



# Porterville Youth Commission January 11th Meeting

By Dalton Rogers

This week in the youth commission, city councilman Pete Martinez returned to work with the PYC. Donnie Moore, Parks and Leisure Services Superintendent, and Jim Perrine, Parks and Leisure Services Director, were present to facilitate the meeting. Also present were Adam Bohman and Anita Stackhouse-Hite of the Porterville Recorder. High school representatives in attendance were: Stephanie Haas, representing Porterville High School, Dalton Rogers and Daniel Reif, representing Harmony Magnet Academy, Asia Martinez and Andri Rollans, representing Monache High School, and Zachary Harris and Miguel Trujillo, representing Citrus High School.

Pete Martinez began the meeting by talking about the history of the PYC and what it is that the PYC does and will be working on in the near future. There are several things that the commission is currently working on. One item that was discussed during the meeting was a mission statement for the group. An idea that councilman Martinez gave was "U.N.I.T.Y.," an acronym standing for "Understanding the Needs In Today's Youth."

Another thing the Youth Commission is working on is setting up an informational Facebook page that would give up-to-date information about upcoming youth events and would explain what the youth commission is and what it does. The group is also working on setting up an information hotline; a phone number for the youth in Porterville to call that would give them information on upcoming events and activities.

Toward the end of the meeting, Porterville High School representative Stephanie Haas presented the idea of having a youth-run food fair or festival. Her idea was to have all of the clubs and student councils from all of the Porterville high schools set up booths for an event similar to the Iris Festival. This event would be held for the youth in Porterville. The high school clubs could choose to sell food or other retail items. Bands and other forms of entertainment would also be provided. The youth commission is still discussing this idea, so no plans have yet been finalized.

The next Porterville Youth Commission meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25th. All PYC meetings are held in the council chambers at city hall. For more information about the youth commission, contact the Parks and Leisure Services Superintendent, Donnie Moore, at (559) 791-7695.

The Porterville Youth Commission (PYC) evolved in 2008 as Council Member Pedro Martinez wanted to hear what youth had to say and make sure their voice was heard by others. PYC consists of representative's from local high schools. Currently, the 10 member Youth Commission is comprised from Monache, Porterville, Granite Hills, and Citrus High Schools, as well as Harmony Magnet Academy.

The intent is to inform youth of what is happening, find out what the youth wish would happen, and educate them on the process of how things do happen. The Youth Commission conducted a Youth Voice Conference last spring and is in hopes of doing another one in 2010. They also have a couple new projects that are in the preliminary planning stages.

PYC has established a Facebook page, webpage and an activity phone line in hopes that all youth in the area feel they may share their voice to the PYC, and find out what is happening in Porterville for the youth. The PYC normally meets monthly on the first and third Mondays at 4:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.