

Agenda for D6NLG (District 6 N'hd Leaders Group), April 1st, 2024, 7 PM

>> **meeting was recorded** for use by D6NLG members.

Video: http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Apr'24_video.mp4;

chat text: http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Apr'24_chat.txt

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Larry Ames, chair
- Agenda Changes/additions?
- Attendee Introductions – Name / Organization / Title
 - Larry Ames, Chair
 - Bill Rankin, Vice Chair, NWGNA, & SOT
 - Chuck Cantrell, the Gardner NA; president of Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful; on Planning Cmsn.
 - Jim Carter, SJ N'hds Cmsn
 - Art Maurice, Cory NA
 - Susan Price-Jang, Rose Glen NA
 - Mary Pizzo, North Willow Glen NA
 - Ed Saum, SHPNA, Alameda Business Association
 - Jean Dresden, SJ Parks Advocates
- Guest speaker: Chuck Cantrell on the reactivation of the Gardner Community Center
 - S+NI: stakeholders and n'hd initiatives: working to get City to reopen the Gardner Com. Cntr.
 - Had mtg w/ Jon Cicerilli and Nanci Klein. City plan: use money from Google to pay staff to reopen for 2 years; but then what? – non-starter w/ community.
 - Community working w/ City Staff on 4 points: programs; budget; access & activation; and planning for an event to reopen Center in June 2024.
 - Push for June: (1) be part of this year's budget cycle, and (2) show community able to activate the Center.
 - Center now is generally closed. Is used for senior food nutrition distribution – a County-funded program.
 - Google money wasn't for paying City salaries: City needs to do its share: money should be for expanding services and assuring community access to them.
 - discussion on reuse of centers; City leases out the centers to keep them occupied, to deter squatters & damage. Also, aquatic program and swimming pools: program cut during Great Recession.
- Corrections to [minutes¹](#) from Mar 4th meeting? **no changes**
 - agendas, minutes, and position papers are archived on <https://calsj.org/D6/>
– now a “secure” website.
- Elected Officials / Staff Updates
 - Supervisor Ellenberg – Steve Kline **no report**
 - Councilmember Davis – Mary Anne Groen **no report**
- New Business:

¹ <http://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG%20Agenda,%20Mar%202024%20w%20notes.pdf>

- Park funding, High-rise tax incentives, Mayor’s proposal for commercialization of city parks: “[Joint Letter](#)”² from advocates re: Mayor’s Budget Letter and retail & commercial use of parkland, 3/16/24; and [LLA public comment](#)³ 3/19/24
- Mayor directed City Mngr to do polling to change City Charter to allow companies to take over parks to help pay for maintenance.
- Push is coming from group that wants to take over Plaza de Cesar Chavez: restaurants, amphitheater? J.Paul contributed \$500k for refurbishment in advance of Nvidia convention.
- Conservancies not necessarily bad, but many fail. Bryant Park in NYC is a special case: pay to enter; nearby apartments pay \$100/yr towards maintenance.
- There is public interest in coffee carts, night markets to display & sell artworks, etc.: “activate” the parks – but that wouldn’t solve the half-billion-dollar backlog.
- Community Centers could be ‘reused’ because they’re short-term (3 yr) leases – but to build a restaurant, will want much longer lease.
- Didn’t have time to bring to D6NLG: only ~48 hrs from Mayor’s statement to get letter to Council.
- Also: Stormwater Permit: We’ve talked about Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) to clean run-off; now also have to move encampments 500 ft away from streams. Estimate: \$24M to provide needed emergency housing – on top of prior \$27M budget shortfall → something like \$55 to \$60M budget cuts this fiscal year, with major cuts to Transportation and to Parks & Rec Dept.
- Mayor’s office asking Off. of Econ. Dev’lpmnt (OED) to consider continuing/extending discounts (“incentives”), and maybe cancelling Construction & Conveyance (C&C) taxes on downtown highrises. High interest rates are making new construction infeasible, but City thinks giving away park fees will make a difference.
- On a recent project downtown, apartments cost ~\$1M each to build, and park fees were \$500 – very small component.
- National problem: nobody can get financing; rent growth is too low; downtowns don’t have enough workers. City wants to feel that it’s doing something.
>> D6NLG action? Our letter on definition of Chartered Parks: wait for when it’s agendized.
- Board and Commission Updates
 - Neighborhood Commission – Jim Carter
 - N’hds Cmsn to be sunsetted. Proposal for N’hd Assoc Engagement Model coming to N’hd Services & Ed (NSE) Cmte.
 - [see SJ All District Leadership Group (SJADLG) [Letter to Mayor & Council](#)⁴ re: “Neighborhood Assoc. Engagement Model” & end of N’hds Cmsn, 4/28/24]
 - Also: Fire stations: budget cuts → “Rolling brown-outs”
 - Parks & Rec Cmsn – Larry Ames (D3): **no April meeting.**
 - [Follow-up letter to Mayor & Council](#)⁵ “clarifying” definition of “Parks” → **Council 4/30/24**
 - All Districts Leadership Group – Larry Ames / Bill Rankin **City Auditor gave us a briefing.**
- Advocacy and Community Group updates; other new topics

²

<https://calsj.org/D6/Joint%20letter%20Budget%20Mayors%20Budget%20Message%20Council%202024Mar19%20Item%203.3.pdf>

³ <https://calsj.org/D6/LLA%20talk%20at%20Mayor%20Budget%20March,2024.pdf>

⁴ <https://calsj.org/D6/SJADLG--NAE-comments,Apr2024.pdf>

⁵ <http://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG-Parks,Feb.2024.pdf>

- Save Our Trails -- Bill Rankin. [City Loop tour](#)⁶ May 5, 10AM, meet at Diridon Station for 12-mile tour.
- SJ Park Advocates -- Jean Dresden
- Thursday at Transportation & Environment Cmte (T&E), re infrastructure backlog, incl. Parks: over \$500M.
- others
- Old business / Continued:
 - updates or follow-up questions on topics from prior meetings?
 - Roundtable discussion of issues local to individual communities
- Date for next mtg: May 6th, on Zoom. Suggestions for guest speaker? [City Auditor; Recycling?](#)
 - [City is downsizing amount of large items that they'll take for free: no carpeting, microwaves or toasters, etc.](#)
- Additional topics? Announcements? Final thoughts?
- Adjourn!

⁶ <https://www.wgbackfence.net/CityLoopTour-Jan'22.pdf>