

The 2nd meeting of the teen forum on November 19, 2009 began at 6:30 p.m. at the Gary & Janice Podesto Impact Teen Center. Mayor Johnston made introductions and led the forum discussion.

The discussion focused on the question, “Do we need a teen task force.”

Responses included:

- a. Do not need a teen task force but need to strengthen the current teen groups that are in existence such as Save Our Stockton, Youth Advisory Commission, Y.E.S., etc. However, there is a need to create a methodology for groups to meet and communicate.
- b. Need a task force that meets quarterly that includes teens and representatives from all organizations that provide services to teens. There are many organizations but due to lack of communication teens are unaware of service and activities available to them.
- c. Need a task force to strengthen existing groups and provide continuity.
- d. Task force is needed to involve non-profits. We need to create a collaborative to strengthen any grant opportunities and to write grants to fund teen activities.
- e. Task force is needed in order to make a change. Need a central point of power.
- f. Task force is needed to address and coordinate activities for teens.

Based on the comments, the Mayor’s Teen Task Force has been created.

We also discussed “Who should be included in the Teen Task Force.” and “What would be the goals of the Task Force.” Response was that the Task Force should include teens and all organizations that provide services to teens. We needed to work together to publicize the Mayor’s Teen Task Force. Ben Saffold and Lunee Monckton will assist in outreach to non-profit organization. The goals for the Mayor’s Teen Task Force will be determined at the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at the Teen Center, 725 N. El Dorado Street.