

Environment and Climate Commission

[Meeting Date (MM dd, yyyy)]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Environment and Climate Commission (ECC)
Submitted by: Ben Gould, Chairperson, ECC
Subject: Support for Pilot Youth Appointee to Environment and Climate Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to evaluate the feasibility of, and subsequently prepare draft legal language to enable, a tenth voting Environment & Climate Commission (ECC) member, representing youth, nominated by a suitable body or individual and confirmed by a suitable board of elected officials.

The feasibility analysis and draft language should consider existing law in BMC 2.04.030 through 2.04.120, including the following:

- BMC 2.04.050, which establishes commissions at nine members,
- BMC 2.04.060 and related provisions, which restricts appointments to individual City Council members,
- BMC 2.04.140 and 2.04.145, which requires affidavits of residency for all commissioners, and
- BMC 2.04.040 (B) (2), which provides provisions for City Council majority appointment where the number of commission members is greater than nine.

If feasible, the ECC recommends that a youth representative be nominated by the Youth Commission and confirmed by the full City Council, in accordance with BMC 2.04.040(B)(2). The ECC also recommends the draft legislation have a two-year sunset provision, which can be extended or removed by City Council at a later date.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Some staff time to review existing law and develop proposal. If enacted, having an additional ECC commissioner could result in slightly increased demands on staff time for ECC.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley established a Youth Commission in 1979, with the stated goal of “giv[ing] youth a voice in effecting City policy and services.” However, environment and climate change issues are critical matters affecting all youth, yet the Youth Commission has no institutionalized process for interacting or engaging with City environmental policy, and City Council has consistently failed to appoint any individuals under the age

Page 2 of 3

of 18 to the Environment and Climate Commission (ECC) or its predecessor commissions (the Energy Commission [EC] and the Community Environmental Advisory Commission [CEAC]). To date, the Youth Commission is the primary, and possibly only, City body to which individuals under 18 are appointed on a regular basis.

In May 2022, the Youth Commission passed a recommendation to establish a youth appointee to the ECC. However, the item has not yet been taken up by City Council.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

With no youth voice on the Environment and Climate Commission, City staff and commissioners lack valuable perspective and insight into the perspectives of an important community demographic, which stands to be the most significantly impacted by the Commission's recommendations and City action (or lack thereof) on climate and environmental issues.

Historically, the ECC's predecessor commissions have been unsuccessful in engaging youth constituencies and stakeholders. Without youth perspectives, City policymaking is biased towards community members who have the time and resources to engage in local governance – typically older, wealthier residents, who are unlikely to directly experience some of the longer-term environmental consequences of climate policy.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal would expand youth involvement in city policymaking and allow ECC to better reflect and represent the broad interests of the community, without imposing an undue burden on City staff, Council, or otherwise impairing the functioning of the commission.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The ECC considered asking the Youth Commission to send a nonvoting liaison to bridge the two commissions, but determined that the Youth Commission's infrequent meetings (four meetings per year) would prevent the Youth Commission from weighing in on important matters in a timely fashion, and a nonvoting position limited to public comment was unlikely to be effective at recruiting and sustaining interest from young people.

The ECC considered the Youth Commission's recommendation to have the youth member be appointed by BUSD, but determined that having the City Council approve the youth nominee would better ensure that Councilmembers would accept the recommendations of the youth member.

The ECC considered the Youth Commission's recommendation to have the youth member be nominated by the BUSD Student Director, but determined that engaging the Youth Commission in the nomination process would open the opportunity to a wider swathe of the community, better serve to connect the Youth Commission with other city

policymaking efforts, and help maintain institutional knowledge through the Youth Commission and its secretary.

The ECC considered making the seat permanent from the outset, but determined that due to the administrative overhead associated with managing an additional position, it would be best to test out the youth seat for a limited period of time and return with a recommendation for extension or amendments to the nomination process after working with a youth appointee for at least two years.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Supporting greater engagement of marginalized non-voting community members in environmental policymaking will result in more diverse perspectives and likely to produce better policymaking and feedback for staff, improving environmental sustainability overall.

CONTACT PERSON

Ben Gould, Chair, Environment and Climate Commission, 510-725-9176

DRAFT



Recreation

Youth Commission

Youth Commission Meeting

Monday, May 9, 2022 at 6:30pm

Zoom Webinar

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH
ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone,
or Android device, please use this URL to join the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85925075321>

Passcode: 621930

If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the
drop-down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise
hand" icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen.

To join by phone: Dial: +16699006833, or

+13462487799

If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and

Draft Agenda

The Commission may discuss any items listed on the agenda but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. Call to Order (Chair)
2. Roll Call (Secretary)
3. Approval of Agenda (Chair)
4. Approval of Minutes for April 11, 2022 (Chair)
5. Public Comments
6. Chair's Announcements
7. Director's Report
8. Land Acknowledgment (Schlosberg)
9. 2022 Re-election for Chair and Vice-Chair
10. Introductions
11. Action: Finalize and approve workplan
12. Action: Form mental health subcommittee
13. Action: (Replace with Sam's action item)
14. 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 –3rd Floor, during normal business hours. If you have questions, contact Commission Secretary, Ginsi K. Bryant, at 981-6678 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.

SB343 Disclaimer: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor, Berkeley CA.

Communications Disclaimer: Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. All communications to the Commission should be received at least 10 days before the meeting date. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the commission or committee for further information.

Commission Members

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>
Mayor	Hannah Slattery Weisberg	BUSD/Brown	Khalil Powell
Kesarwani	Vacant	BUSD/Vasudeo	Vacant
Taplin	Vacant	BUSD/Babbitt	Nicholas Sanders
Bartlett	Vacant	BUSD/Student Director	Max Schlosberg
Harrison	Vacant	BUSD/Sinai	Vacant
Hahn	Vacant	BUSD	Vacant
Wengraf	Samuel Kaplan-Pettus	BUSD/Alper	Vacant
Robinson	Anjani Chokkalingam	BUSD	Nina Thompson
Droste	Vacant	BUSD/Cutler	Annabel Jay

Mission Statement

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



Recreation

Youth Commission

Youth Commission Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:30pm

Zoom Webinar

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH
ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone,
or Android device, please use this URL to join the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85925075321?>

Passcode: 621930

If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the
drop-down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise
hand" icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen.

To join by phone: Dial: +16699006833, or

+13462487799

If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and

Draft Minutes

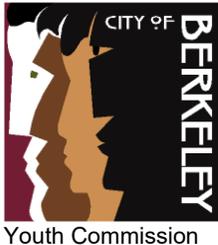
The Commission may discuss any items listed on the agenda but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. Call to Order (Chair) 6:39pm
2. Roll Call (Secretary) Present: Weisberg, Kaplan-Pettus, Chokkalingam, Sanders, Schlosberg, Thompson and Jay. Late: Powell
3. Approval of Agenda (Chair) M/S/Thompson/Kaplan-Pettus. Aye's: Weisberg, Kaplan-Pettus, Sanders, Chokkalingam, Schlosberg, Thompson and Jay. Late: Powell. Noe's: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None
4. Approval of Minutes for March 14, 2022 (Chair) M/S/Thompson/Sanders. Aye's: Weisberg, Kaplan-Pettus, Sanders, Schlosberg, Thompson and Jay. Late: Powell. Noe's: None. Abstain: Chokkalingam. Absent: None
5. Public Comments
6. Chair's Announcements
7. Director's Report
8. Land Acknowledgment (Schlosberg)
9. Introductions
10. Discussion of recruitment
11. Discussion of work plan
12. Update on independent projects (Kaplan-Pettus)
13. **Adjourn 7:23pm** M/S/Thompson/Sanders. Aye's: Weisberg, Kaplan-Pettus, Sanders, Chokkalingam, Schlosberg, Thompson, Powell and Jay. Noe's: None. Abstain:None. Absent: None

City of Berkeley Youth Commission Work Plan

Mission: Identifies the needs of youth, reviews, and recommends youth services and programs.

Activity	Resources	Outputs (What's Happened So Far)	Next Step	Goal
Microgrants	Members of council School board City staff	Discussion with council members		Provide funds to youth lead organizations to increase their opportunities
Mental health (survey at BUSD)	BHS student leadership Wellness and Support Project BHS	N/A	Draft survey to send out to BUSD students to assess needs	Increase quality of mental health care and resources at Berkeley Schools
Youth getting spots in other commissions	Members of council School board City staff	Discussion with council members		Have space in various commissions in Berkeley for Youth Commission members to be appointed
Title Nine training for students	Title IX coordinator Principal Raygoza	Discussion with admin		
Improving vegetarian school lunch within BUSD	Meatless Mondays Club Meal coordinator within BUSD	N/A	Contact meal coordinator	Vegetarian students having sufficient access to healthy school lunch.
Expanding access to free meals		N/A		



CONSENT CALENDAR
June 14, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Youth Commission
Submitted by: Samuel Kaplan Pettus, Chair, Youth Commission
Subject: Adding a youth member to the Environment and Climate Commission

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adds a seat on the Environment and Climate Commission for a person under 18 years of age; and that Student Director on the Berkeley Unified School Board nominates the new youth commissioner and that the full board confirms the appointment.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No fiscal impact.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Currently, the only youth involvement in city policymaking is the Youth Commission. The Youth Commission is an important and powerful voice for youth in our city. Youth are affected by every policy decision made by the City Council, in particular, decisions to do with climate change. Youth will be affected by the decisions we make now for the rest of their lives, but are not seriously involved in making those decisions. The current Climate and Environment Commission has no designated seat for youth. This means that the commission lacks the valuable lived experience and perspectives of youth. It is imperative that youth's voices are considered when addressing climate change.

BACKGROUND

In 1979 the City Council, by establishing the Youth Commission, recognized the importance of elevating the voices of young people in the city policy process. The enabling legislation of the Youth Commission states that the goal of the commission is to "give youth a voice in effecting City policy and services". Since that time, the Youth Commission has done its best to navigate city policy bureaucracy and elevate the needs of youth in our city. However, youth voices have been lacking in the majority of city policy decisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

There are no direct environmental impacts of this proposal. However, youth have the most to lose from the future of our environment and decisions about sustainability, and hence should have a seat at the table when discussing environmental policy.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal would expand youth involvement in city policymaking and better fulfill the vision laid out in the enabling legislation of the Youth Commission. The Environment and Climate Commission will benefit from the youth perspective. The youth member will help the commission understand the needs and capabilities of youth in our city. The youth member will help the commission to harness the power of young people's experiences to better fulfill their mission. Young people will need to be part of our city's, and our world's, long-term environmental approach. This young person should not be tokenized but should be a full voting member of the commission. The commission should be required to fully engage youth in their planning process. The only way to ensure youth have a fair voice on the commission is if they are treated with respect and dignity by being allowed to fully participate and vote on all matters before the commission. If the city fails to give the youth member of the commission a full vote they risk the commission ignoring young people's perspectives on this critical issue.

We recommend that the Student Director on the Berkeley Unified School Board nominates the youth commissioner and that the full board confirms their choice. This will better ensure that the representative is in line with the interests of the youth and reduce the risk of over politicization of the appointee.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

We also considered the City of Berkeley Youth Commission appointing the new youth commissioner to the Environment and Climate Commission. We would support this if council feels it is a better approach.

CONTACT PERSONS

Samuel Kaplan Pettus, Commissioner, Youth Commission
Ginsi Byrant, Secretary, Youth Commission

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##-###

AMENDING THE ENABLING LEGISLATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
COMMISSION (3.82) TO: ADD A SEAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Youth (persons under 18 years of age) are unable to vote in council or mayoral elections; and

WHEREAS, youth (persons under 18) are not represented in the City of Berkeley Environment and Climate Commission; and

WHEREAS, the voices of youth (persons under 18) have valuable ideas for policy; and

WHEREAS, youth (persons under 18) are capable of serving and participating in city commissions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley amends the enabling legislation of the Environment and Climate Commission (Section 3.82) to:

1. Add a seat to the Environment and Climate Commission.
2. The Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors Student Director shall nominate the new youth commissioner.
3. The Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors shall confirm the appointment to the Environment and Climate Commission,
4. The following desirable criteria may guide, but not restrict, the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Directors in making appointments:
 - a) To be residents of the City;
 - b) To be between the ages of twelve and eighteen;
5. The youth commissioner shall serve for no more than two years on the Environment and Climate Commission as the appointee of the Berkeley Unified School District.
6. The youth commissioner may continue to serve on the Environment and Climate Commission in the event they are no longer between the ages of 12-18.
7. The youth commissioner may be re-appointed in accordance with the provisions of Sections [2.04.030](#) through [2.04.130](#).
8. The youth commissioner shall be a fully-appointed member of the Environment and Climate Commission.