

Agenda for D6NLG (District 6 N'hd Leaders Group), February 3, 2025, 7 PM
with notes by L.Ames, 2/27/25

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

Video: https://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Feb'25_video.mp4;

chat: https://calsj.org/D6/recordings/Feb'25_chat.txt

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Larry Ames, chair.
- Agenda Changes/additions? [Steve Kline will arrive late]
- Attendee Introductions – Name / Organization / Title
 - Larry Ames - Chair
 - Andrew Siegler (guest), TRUST
 - Jean Dresden, SJ Parks Advocates
 - Mary Pizzo, North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association - NWGNA
 - Susan Price-Jang, Rose Glen Neighborhood Association - RGNA
 - Bill Rankin, North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association, Save our Trails - NWGNA, Member, President
 - Alex Shoor, Catalyze Silicon Valley
 - Liana Bekakos
 - Art Maurice, Corry N'hd Assoc.
 - Kathy Sutherland, Delmas Park Neighborhood Association - DPNA
 - Stephen Kline, Supervisor Ellenberg staff
 - Jim Carter, N'hd Cmsn; CERT
 - Maren Sederquist, Willow Glen N'hd Assoc. (WGNA)
- Invited guest speaker: TRUST (Trusted Response Urgent Support Team) – Andrew Siegler
 - non-police response team for County; model for “alternative response”, call via “988”
 - for “low-level” mental health crisis.
 - will send out a team in a little teal-colored van; team consists of an EMT, a mental health professional and a peer navigator.
 - City has MCAT, which co-responds with police, as per City Mngr directive.
 - “Alternative response” doesn’t involve police; less stressful. MediCal will not reimburse if police are sent. Ortiz/Cohen/Candeles memo recommends “Alternative” rather than “co-response”.
 - Q: challenge staffing positions? A: TRUST didn’t have problems in SJ area; some in north-county
 - Q: mental help training for Police not as useful, as they still wearing uniform, person reacts, police react.
 - Q: can TRUST accompany park staff when dealing w/ homeless? A: TRUST is more “respond” than “assist”
- Corrections to minutes¹ from Jan. 6th meeting? no changes
 - agendas, minutes, and position papers are archived on <https://calsj.org/D6/>
- Elected Officials / Staff Updates
 - Supervisor Ellenberg – Steve Kline (later)
 - [D6 Councilmember – ?] none
- Continuing Business:
 - Race St / San Carlos proposal:
 - Discuss Planning’s response to public comment on project – Ed Saum

¹ <https://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG-Agenda,Jan2025-wNotes.pdf>

- Update on plans for ADLG/D6NLG-hosted workshop/discussion on “qualitative vs quantitative req’mnts” in *commercial* dev’lpmnts, & the future of Urban Village planning in General Plan, w/ Race St / San Carlos proposal as a “case study” – Jean Dresden, Ed Saum.
 - Alex Shoor: many people writing to Staff; Jason Lee sends everyone the same response.
 - Mark Betz from Buena Vista NA wrote in.
 - Jean talked w/ Jason for an hour. Jason says policy only has a few “absolute” req’mnt; everything else is “guideline.” Q: what’s the point of a policy, then, if nothing means anything? Don’t want to be too rigid, but not meaningless, either. Before, flexibility meant could adjust design some w/ Planning Cmsn & Council; now just “following the letter of the law”, which is State Law for Housing, but not(?) for commercial.
 - Why bother to have Community Meetings if it has no impact? A: sometimes developers will try to accommodate Community wishes.
 - Also, Office of Econ. Dev’lpmnt >does< want this project to go forward. Wants the 25 jobs that will be generated, as well as some sales taxes; will help w/ budget & the looming pension crisis.
 - Jean: there also gang problems in the area; Jason is new to this area, unaware of that.
 - Planners Michael Brilliot and Robert Manford have both left the city; City plans to fill only one of those vacancies
 - Has submitted a formal request for citywide discussion of Urban Village plan policies.
 - Is this an “Interim Use?” A: No, this is viewed as a “50-year” use.
 - Use this as a “Case Study”, cosponsored by ADLG, and the various Leadership Groups.
 - Anybody w/in 1000 ft can appeal to Planning Cmsn. (Won’t go to Council.)
 - [also: a Discussion on gangs & gang suppression; Mayor’s Task Force (YES), etc.]
- New Business:
 - SJUSD under-the-radar meetings on multi-family staff housing proposals on district parcels with little to no community outreach – Jean Dresden
 - need housing for teachers, bus drivers, etc, to reduce turnover.
 - Schools have land due to declining enrollment; changes the financing calculations.
 - Schools are their own “Lead Agency”, meaning doesn’t go to City Council to decide. Generally follows zoning & codes.
 - Four sites: Lenzen at Stockton; River Glen on Broadway; Hillsdale CCOC; and Burette (near Cherry towards 85). Community Outreach ran into NIMBY. Doesn’t matter: School has money (thanks to recent bond), and Housing gets approval pass from the State.
 - River Glen proposal seems good; apartments next to commercial, townhomes next to residential; new 3/4A city park. (But will lose school playground, which neighbors had informally been using...)
 - Upcoming city budget cuts
 - \$80 - 100 M budget shortfall; \$9.7M cuts to Parks? Layoffs probably not this year; likely next year; will leave vacancies unfilled.
 - Cuts to police dept?
 - Q: Will TRUST help police budget by offloading call?
 - Homelessness & housing
 - Mayor put an op-ed in the SF Advocate; pushing for manufactured homes, like ADUs.
 - As southern Calif rebuilds, will impact job market locally, making harder to get projects built up here. Also, Feds are deporting undocumented, which also impacts housing construction.
 - Park maintenance & funding
 - Parks funding dependent on construction and property sales for major maintenance.
 - C&C taxes bounce around year-to-year: \$60M one year, \$20M the next. Some Council Districts have zero dollars for repairs for rest of the year and into the fall.
- County Report – Steve Kline:

- County “State of the District” talk by Susan Ellenberg.
- County services will not be impacted by Fed budget antics; County won’t remove “safety net”
- Next steps on applying to UNSCC?
 - Bylaws adopted and posted
- Board and Commission Updates
 - N’hd Assoc. Engagement Model – Jim Carter
 - feedback on recent (1/25/25) forum on Policing and Traffic Summit
 - mainly the 4 police captains introducing themselves; I will invite them to our next mtg.
 - also speeding cameras and red-light cameras.
 - Steve: many traffic accidents on Parkmoor at Leigh (north of I-280, like an onramp to Fwy)
 - Q: ask captains to discuss traffic/speeding there.
 - Parks & Rec Cmsn – Larry Ames (D3): City-Wide Sustainable Park Maint. Status Report
 - All Dist. Lead’shp Group – Larry Ames / Bill Rankin / Jim Carter:
 - bylaws; special mtg on Urban Villages?
- Advocacy and Community Group updates; other new topics
 - Save Our Trails -- Bill Rankin. Next mtg March 24th, w/ Co Trails mngr Rebecca Coats-Maldoon
 - SJ Park Advocates -- Jean Dresden
 - What can we say to Council in face of budget challenges.
 - Info memo on Fire Safety at wildlands interface. new memo, from City Clerk’s office.
 - others?
- Old business:
 - updates or follow-up questions; roundtable discussion of issues local to individual communities
 - Maren Sederquist working w/ 311-App team to improve usability
 - Susan Price: need training for property mngrs of affordable housing projects.
- Date for next mtg: **Monday, March 3rd**, on Zoom.
- suggestions for guest speaker? Police captains? County Supervisor Betty Duong, Dist. 2?
- Additional topics? Announcements? Final thoughts? Adjourn!