

Agenda for D6NLG (District 6 N'hd Leaders Group), March 3, 2025, 7 PM

Notes by L. Ames, 4/2/25

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

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

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Larry Ames, chair.
- Agenda Changes/additions? Welcome Councilmember Mulcahy, and have him speak first.
- Attendee Introductions – Name / Organization / Title
 - Larry Ames - Chair
 - Councilmember Michael Mulcahy, guest
 - SJPD Capt. Ken Tran, guest
 - SJPD Capt. Ali Miri, guest
 - 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
 - Ed Saum, SHPNA Chair
 - 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)
 - Judie Ciesla, The Alameda/Park N'hd Assoc. (TAPNA)
 - Joanne Harris, TAPNA
 - Liz Xochipapalo Amador, new resident in D6
- Councilmember Michael Mulcahy: see our District newsletter. City Budget coming out soon. New businesses opening in D6.
 - Q: regarding helping the homeless and Meas. E funds: we'll see the Mayor's proposal soon, and will go from there. But Meas. E should be used to getting homeless housed.
 - Q: how do we balance supportive services vs rest of the city. A: Homeless issue is affecting rest of the city; need to help homeless to improve the city & the ability to recruit investment. Need to clean up city to look good next year [Superbowl]. Looking forward to learning what others on Council wish. Does support using Meas. E for this purpose. Challenging problem!
 - We've had homeless for ages: when did it become a crisis?
- Invited guest speakers: SJ Police Captains Ken Tran (Western Division) and Ali Miri (Central Division)
 - Capt. Tran: been w/ SJPD 25 yrs; newly promoted 3 months ago. Everywhere I go, hear about homeless encampments.
 - Capt. Miri; also recently promoted; used to be in homicide and special operations. Enjoys going out to community mtgs.: bring together different perspectives. Now using analytics to help solve issues.
 - Q: how do patrol officers view "supportive housing"? Are they bringing their problems w/ them, or do they do better when housed? A: depends on the person: some just needed a little help; some can't get away from their problems. Some can't adjust to following rules, and end up back on the street.
 - Q: what about the metrics? Does crime go down overall, or is it just shift from one place to another? A: in part, crime just wasn't observed as much when they were living off the beaten path. Metrics aren't all that useful: need to follow individuals.

- Q: need for professional management, e.g., at Emmanuel on Leigh? A: (CM Mulcahay): Problem is that that's a "low barrier" place -- takes in all-comers; straight in from the street into communal living. Very rocky experience. CM recommends PD's Crime Prevention program. Also: please register your video doorbell w/ SJPd, to assist in case of incidents.
- Q: County controls admission req'mnts at these facilities; makes for complex situation. A: yes; MidPen not allowed to screen residents; it's "Low Bar."
- Q: Also unfair to other unhoused, having to deal w/ the disrupters. A: yes.
- Q: Community Service Officers: are they helping? A: yes, they're fantastic; assist w/ investigations.
- Q: MCAT program: accompany the police, or w/o police like TRUST. A: MCAT are trained on how to help w/ mental challenges, but they are police officers. MCAT can also help w/ referrals to med help. Also, MCRT County program; and PERT w/ licensed clinician w/ a partner out on calls.
- Q: TRUST is therapist plus a community member w/ "lived experience"; no uniform or gun, not a "trigger" for person. MCAT are police officers w/ training, not professional therapists, and in uniform. A: PERT is clinician plus an officer.
- Q: Are the "hot spots"? A: yes, some areas need more attention.
- Q: How are you dealing w/ undocumented people? A: SJPd never asks person's status; don't need to know; want everybody to feel safe. Don't want group to feel ostracized, get victimized because they're afraid to call the police. SJPd is not the Feds; they're there to keep the peace.
- CM Mulcahay: no such thing as "Sanctuary City", but SJ is a "Welcoming City", like many big cities.
- Q: How can we help? A: be "eyes and ears", and report problems. -- and recommend new recruits. SJPd is best-and-brightest.
- CM Mulcahay (to D6NLG): let Council office know about N'hd Assoc. boundaries & meeting times, so office can update website.
- Corrections to minutes¹ from Feb 3rd meeting? no changes
 - agendas, minutes, and position papers are archived on <https://calsj.org/D6/>
- Elected Officials / Staff Updates
 - Supervisor Ellenberg – Steve Kline
 - Feb 25th last Board mtg: newsletter. Increased access to behavior health services.
 - New facility 80% complete
 - Co. investing in TRUST and COMPASS w/ low barrier access to substance abuse treatment services.
 - New Hub & Co-located apartments on Parkmoor at Meridian; open in Sept.
 - Co. is really concerned about what's happening in Wash DC: major impacts to Co. services funding; impacts to Regional Medical Center. One third of Co budget comes from Medicare & Medicaid. Co. can not turn people away. Budget cuts will impact people! Difficult times! Difficult decisions ahead. Co. budget was \$37M in deficit: large, but Co. would be able to resolve; but now we're in crisis mode.
 - D6 Councilmember Michael Mulcahy – ? nothing more to add
- Continuing Business:
 - Upcoming city budget cuts and their impacts on city services, etc. Something to worry about.
 - Park maintenance & funding: "Study Session" at City Council, April 8, 6-8 PM: show of support? [postponed to April 15th.]
Would like to have public attend to show interest, but only need a few to actually speak.

¹ <https://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG-Agenda,Feb2025-wNotes.pdf>

It's been 6 yrs since last parks study session: many new CM's, don't know how finances work. Attending on Zoom doesn't show public support. "Seats in the saddle!"
And even if no parks in your n'hd, show up and say that there's no parks there.

- 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.
Ed will help. Susan: Q: what? A: State law now requires "quantitative" req'mnts, as compared w/ current "qualitative" req'mnts. Susan: other places require housing above commercial, why not here? A: finances. Commercial vacancies, impacts viability; easier to build all-housing. Jim Carter offers to help. Jason did forward request up to mngmnt; hasn't heard answer. Also, vacancies at City Hall; trouble recruiting employees to work for director. Planning Dept. has challenges.
- New Business:
 - BeautifySJ Grant – Art Maurice. (Now what?) We got a \$1k grant! Q: Need bank account; IRS EIN? budget? Consensus approval.
[Got a D6NLG EIN Assigned: 33-3769385; have opened an account at Heritage Bank.]
Recommend getting website & domain name, so won't be piggybacking off of personal site.
 - Next steps on applying to UNSCC? haven't done anything yet... Art will volunteer as treasurer.
 - Electronic Bulletin Boards, incl. on Willow at 87? LLA writes personal letter; Mary Pizzo writing one on behalf of North WG. City has no control over what is advertised.
 - Homelessness & housing Jean: City Mngr will address deficit by moving Meas. E money to Homeless Services for operational costs. If does so, then not so much deficit; easier to balance budget.
Q: if money moved, does that stop affordable housing? A: yes, but none was being financed anyway...
Q: As long as we choose to operate EIH's, will need \$25M/yr to run them. Need them anyway?
A: No, this is just "trash pickup", not the on-site counseling / mental help as is needed at Emanuel...
- Board and Commission Updates
 - N'hd Assoc. Engagement Model – Jim Carter no news. [Actually, there was another mtg: N'dh Forum March 22 at Seven Trees Com'nty Cntr:
 - Here is the link for SJPd/NNO website for you to have on hand:
<https://www.sjpd.org/community/crime-prevention/national-night-out.>
 - Parks & Rec Cmsn – Larry Ames (D3): budget priorities discussion; Community Impact Annual Report; Spartan Keyes Master Plan and Park Naming
 - All Dist. Lead'shp Group – Larry Ames / Bill Rankin / Jim Carter:
 - bylaws; joint mtg w/ D6NLG on Urban Village policies.
- Advocacy and Community Group updates; other new topics
 - Save Our Trails -- Bill Rankin. Next mtg 3/24. w/ Co. Trails Mngr.
 - SJ Park Advocates -- Jean Dresden Park Advocacy for park funding. Reorganizing for current times. Also, "what is a chartered park?"
[D6NLG drafted a letter years ago, ready for this: now's the time to update and submit. Done,² but then Council deferred & rescheduled.]
* Also: April 8th Study Session on Parks --[Deferred to 4/15/25...]
* Everybody is worried about homelessness, but also "what about us? -- Quality of life; parks, traffic, etc." -- Emergency Housing is not sustainable....
* Instead of Zero Homeless, now talking about "Net Zero" -- not increasing.

² <https://calsj.org/D6/D6NLGonParks,Mar2025.pdf>

- * Cheaper to intervene before losing house rather than after-the-fact.
- * Only \$5k to keep them housed: pay a month's rent or do car repair, compared to much more for rehousing, recover from credit record being trashed. One-time grants are cost-effective.
- * Stockton found that just gift of \$200/month makes a big difference!
- others?
- Old business:
 - updates or follow-up questions; roundtable discussion of issues local to individual communities
 - Joanne: TAPNA did get a grant
 - Maren: WGNA having Shiloh Ballard coming to talk; N'hd Watch meetings.
 - Mary: work w/ Gardner & Delmas-Park on Join N'hd mtg on Safety & Homeless.
 - Kathy: Diridon mtg on 3/13/25 at Gardner.
- Date for next mtg: **Monday, April 7th**, on Zoom.
 - suggestions for guest speaker? County Supervisor Betty Duong, Dist. 2? CalTrain? SJ Unified?-- special elections?
- Additional topics? Announcements? Final thoughts? Adjourn!