

# **Youth Commission Meeting**

Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:30pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center, 1730 Oregon St., Berkeley CA, 510-981 6670

## **Mission Statement**

The Berkeley Youth Commission identifies the needs of youth, reviews and recommends youth services and programs.

## **Commission Members**

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>
Mayor	Maya Ng-Yu	BUSD/Brown	Vacant
Kesarwani	Vacant	BUSD/Leyva-Cutler	Vacant
Davila	Vacant	BUSD/Appel	Vacant
Bartlett	Vacant	BUSD/Student Director	Max Schlosberg
Harrison	Vacant	BUSD/Sinai	Vacant
Hahn	Rachel Alper	BUSD	Mallika Hari
Wengraf	Samuel Kaplan-Pettus	BUSD/Alper	Evie Berg
Robinson	Vacant	BUSD	Auden Friedman
Droste	Vacant	BUSD	Maize Cline

## **AGENDA**

### **Preliminary Matters**

- 1** Call to Order (Chair)
- 2** Roll Call (Secretary)
- 3** Announcements (Chair)
- 4** Approval of Agenda (Chair)
- 5** Approval of Minutes (Chair)
- 6** Public Comment (Chair)
- 7** Director's Report

### **Discussion Items**

- 8** Discussion about Gender Neutral Bathrooms letter for the Berkeley Unified School District School Board (Chair)
- 9** Discussion about Elections (Chair)

### **Action Items**

- I** Approval of Gender Neutral Bathrooms letter to the Berkeley Unified School District School Board
- II** 2020 Elections for New Chair, Vice Chair, and Sergeant of Arms
- III** Adjourn

**Commission Information:** The Youth Commission packet is available for review at both the Berkeley Main Library and the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, during normal business hours. If you have questions, contact Commission Secretary, Ginsi K. Bryant, at 981-6671 or by email at Gbryant@cityofberkeley.info.

**ADA Disclaimer:** This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at 981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

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**Youth Commission Regular Meeting Dates January 2020 –December 2020**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Monday, January 13	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, February 10	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, March 9	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, April 13	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, May 11	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Monday, June 1	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
July	Break	
August	Break	
Monday, September 14	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
Tuesday, October 13	6:30pm	1730 Oregon Street, Berkeley
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Robinson	Maize Cline	BUSD	Auden Friedman
Droste	Vacant	BUSD	Vacant

## **AGENDA**

### Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order (Chair) 6:31pm
2. Roll Call (Secretary) Present: Ng-Yu, Alper, Kaplan-Pettus, Cline, Hari, Berg and Friedman. Absent: Schlosberg
3. Announcements (Chair)
4. Approval of Agenda (Chair): Motion to move #9 to #11 on the agenda and to approve the agenda with the corrections. M/S/Ng-Yu/Alper: Aye's: Kaplan-Pettus, Cline, Hari, Berg and Friedman. Noe's: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Schlosberg
5. Approval of Minutes (Chair) M/S/Ng-Yu/Friedman: Aye's: Alper, Kaplan-Pettus, Hari, Berg and Friedman. Noe's: None. Abstain: Cline. Absent: Schlosberg
6. Public Comment (Chair)
7. Director's Report

### Discussion Items

8. Discussion about Environment Initiatives. (Kaplan-Pettus)
9. Discussion with Green Team Members Rachel Doughty and Sandra Curtis about climate issues. (Kaplan-Pettus)
10. Discussion on Youth Commission Elections for February. (Chair)
11. Discussion on Youth Commission Recruitment. (Chair)

### Action Items

12. Adjourn: 7:20pm M/S/Ng-Yu/Alper: Aye's Aye's: Alper, Kaplan-Pettus, Hari, Berg and Friedman. Noe's: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Schlosberg

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**City of Berkeley Youth  
Commission**

Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center  
1730 Oregon St., Berkeley, CA. 94703  
GBryant@CityofBerkeley.info

February 10, 2020

Dear Honorable School Board,

We are writing in our capacity as the City of Berkeley Youth Commission to urge you to fund gender-neutral bathrooms at Willard Middle School.

Willard needs gender neutral bathrooms because, as one student said, “some students at this school are Transgender and Non-Binary/Genderqueer and they might not feel comfortable using a certain gender bathroom.” Another student said that a Transgender girl/boy who just came out might not want to use a gender specific bathroom yet, so they would feel more comfortable using a gender neutral bathroom. Furthermore, a Non-Binary student might not want to use a gender-specific bathroom because they do not apply to either binary gender. It is evident that Willard students are aware of the lack of inclusivity in bathrooms and want change.

By working closely with the Willard Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), we learned that there are specific locations where a gender neutral bathroom could be built or an existing bathroom can be converted. Some of these existing bathrooms are infrequently used and could easily be turned into a gender neutral changing room and bathroom. This is important because the stalls can be used for students who need to change out of something they are binding their chest with, as it is unsafe to exercise while binding. And the bathroom would be a gender neutral bathroom.

This is a problem throughout Berkeley middle schools, and students are aware and insisting on change. The President of the GSA said, “Gender neutral bathrooms are crucial not only because they provide a place for students to use the bathroom, [but] they help push Willard forward as a welcoming and supportive school. It’s a hard switch but a very important one.”

Sincerely,

City of Berkeley Youth Commission