

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

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

Video: https://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Jul'24_video.mp4;

chat text: https://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Jul'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
 - Jim Carter, SJ N'hds Cmsn
 - Chuck Cantrell, Gardner NA; SJ Planning Cmsnr; Keep Coyote Crk Beautiful
 - Susan Price, RoseGlen NA
 - Kathy Sutherland, Delmas Park NA; S+NI; Candidate for OSA Board, D4
 - Helen Chapman, OSA Board
 - Ed Saum, SHPNA, Alameda Business Association
 - Jean Dresden, SJ Parks Advocates
 - Joanne Harris, The Alameda/Park NA (TAPNA)
 - Art Maurice, Cory NA
 - Olivia Navarro, Measure T Oversight Cmte; SJ D6 Council Candidate
 - Corry Addison, Rosemary Garden NA
 - Liana Bekakos, SHPNA
- Guest speaker: none scheduled.
- Corrections to [minutes¹](#) from June 3rd meeting? **no changes**
 - agendas, minutes, and position papers are archived on <https://calsj.org/D6/>
- Elected Officials / Staff Updates **on holiday**
- Continuing Business:
 - Updates on park funding: “Development Fee Framework,” “Unified Fee,” “High-rise tax incentives,” and preliminary polling on Mayor’s proposal for commercialization of city parks and a possible parcel tax for Park funding.
 - Polling results: “Lease-out parks for commercial uses” looks like would fail; “Bond” also fails; Parcel tax polled close to needed 2/3rds. Discussion on tax wording: can money also be used for homeless? Polling to continue to refine wording. Polling done by “True North”.
 - Council directed Staff to work w/ a Stakeholders Cmte re: polling and parcel tax.
 - >> Appointed cmte member Jean Dresden is seeking our input.
 - is city doing this to look for “foot soldiers” for the campaign?
 - does the parcel tax supplant or supplement current funding?
 - is there an oversight cmte to review spending of money?
 - where will money be spent? who sets priority?
 - will fund divisions be “earmarked” so they don’t get adjusted? There are pros & cons to having portioning formulas defined: been a problem w/ C&C Tax, but Library Bond w/ specific list of projects did work. Now fight over housing tax allocation Permanent vs temporary.

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

- Don't want "bait & switch": park money should go for parks, rather than possible to shift to homeless or other purposes?
- Is there an inflation adjustment?
- Who will manage the fund?
- Discounts for large undeveloped lands? (e.g., Coyote Valley or Alviso)?
- Concern: BeautifySJ (homeless maint & cleanup) is part of PRNS (Parks Dept). At least Dir Cicirelli insists that the two operations are separate – different budgets, different staff – to prevent homeless from draining parks programs. Tent Cities could consume all of money for services.
- Council to hear results of polling on Tues (Aug 6th) w/ proposed ballot measure language. D6NLG can decide whether to support or oppose based on what is proposed.
- Analyses show that parcel taxes have better chance of passing if not on same ballot as presidential election...
- This is a "win" for us: we pushed Council to do survey, and results look promising!
- Another "win": Mayor pushed for a "high rise discount" program that would have lasted ~20 years, and low- & mid-rise, and city wide; but pushback successfully limited discount to shorter period, only downtown, only high-rise.
- [Follow-up letter to Mayor & Council](#)² "clarifying" definition of "Parks" → Council in fall?
- Update on hosting of Candidates' Forum this fall: D6 Council; SCVWD Board
 - aim for mid/late Sept.? try for Westminster Presbyterian? Moderator?
 - planning cmte: Larry, Art, Mary, Bill, Jim, Kathy, Cat; Helen & Pat [Corry also volunteered]. Can help w/ setup, time-keeping, etc. even if conflict-of-interest, but not w/ question selection or moderating).
- Jean: Housing update: see [transcript](#)³ of our discussion. Key points:
 - Council approved moving Measure E funds from building permanent "affordable housing" over to tent-city / tiny-home emergency housing.
 - Two sites already approved: Via Del Oro and Cherry (by Bass Pro); funding now approved.
 - Where to build more sites? Tent campgrounds w/ security & some services; no counseling.
 - 3 properties in D6: Lelong at Willow, S & N side; and Almaden Rd at Canoas Gardens Rd.: all adjacent the Guad River.
 - Also considered parking lot at Kelley Park; they pushed back due to impact to History Park; city voted to use another part of Kelley Park (E side of park, between parking lot & Vietnamese Garden), in a City park. (Due to recent state law changes -and- city formally declaring a "housing emergency", they can legally use parks for emergency housing.)
 - City approved "ministerial approval" → pre-approved; won't come back to Council
 - City wants tent-cities; but not as safe as tiny homes (w/ walls, roof, & lockable door);
 - can move homeless into tents, but can't force them to stay there: not a prison.
 - Moving into tent cities is trauma on homeless; also trauma on community. Need better communications! (Homelessness is a cause of mental issues.)
 - We do care for the people that don't have housing. But they need services as well as shelter.
 - Opportunity to affect the designs w/ constructive feedback: write D6NLG letter?
 - Estimates: \$50/80 mil/year to support tent cities!
 - need help for homeless to transition from street-living to permanent housing; unlearn street-skills.

² <http://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG-Parks,feb.2024.pdf>

³ https://calsj.org/D6/Jul'24_homeless_transcript.pdf

- [Letter drafted; will be discussed at our Aug. mtg.]
- Board and Commission Updates
 - Neighborhood Commission → “N’hd Assoc. Engagement Model” – Jim Carter
 - Gary Cunningham & Jim met w/ Matt Q and Andrea Flores-Shelton to get update.
 - N’hds Cmsn has been sunsetted. Was to meet w/ Olympia Williams, busy, met
 - Program Mngr position has been approved to be added to the city budget.
 - Will organize N’hd Forum this fall (? – will new hire be able to do so that quickly? Also, mngr also tasked w/ dealing w/ opioid settlement.)

[meeting ran long; rest of agenda skipped.]

- Parks & Rec Cmsn – Larry Ames (D3): Downtown High-rise Incentive/park funding; fall retreat.
- All Dist. Lead’shp Group – Larry Ames / Bill Rankin / Jim Carter
- Advocacy and Community Group updates; other new topics
 - Save Our Trails -- Bill Rankin.
 - SJ Park Advocates -- Jean Dresden
 - others?
- Old business:
 - updates or follow-up questions; roundtable discussion of issues local to individual communities
- Date for next mtg: **August 5th**, on Zoom. Planned guest speaker: Matt Loesch, Dir. SJ Public Works, re: site selection and prep for Sanctioned Encampments (if available; unlikely...).
- Additional topics? Announcements? Final thoughts? Adjourn!