

D6NLG September 12, 2022 Meeting Notes

by Mary Pizzo and Larry Ames, 9/28/22

San José District 6 Neighborhood and Community Leaders Group (D6NLG) met Monday, 9/12/22, 7 PM

meeting was recorded for use by D6NLG members.

http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Sep'22_video.mp4

http://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Sep'22_chat.txt

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Larry Ames, chair
Attendee Introductions – Name / Organization / Title
Larry Ames, Chair
Bill Rankin (Vice Chair) NWGNA and SOT Chair
Steve Kline, staff to Co. Sup. Susan Ellenberg
Mary Anne Groen, chief-of-staff to SJ Councilmember Dev Davis, D6
Jim Carter, D6 rep on SJ N’hds Cmsn
Jean Dresden, SJ Parks Advocates
Ed Saum, SHPNA
Mary Pizzo, Gregory Plaza
Harvey Darnell, DANG & SAAG
Corry Addison, Rosemary Gardens NA
Susan Price-Jang, Rose Glen
Norma Ruiz
Dana Seeger, Alameda Bus.Assoc.
- Agenda Changes/additions?
Add under “new business”
 - * letter supporting Valley Water’s grant application
 - * discussion of traffic issues at Monroe at Moorpark
- Guest speaker: none planned this month; thoughts on future speakers?
- Corrections to [minutes](#)¹ from last month?
 - agendas, minutes, and position papers are archived on <http://calsj.org/D6/>
- Elected Officials / Staff Updates
 - Supervisor Ellenberg – Steve Kline
 - SCC covid health restrictions have been eliminated.
 - Save the Date: October 29, event at Orchard Park
 - Health advisory for MPox
 - we’re invited to invite Supervisor Ellenberg to our community events
 - Sunday, Sat 19, Campbell’s Farms Market Food for Thought
 - Dave Cortese is hosting a meeting with DOT regarding beautifying the highways and addressing homeless
 - Councilmember Davis – Mary Anne Groen
 - Pocket park master plan approved at Hansett @ Alameda will be heard at the tomorrow’s City Council meeting. Park name is still under review, with the Hart Family and Clair Louise Lawrence is a poet.

¹ <http://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG%20Agenda,%20Aug%202022%20w%20notes.pdf>

- Billy D. Frank mural was unveiled on Saturday
 - Cleaning Guadalupe Gardens neighborhood of homeless and large vehicles. Homeless team is using peer-to-peer advocates to help discuss the advantage of accepting temporary housing options.
 - Book launch party for Kay Goodnik on 10/15 11-2pm
 - Blue Zones project are ways to live healthy lives.
- New Business
 - Valley Water Director Barbara Keegan requested a letter of support for their grant application. We agreed to send a letter of support.
[Letter²](#) sent 9/13/22
 - Susan Price spoke for traffic control for Moorpark onto Monroe Avenue. This is in response to the safety of families using Monroe Middle School. Jean recommended Susan write the letter on behalf of D6 students/drivers going into D1 and encountering this hazardous intersection. Recommend seeing how D6 addressed this on Fruitdale Avenue
- Board and Commission Updates
 - Neighborhood Commission – Jim Carter
 - Struggling due to lack of appointed commissioner. They need 11 commissioners for a quorum. Currently only 4 commissioners have been appointed.
 - The Independent Police Auditors report will be released 9/14/22.
 - CERT group for D6: there will be steering meeting in October.
 - Parks & Rec Commission – Art Maurice (D6); Larry Ames (D3)
 - VivaCalle street festival this weekend
 - Status update on park fee recommendations. Some districts receive more funds because of new development.
 - Private recreation credits vs the neighborhood in which the building was put in that doesn't get any funding. In the past, school grounds were counted as 'park land'.
 - Park fees are waived for affordable housing -- but the residents of these properties need park land.
 - Park Fee Task Force – Jean Dresden
 - Jean presented two different methods for calculating per unit park fees (city wide fee vs real estate values by region). Plus cost of dev'lpmnt which is roughly equal across city.
 - Park fees have been successful in funding parks: dozens of new city parks over the years, and developers did not stop building despite their dire warnings.
 - Size of housing has increased over the years, driving up costs: few small apts or 'starter homes'.
 - Need to build parks, or else you're building slums.
 - We need other funding source to address past inequities
 - POPOS (Privately Owned Public Open Spaces) → POPS (Priv. Owned Park Space)
 - 3/4 of open space in Google will be POPS: very little city-owned park

² <http://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG%20letter%20supporting%20SCVWD's%20EPA%20Grant%20application.pdf>

- >> 2nd D6 letter to taskforce?
 - D6NLG is one of the few groups that's been briefed and is informed on the subject. Task force is wrapping up and has to issue a report, and would welcome public comment.
 - Q: should city charge development fee in addition to land costs? Consensus answer: yes
 - Comment: some parts of town are higher density: more residents/room: not reflected in fee calcs. "Affordable complexes" come w/ Fed. rules that limit #kids/rm, making it effectively more costly than 'non-afford.'
 - Fee structure → per sq ft rather than "unit". Gives dev'lprs more flexibility; also makes high-end dev'mts pay more fair share.
 - Q: fee by zone or citywide? Consensus: by zone. Most dev'mnt is downtown: collect more money. (They also charge higher rents, can afford the fees.)
 - fund distribution: AB-1600 law is precise, money distributed by nexus; can't move money from, say, downtown (D3) out to suburbs (D10)... Have to be careful: if lose lawsuit, lose entire fee program.
 - Note: City is now out from Pension Debt: now is time to call for addressing inequity; more than just fee structure. (School properties about to be sold: want \$ to be set aside to be able to buy land if/when available.)
 - Can't shift money to underserved local parks (per AB-1600); but could shift money for "unique amenities". Q: how about "magnet parks" (like "magnet schools")? -- A: maybe include idea in our letter... (But don't let it become "fee to use" that would exclude local underserved community.)
 - Need to fund both park construction AND O&M (operations & maintenance)
 - Q: credit only for POPS, and not for private amenities? Consensus: yes. And limited commercial use (e.g., food trucks okay; not outdoor seating for adjacent businesses.)
 - Remind cmte of our past positions, such as also charging fees for commercial use.
 - >> Vote (unanimous) to send D6NLG letter.
- All Districts Leadership Group – Larry Ames / Bill Rankin
 - had mtg Sat 9/10/22. Guest speaker: Olympia Williams, liaison from PRNS for N'hds Cmsn on structure & future of N'hds Cmsn.
 - ADLG wrote letter on Noble Ponds
- Advocacy and Community Group updates
 - Save Our Trails -- Bill Rankin
 - No Oct mtg; Dorsey Moore from OSA to speak in Nov.;
 - Trail count next week
 - SJ Park Advocates -- Jean Dresden
 - updates on Arena Green plans. [D6 letter postponed...] won't come to Council until Nov.
 - update on "what makes a park a park" & the planned repurposing of parklands
 - Noble Ponds removed from list
 - list does include County Parks land; "is a park a park" still issue for us

- other park issues
 - Homeless evicted from Guad. Gardens have moved into Columbus Park; FAA has no say there...
 - Park Maintenance having staffing challenges
- other updates and issues
- Continued from last month:
 - Roundtable discussion of issues local to individual communities
 - We welcome Dana from Alameda Bus. Assoc.:
 - they are working on PBID (Prop & Bus. Impr'vmt Dist.) [Linc. Ave. also has PBID.] (Jean will contact Dana.)
- Date for next mtg: >> **Mon. Nov.14th.** <<
- Additional topics? Announcements? Suggestions for next mtg? Final thoughts?
- Adjourn.