

## Agenda for D6NLG (District 6 N'hd Leaders Group), Monday July 3rd, 2023, 7 PM

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

Video: [http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Jul'23\\_video.mp4](http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Jul'23_video.mp4);

and Chat text: [http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Jul'23\\_chat.txt](http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Jul'23_chat.txt)

### Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Larry Ames, chair
- Agenda Changes/additions? (Guest speaker was heard after Staff Updates)
- Attendee Introductions – Name / Organization / Title
  - Larry Ames, Chair
  - Bill Rankin, Vice Chair; also NWGNA & SOT
  - Ramiro Torres, Topa Architecture, guest speaker
  - Steve Kline, staff to Co. Sup. Susan Ellenberg
  - Alex Shoor, CatalyzeSV
  - Jean Dresden, SJ Parks Advocates
  - Susan Price-Jang, RoseGlen NA
  - Liana Bekakos, SHPNA
  - Jim Carter, SJ N'hds Cmsn
- Corrections to [minutes](#)<sup>1</sup> from June 5th meeting? **accepted**
  - agendas, minutes, and position papers are archived on <http://calsj.org/D6/>
- Elected Officials / Staff Updates
  - Supervisor Ellenberg – Steve Kline
    - new Co. CEO: James Williams, replacing retiring Jeff Smith
    - Senior Care Cmsn: looking to fill opening; contact Steve
  - Councilmember Davis – Mary Anne Groen **no report**
- Guest speaker: Ramiro Torres, Topa Architecture, on an alternative proposal for a SJ Light Tower
  - Glad for proposal to rebuild Light Tower; disappointed group lost direction w/ design competition & site location issues
  - proposes a modern homage to original Light Tower at orig. location (Market at Santa Clara) [see chart-set: [http://calsj.org/D6/SJ\\_LightTower\\_Topa.pdf](http://calsj.org/D6/SJ_LightTower_Topa.pdf)]
  - has showed concept to D3 CM Omar Torres, who likes idea.
  - Nanci Klein, Off.Econ.Dev/lpmt, likes idea but need to find another site: not atop BART.
  - has talked w/ Steve Borkenhagen, but he is committed to “Breeze of Innovation” design.
  - Topa design same height as orig. light tower; okay in downtown; no public access up the structure -- makes it simpler & cheaper (~\$25M).
- Board and Commission Updates
  - Neighborhood Commission – Jim Carter
    - Communications Engagement mtg., May 24: nothing to do w/ N'hds Cmsn
    - has been contacted by Olympia Williams, SJ staff to N'hds Cmsn: City has RFP for consultant to contact current & past Cmsnrs to meet in August.
    - D6 CERT training: coord cmte meets last Thur of month at Fire Museum
  - Parks & Rec Cmsn – Larry Ames (D3):
    - no P&RC mtg in July; “retreat” in August.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG%20Agenda,%20Jun%202023%20w%20notes.pdf>

- Coyote Meadows Trestle: Coyote Crk Trail closure; public mtg Thur, July 6th, 5:30 PM; Tully Branch Library, 880 Tully Road
  - Park Fee Task Force – Helen Chapman no report
  - All Districts Leadership Group – Larry Ames / Bill Rankin
    - fighting Illegal Fireworks: City is asking public to report on their neighbors.
    - City encouraging fire trucks to drive through n’hds to make presence known
    - trying to stop fireworks from coming into SJ: storage lot blew up.
    - several public displays around town.
- Advocacy and Community Group updates; other new topics
  - Save Our Trails -- Bill Rankin Next mtg 7/17/23
    - Jean: 87 bike trail S of Willow closed due to homeless stringing wires across trail.
  - SJ Park Advocates -- Jean Dresden
    - Pedro St. dev’lpmt (Swim & Racquet): ask for trail easement for LG Crk Trail? Compromise vs Builder’s Remedy? Jean gave info to Liz S.
    - Community Cntrs: convert to housing? (in D2) or build housing on top? Also looking at D1 Cypress Com.Cntr... (Going to P&R Cmsn in Sept.)
    - How “developed” does a park have to be that it’s not at risk for taking?
    - How to balance needs of homeless?
    - Com.Cntrs were supposed to help provide alternatives to gang life.
    - Fee Study is on hold; waiting for overall study; park fees are based on old values.
    - Little C&C fees this year → little money to repair/replace old park playgnd equip. Not sustainable to fund maint. based on growth: unbalanced.
    - SJ Parks Advocates is winding down: time for next generation. Juan Estrada (D5) forming “SJ Urban Open Space Coalition”
  - others
- Old business
  - update on **Housing Policy**: discussion of local “builder’s remedy” (and other) projects?
    - \* 1530 W. San Carlos St
  - after com’nty work, dev’lpr now selling the project → com’nty work all lost.
    - \* 940 Willow
    - \* SJ Swim & Racquet
    - \* Eagles on Lincoln
    - \* others?
- Continued: Roundtable discussion of issues local to individual communities
  - discussion on investors buying affordable dwellings, evicting tenants, improving the properties, and then renting out at higher rent.
  - At 1530 San Carlos, displaced 8 “naturally affordable” units, building 237 units, but none will be affordable. People are being kicked out now, even though dev’lpmt may be years off.
  - can’t tear down until have an approved project → bldgs can sit empty for years → squatters move in → fires & blight.
  - Why kick tenants out early? Discussion on month-to-month; legal vs moral; hassles; 30-day vs 90-day notice? ...
  - Builder’s remedy: dev’lprs can build whatever they want; going for townhomes → SJ loses on density and loses tax base, but easy for the dev’lprs.
  - Selling school land? School district needs money → sell for townhomes.

- what about investors buying up blocks of housing, simply as an investment? Moral obligation to rent? vs. landowner's property rights? "Empty home tax"?
- update on Milligan Parking Lot DSEIR
  - partial win: plans now have riparian setback and trail connection, but still plan to demolish a historic boxing arena for a parking lot. LLA writing a personal letter, will share afterwards w/ group.
- Date for next mtg: **Aug 7th** – planned guest speaker?
- Additional topics? Announcements? Final thoughts? **Mayors asking MLB to allow team in SJ?**
- Adjourn