



Regular Youth Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Chair Robert Hu
Vice Chair Jolene Brown
Member Aaliyah Wilson
General Counsel Raymond Liu

City Manager Mike DaRoza

Meeting Location: James A. Lewis City Commission Chambers
15100 NW 142 Terrace
Alachua, FL 32615

Youth Advisory Council Meeting

Notice given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes. In order to appeal any decision made at this meeting, you will need a verbatim record of the proceedings. It will be your responsibility to ensure such a record is made.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:06 PM by Staff Liaison Damon Messina.

Robert Hu, Member
Jolene Brown, Member
Aaliyah Wilson, Member
Damon Messina, Recreation and Culture Director

INVOCATION

Led by Robert Hu, Member

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Led by Damon Messina, Recreation and Culture Director

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Robert Hu moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Member Aaliyah Wilson.

Passed 3-0 by roll call.

I. OLD BUSINESS

II. NEW BUSINESS

Member Aaliyah Wilson moved to waive the rules of procedure; seconded by Member Robert Hu.

Passed 3-0 by roll call.

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina recommended that Raymond Liu be appointed to the General Counsel.

Member Robert Hu moves to appoint Raymond Liu to General Counsel; seconded by Member Aaliyah Wilson

Passed 3-0 by roll call.

Item D is moved to Item A. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair is needed before minutes from the last meeting are approved.

A) APPROVAL OF MAY 30, 2024 YAC MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chair Jolene Brown moves to approve the May 30, 2024 minutes; seconded by Member Aaliyah Wilson.

Passed 3-0 by roll call.

B) SUNSHINE LAW OVERVIEW

Presentation provided by Leanne Williams, Deputy City Clerk.

C) MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Presentation provided by Leanne Williams, Deputy City Clerk.

D) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina recommends to take nominations for Chair.

Member Jolene Brown nominates Member Robert Hu to be Chair; seconded by Robert Hu.

Member Aaliyah Wilson nominates herself for Chair.

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina takes a ballot for Chair.

Member Robert Hu is voted in as Chair.

Passed by 2-1 ballot.

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina moves to take nominations for Vice Chair.

Member Jolene Brown is voted in as Vice Chair.

Passed by 2-1 ballot.

E) APPROVE FUTURE MEETING FREQUENCY FORMAT

Member Aaliyah Wilson moved to continue the monthly meeting format that was already in place; seconded by Vice Chair Jolene Brown.

Passed 3-0 by roll call.

Meetings will take place the last Thursday of each month, with special consideration given to the meetings in November and December which will fall on a day that City Hall is closed. Decisions on when those meetings will otherwise be held will be made as the holidays draw nearer.

F) APPROVE MEETING DATES FOR 2025

Member Aaliyah Wilson moved to approve the 6 PM meeting times for 2025; seconded by Vice Chair Jolene Brown.

Passed 3-0 by roll call.

III. BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

Chair Robert Hu opened the floor for comments.

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina asked the members to explain any ideas or changes they would like to make as members of the Youth Advisory Council.

Member Aaliyah Wilson stated she wishes to make an impact on the community through smaller contributions that make bigger impacts over time, such as recycling.

Vice Chair Jolene Brown stated that she wants to continue to contribute to projects similar to Restoring Dignity and to do whatever she can to help the community and have fun while she is doing it.

Chair Robert Hu agreed and stated that his personal goal was to contribute to helping everyone lead healthier lifestyles, focus on civic engagement, and to participate in projects similar to Restoring Dignity.

General Counsel Raymond Liu stated he wants to get more involved in the community, learn more about how his hometown's municipal government works, and participate in projects that provide support to families that are impacted by hurricane disasters.

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina explained the role of the Recreation and Culture Department within the city, the programs that are offered through it, and the help that it receives from volunteers; urging the members of the Youth Advisory Council to participate and get an understanding of the way the department operates.

Vice Chair Jolene Brown stated that she thinks this will be a great year and that the Youth Advisory Council could accomplish even more than it did last year. She also asked for additional field trips.

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina recommended to Chair Robert Hu that we discuss additional ideas and opportunities for field trips at future meetings.

Assistant Recreation and Culture Director Jack Hansen confirms the members' availability for the next meeting date of January 30, 2025.

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina stated that if anyone knows someone that would like to join the Youth Advisory Council, there is still a spot open. He also invited the Youth Advisory Council Members to the 2nd annual 399 Basketball Opening Ceremonies and the 20th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration that will be hosted on January 4, 2025 and January 20, 2025, respectively.

Recreation and Culture Director Damon Messina stated that the Recreation and Culture Department will keep the Youth Advisory Council updated on upcoming events and gatherings so that they can advise as effectively as possible and also to participate if they so wish.

Chair Robert Hu requested to hear any additional comments.

There were no additional comments.

IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Chair Robert Hu opened the floor for citizens' comments.

There were no comments.

ADJOURN

Member Aaliyah Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Vice Chair Jolene

Brown.

Passed 3-0 by roll call.

Chair Robert Hu adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM

ATTEST:

**CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
ALACHUA, FLORDIA:**

Presiding Officer

Staff Liaison