



MEETING DATE: 10/16/06
ITEM NO. 3

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2006
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: DEBRA J. FIGONE, TOWN MANAGER
SUBJECT: ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO APPOINT PILAR SVENDSEN AND BEN JOLITZ AS STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSIONERS

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept recommendation from Community Services Commission Chair and Vice-Chair to appoint Pilar Svendsen and Ben Jolitz as a student Community Services Commissioners.

BACKGROUND:

Students are recruited for the Community Services Commission during the recruitment period from April through June. Following the June application deadline, the student's eligibility is confirmed by the Clerk's Department. Qualified students are then interviewed by a sub-committee of the commission. The sub-committee's recommendation is then forwarded to the Community Services Commission for approval, if time allows, and then to Council for appointment. The student commissioners appointed by Council will begin their term of office immediately after taking the Oath of Office.

DISCUSSION:

The Community Services Commission Chair and Vice-Chair held interviews on September 21, 2006, and recommend that Pilar Svendsen and Ben Jolitz be appointed.

PREPARED BY: REGINA A. FALKNER
Community Services Director

Reviewed by: PS Assistant Town Manager JK Attorney _____ Clerk _____ Finance
_____ Community Development

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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

SUBJECT: ACCEPT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT
COMMISSIONERS

October 16, 2006

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that Council accept the recommendation from the Community Services Commission Chair and Vice-Chair to appoint Pilar Svendsen and Ben Jolitz to the Community Services Commission.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

Attachment:

1. Student Applications

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TOWN OF LOS GATOS

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPLICATION

Submit to: Clerk Department
 110 East Main Street, P.O. Box 949, Los Gatos, CA 95031
 Telephone: (408) 354-6834 • Fax: (408) 354-8431 • Email: clerk@losgatosca.gov

Please type or print legibly

* Last Name: <u>Svensen</u>	* First Name: <u>Pilar</u>
* Address: <u>24781 Loma Prieta Ave</u>	* City: <u>Los Gatos</u> * Zip: <u>95033</u>
* Home Phone: <u>408 353 2083</u>	^{Cell} Work Phone: <u>408 910 8181</u>
Email: <u>watergirl0395@hotmail.com</u>	Fax: _____
Present Employer: _____	Job Title: _____
Length of Residency in Los Gatos: <u>9 years</u>	

* If appointed, this information will be made available to the public.

Previously Held Elected or Appointed Governmental Positions	Position/Office Held	Dates
CTE Middle School Student Government	Student Representative	'04-'03
Civic or Charitable Organizations You Have Belonged To	Position/Office Held	Dates
Charity BOD for IJM	Organizer	May '05
Los Gatos/Saratoga Recreational children's play	Set Painter	July/Aug '05
Schools Attended/Attending	Major Subject and/or Grade Level	
Los Gatos Highschool	11 th (As of incoming September)	

A separate application is required for each Commission. Please list other Commissions you are applying to:
~~_____~~

Signature: Pilar Svensen

Date: 06/15/2006

Name of applicant: _____

Please check the appropriate category:

- I am applying for an adult commissioner position.
- I am applying for a student commissioner position.

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Community Services Commission? I really enjoy Community Service and I would love to make a difference in the community. I want to get more involved in Community Service so I can serve others besides myself.

2. What kinds of fund-raising activities have you participated in? IJM Charity BBQ, IM ~~parenting group~~, Los Gatos/Saratoga ~~BBQ~~ Bunny Hunt, ~~BBQ~~ Fiesta Days on the Green and flea markets.

3. What experiences have you had with non-profit agencies? Working for the IJM BBQ, I was able to help raise over \$1,000.00 to donate to children in Africa so they can live better. When working w/non-profit agencies I experienced a sense of unity. Everyone is working together for a greater cause.

4. Please describe any experience you have with grant writing and grant application review processes.

5. Have you ever attended a Community Service Commission meeting? NO. If so, please provide a summary of your observation of the meeting.

6. What community needs would you like to specifically address? A community needs is a group of people willing to work together to make the town a better place. A community needs to offer respect and safety for everyone by working together.



TOWN OF LOS GATOS

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPLICATION

L E D
 MAY 05 2006
TOWN OF LOS GATOS
 CLERK DEPARTMENT

Submit to: Clerk Department
 110 East Main Street, P.O. Box 949, Los Gatos, CA 95031
 Telephone: (408) 354-6834 • Fax: (408) 354-8431 • Email: clerk@clerkdept.com

Please type or print legibly

* Last Name: <u>Jolitz</u>	* First Name: <u>Ben</u>
* Address: <u>22570 Citation Dr.</u>	* City: <u>Los Gatos</u> * Zip: <u>95033</u>
* Home Phone: <u>(408) 353-8754 ext. 109</u>	Work Phone: <u>N/A</u>
Email: <u>benjamin@telemuse.net</u>	Fax: <u>N/A</u>
Present Employer: <u>N/A</u>	Job Title: <u>N/A</u>
Length of Residency in Los Gatos: <u>11 years</u>	
* If appointed, this information will be made available to the public.	

Previously Held Elected or Appointed Governmental Positions	Position/Office Held	Dates
<u>None</u>		
Civic or Charitable Organizations You Have Belonged To	Position/Office Held	Dates
<u>Town of Los Gatos, San Jose Anthony Assoc</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>since 8th grade</u>
<u>Loma Prieta/LEEPS, Prince of Peace Church</u>		
Schools Attended/Attending	Major Subject and/or Grade Level	
<u>Los Gatos High School (current)</u>	<u>10th grade, member C.A. scholarship election</u>	
<u>UC C.A. State Summer School Math/Sci</u>	<u>Intel Promising Young Scientist, winner synthesis 2006</u>	
A separate application is required for each Commission. Please list other Commissions you are applying to:		

Signature: Ben Jolitz

Date: 5/5/06

Name of applicant: Ben Solitz

Please check the appropriate category:

- I am applying for an adult commissioner position.
- I am applying for a student commissioner position.

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Community Services Commission? See answer #1.

2. What kinds of fund-raising activities have you participated in? See answer #2.

3. What experiences have you had with non-profit agencies? See answer #3.

4. Please describe any experience you have with grant writing and grant application review processes.

See #4.

5. Have you ever attended a Community Service Commission meeting? No. If so, please provide a summary of your observation of the meeting. See #5

6. What community needs would you like to specifically address? See #6.

1. I think community service is unappreciated. I have always enjoyed the events that I've done, the people I've met, and the places I've visited. Many of my friends think that community service is like homework – something you don't want to do. They don't see that you can explore interests with people like I do showing families the stars at an SJAA star party, or have a blast with the kids games at the town 4th of July carnival. I would like to bring a student perspective that shows how much high school students like me receive when we participate in community service. I believe you have to do it to understand it, and I want to get high school involvement.
2. I most recently helped at the 4th of July carnival fundraiser. (I signed up to help with the Christmas carriage rides, but that's such a fun one that I didn't make the list). I have helped at the SJAA astronomical equipment auction, which is their primary fundraiser, as well as church events (setup and teardown, mainly).
3. Along with nonprofit groups like the SJAA and my church, I have spent a lot of time this last year with the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project, the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, and other non-profit groups researching the impact of non-native species on the bay salt marshes as part of the restoration of the Bay Area wetlands. I received a first place medal in botany at the 2006 Synopsys Science and Technology Championship for a study of different salinity levels and spectrophotometric profiles of native and non-native cordgrasses and will continue working with these groups to better understand how we may control non-native species better. I could not have done this work without the assistance of all these groups, and I am excited that I am contributing to such an important project. Next week I will be attending the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Indianapolis as an Intel Ambassador with the Synopsys Outreach Foundation (another nonprofit). I am very grateful that they feel I will make a good ambassador and I intend to do my very best.
4. I recently won a \$2,000 grant to attend the University of California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS), a "rigorous, four-week residential program for talented and motivated high school students". The application process was very competitive, with good grades, recommendations, outside math/science projects, and test scores. 80% of students have a 3.5 GPA or higher. But in order to win, I not only had to write convincing essays about my long-term science goals, I also had to convince the judges at Synopsys 2006 of the quality of my research. Those COSMOS judges absolutely grilled me on my knowledge of astronomy, physics, biology and chemistry. One judge walked up and said "Now tell me why I should let you into my astrophysics class?" so I told him about my work in optics and collimation of telescopes. It wasn't easy to win this grant, but I really wanted it, and I did my very best, and I got it.
5. I haven't attended a Community Service Commission meeting, even though I have done community service for the town of Los Gatos for three years and have attended the volunteer's reception. I like going to the reception, because I always

meet interesting people. But this is the first year I've really had a chance at school to write about political questions and get involved with the Politics club. I didn't know there was any possibility of a high school student getting involved on the Community Service Commission until I saw the notice in the Los Gatos Weekly News saying there were student positions available, but by that point I found out the monthly meeting had been held and I couldn't go to one and see it for myself before the deadline for this application. But I am very interested in this position, and I think I would make a very reliable candidate.

6. I think it is very important for kids my age to think of community service as an "opportunity" for learning and doing new things and meeting new people, and not just a "assignment" that has to be done every semester. I have created videos for school and film festivals, and I think it would help to do media projects that make community service attractive and relevant. I especially know that kids my age are very interested in ecology and the environment, especially with gas prices increasing and global warming, and that projects that focus on bettering our world for our generation (like the YSI or trail cleanups) would be a lot of fun. There should also be more ways that kids get together than just work projects to build a team, like a pizza party in the parks (so you can scope out what needs to be done there) and contests with small awards, so that we all get to know each other and depend on each other. Finally, I was reading in the SJ Mercury News about Dana Gioia, the Chairman for the National Endowment of the Arts, and he talked about how reading has fallen in every group in America, with the lowest level in the 18-24 and 25-34 age groups. He said something very interesting, that "If you are a reader, you are overwhelmingly more likely to engage in positive social and civic behavior versus non-readers". I notice that most of the kids I know would rather spend an hour playing a video game than read a book. My family always is reading, and it comes naturally to me. Even though I also like to play video games sometimes, I find that those kids who play all the time never seem to read a newspaper or a book without having the teacher assign it (and even then they complain about it). I think that Mr. Gioia is right - that promoting reading is very important, because it brings people out of their own little world and makes them see the larger world as it is. So I would like to see some work towards encouraging community service volunteers to read and debate and discuss what's happening in the world, so that community service really matters, and isn't just something you have to do to get credit.