

**Agenda for D6NLG** (District 6 N'hd Leaders Group), Monday **March 6th**, 2022, **7 PM**  
with notes by L. Ames, 4/27/23

**meeting was recorded:** video: [http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Mar'23\\_video.mp4](http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Mar'23_video.mp4);  
chat text: [http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Mar'23\\_chat.txt](http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Mar'23_chat.txt)

**Meeting Agenda:**

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Larry Ames, chair
  - >> meeting to be adjourned in memory of Michael LaRocca, Mar 19, 1943 - Feb 15, 2023.
- Attendee Introductions – Name / Organization / Title
  - Larry Ames, Chair
  - Olympia Williams, Div.Mngr, BeautifySJ -- guest speaker
  - Sara Sellers, PRNS Interim Deputy Director -- guest speaker
  - Bill Rankin (Vice Chair) NWGNA and SOT Chair
  - Steve Kline, staff to Co. Sup. Susan Ellenberg
  - Alex Shoor, CatalyzeSV
  - Kathy Sutherland, Delmas Park NA
  - Harvey Darnell, DANG & SAAG
  - Art Maurice, Cory NA & SJ PRC D6
  - Liana Bekakos, SHPNA
  - Ed Saum, SHPNA & Alameda Bus. Assoc
  - Jean Dresden, SJ Parks Advocates
  - Susan Price-Jang, RoseGlen NA
- Agenda Changes/additions? add indoor gun range; Burbank Theater
- Guest speakers:
  - Sara Sellers, PRNS Interim Deputy Director - Capital Projects
    - Project Delivery / Capital Improvements:
      - Guadalupe Garden w/ 5 acre dog park; Columbus Park; habitat/wildflowers; Guad River Trail; remove ranger station at Confluence
      - Hanchett Park → Beautiful Way Park, open in 2024
      - Rotary Garden update w/ zip-line
      - Trail projects: 3 Crks to LG at Lonus; way-finding on Guad Tr; Q re Guad at Willow St [LLA has forwarded notes]; Q re 3-Crks → 87 trail & Tamien? Q re “close the gap” LG Crk trail Meridian ↔ Lincoln?
      - Q: status of upgrade to Bascom Lib electronic sign? A: to be installed in few months.
      - “Breeze of Innovation” at Council 4/4/23
      - Impact of planned St. Elizabeth dev’pmt on LG Crk Trail at Meridian/Curci?
  - Olympia Williams, Beautify SJ -- the future of community involvement.
    - Beautification; Blight abatement, illegal dumping; encampment; N’hd issues
    - N’hds Cmsn: hasn’t been functioning lately
      - Jean: NC was set up to fail; didn’t allow caucuses to proceed.
      - OW: want engagement to be bottom-up, not top-down.
      - Asking NSE to sunset NC; move Ind’pndn t Oversight IOCC → P&R Cmsn;

- → N’hd Assoc. Engagement? N’hd Dev’lpmnt Cntr? (but no funding...)
  - Bill Q: why not keep NC until can make new NAE? A: NC is non-functional
  - Jean Q: how about Animal Shelter group? Nowhere to go if NC leaves.
- [Steve side-topic Q: blight on Bascom: burnt bldg. OW will check on demo permit]
  - LLA: NC >was< set up as ground-up. OW: can’t force Council to appoint replacements.
  - Q: how can P&RC do IOCC? A: will be at separate time from P&RC mtgs
  - Jim: useful functions: Budget; Reimagine Public Safety Cmte; Emergency Prep;
  - OW repeatedly says she sees no public support: no comments or ltrs at Council to NSE 3/9; to Council 4/11
  - Jean: UNSCC filled void left by loss of N’hd Devpmt Cntr; now UNSCC fading....
- Corrections to [minutes](#)<sup>1</sup> from Feb 6th meeting? no changes
  - agendas, minutes, and position papers are archived on <http://calsj.org/D6/>
- Elected Officials / Staff Updates
  - Supervisor Ellenberg – Steve Kline no report
  - Councilmember Davis – Mary Anne Groen no report
- Board and Commission Updates
  - Neighborhood Commission – Jim Carter – PRNS [reco](#) to NSE is to sunset it.<sup>2</sup>
    - “Decision has been made” -- but Council hasn’t even considered it yet!
    - Boards & Appointments Cmsn has trouble making quorum, which complicates staffing of other Cmsns.
    - [LLA sent [personal ltr](#)<sup>3</sup> to NSE; spoke via Zoom on behalf of D6NLG -- see [text](#)<sup>4</sup>]
    - Jim: what about All Dist. Leaders Group? Complementary?
  - Parks & Rec Cmsn – Larry Ames (D3) – Cntr reuse; SJ Youth Emp’wrmt Alliance; Fam.Camp
  - Park Fee Task Force – Helen Chapman
  - All Districts Leadership Group – Larry Ames / Bill Rankin – Vision Zero; N’hds Cmsn
- Advocacy and Community Group updates; other new topics
  - Save Our Trails -- Bill Rankin Next SOT mtg 3/20, w/ Mayor Mahan and SJ Trails Liz Sewell.
  - SJ Park Advocates -- Jean Dresden
    - mid-year budget report in: below expectations → C&C funds for parks down 10-15%
  - S+NI (Stakeholders + Neighborhoods Initiative) – Kathy Sutherland  
Formed out of the DANG; <https://www.thesni.org/>
    - formal organization; making app for tracking dev’lpmnt
    - advocating for Gardner Community Cntr. → Fill out survey to support.
  - Proposed indoor gun range, corner of Fruitdale & Bascom – Susan Price-Jang
  - Burbank Theater -- Alex Shoor
    - save theater? Save façade and redevelop? (Bldg is gutted inside; no parking)
    - Annexation; “Builder’s Remedy”? No community support for saving as theater....
    - Vacant historic properties often burn down; best to ask to save tower & marquee.
    - Harvey: write ltr in support of saving façade: compatible w/ Urb.Village plan.

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://sanjose.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11689574&GUID=4751040C-C5C6-402E-B41F-AB184F947CE3>

<sup>3</sup> <http://calsj.org/D6/LLA%20to%20NSE%20re%20NC,%20Mar%202023.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG%20comments%20to%20NSE%20re%20N'hds%20Cmsn,%20Mar%202023.pdf>

- Consensus: write ltr to Council: no objection to annexation; suggest saving façade. [Letter sent to Council](#)<sup>5</sup> 3/20/23.
- Old business
  - update on **Housing Policy**? – Council has deferred until ~June?
  - follow-up on Council's decision re: housing & transp'rtn / **Pleasant Hills Golf Course** and need for public process like DSAP/Google & Urb. Villages? – defer until ~June?
  - update on “**Breeze of Innovation**” (aka Light Tower project) & plans on Cesar Chavez Plaza. >> redraft letter to >new< Council emphasizing econ. impact to current Plaza uses?
  - Need public outreach plan and funding plan.
  - Continued: Roundtable discussion of issues local to individual communities
    - Susan mentions blight of burned house on Menker.
- Date for next mtg: **April 3rd** – Suggestions for next mtg? County Sup. Susan Ellenberg
- Additional topics? Announcements? Final thoughts?
- Adjourn in remembrance of Michael LaRocca
  - see [oral history video](#)<sup>6</sup> (2017) of Michael talking about working in his youth at the Remillard-Dandini brickyard.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG%20letter%20to%20Council%20on%20Burbank%20Theater.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wPoiRDnQh4>