in places that are easily accessible to all students.

Councilmember Moser suggests that the Board request an inventory of what is at each school and perhaps some statistics on the overall usage of those machines. Are there plans to install

more? What are the costs? These details will bring the Ad-Hoc to a more comprehensive understanding and perhaps adjust their strategy towards tackling this issue. Engaging the school district will be a very worthwhile exercise for the Ad-Hoc.

Councilmember Moser suggests that the Ad-Hoc attempt to meet with the school district prior to the December 12 Board meeting.

Connectivity:

The Ad-Hoc wants to focus on how to create more connectivity between students at the current events.

### **Youth Board Bylaws**

Since Board Member Parrott, who brought forth this item, is not present, this item is tabled to the next meeting. All students will send any questions they may have regarding the bylaws to Uemura prior to the December 12 meeting.

### **Staff/Member Comments**

Councilmember Moser will send the Ocean-Friendly Initiative Information to Uemura to distribute to Board members prior to the next meeting.

Councilmember Moser expresses her deep appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Youth Board as a council liaison for the last 2 years. Councilmember Moser will certainly request to remain on the Youth Board as liaison, but council liaisons are assigned by the new mayor following the swearing-in at the December 6 council meeting. Councilmember Moser will still be present for the December meeting, but wanted to advise the Board of any potential changes to come in 2023.

Pham begins a discussion regarding the importance of encouraging teens to register to vote and participate in local elections. There has been much chatter at the schools about how many eligible students did not vote. Pham suggests that the Youth Board should work on ways to get the word out about the importance of voting in local elections. Uemura will request that the City Clerk's office come for a presentation on voter registration and election at an upcoming Board meeting.

### **ITEMS TO BE AGENDIZED**

**Theme/Topic for YIGD**

**Day of Dialogue Event**

**Ad-Hoc Committee Updates**

**Youth Board Bylaws**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Osborne adjourns at 4:35PM to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Youth Board on Monday, January 9, at 3:30PM