

Agenda for D6NLG (District 6 N'hd Leaders Group), October 7th, 2024, 7 PM

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

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

chat: calsj.org/D6/recordings/Oct'24_chat.txt

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Larry Ames, chair.
- Agenda Changes/additions? Steve Kline will give his report near the end of the mtg.
- Attendee Introductions – Name / Organization / Title
 - Larry Ames, Chair
 - Ramses Madou, Div. Mngr, SJ DOT
 - Eric Eidlin, SJ DOT
 - Jessica Zenk, Dept. Dir, SJ DOT
 - Bill Rankin, Vice Chair, NWGNA, & SOT
 - Steve Kline, Board aide to Co. Sup. Susan Ellenberg; Friends of Bascom Library
 - Art Maurice, Cory NA
 - Ed Saum, SHPNA, Alameda Business Association
 - Jean Dresden, SJ Parks Advocates
 - Judie Ciesla, The Alameda/Park NA (TAPNA)
 - Pierluigi Oliverio, WGNA
 - Mark Bettelheim, Buena Vista NA
 - Mary Pizzo, NWGNA
- Invited guest speakers:
 - Jessica Zenk, Ramses Madou, and Eric Eidlin from SJ Dept of Transportation on plans for Diridon Station and HSR.
 - Diridon Station will be area's most-connected station
 - pre-Covid: 17k passengers/day; expecting to go to ~100k/day
 - want Diridon to be an attractive destination: a place to go
 - lot in the area: Downtown West (& Google)
 - tracks will follow current path; station w/ 2 nodes (San Fernando & Santa Clara Ave)
 - 2 alternatives: At Grade & Elevated tracks. Both alt's preserve historic Diridon Station as entrance to San Fernando node
 - "At Grade" will have an "excavated plaza" in front of hist. station to give height.
 - Elevated has structure from ~Delmas to Taylor; At-Grade is rebuilt only from San Carlos to Cinnabar: costs less, but requires closure of Virginia Ave (limiting access to that n'hd.)
 - Light Rail will be realigned under the station.
 - Q: BART connection? A: platform-to-platform connection;
 - Q: Airport connection? A: included in the plans.
 - Q: what are impacts to n'brs during construction? Months? Years?
 - City representative regarding the siting of temporary facilities for the Homeless -- maybe next month?
- Corrections to [minutes¹](#) from Sept. 9th meeting? accepted as-is
 - agendas, minutes, and position papers are archived on <https://calsj.org/D6/>
- Elected Officials / Staff Updates
 - Supervisor Ellenberg – Steve Kline (shifted to later)

¹ <https://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG-Agenda,Sep2024-wNotes.pdf>

- Councilmember Davis – Mary Anne Groen / Fred Buzo? (Fred has left the D6 office)
- Continuing Business:
 - Discussion/feedback on D6NLG Candidates’ Forum, 9/30/24
(see video: https://calsj.org/D6/D6Forum_Sept2024.mp4)
 - last-minute cancellation of Council portion of debate due to death in the family; had more time for Water District debate
 - thanks to Ed and SHPNA for cosponsoring the event, thereby providing the needed event insurance.
 - SHPNA and ABA offered to host a follow-up forum for Council. [Candidates did not accept in time, so it has not been possible to have a make-up forum.]
 - Continued discussion on assisting the homeless, emergency housing, tent cities, park impacts, etc. [see https://calsj.org/D6/D6NLG-EmergencyHousing_Aug2024.pdf]
 - Construction has started to double the size of Rue Ferrari;
 - Jail diversion project in D2 will not happen;
 - no progress on Lelong site, nor Cherry Ave. (near Fwy 85)
 - Updates on park funding, including park fee discounts (limited to North SJ?), Historic Preservation, and park plans for Communication Hill.
 - task force on funding has been meeting. Stakeholder mtg., w/ discussion on lowering fees in only D4 where there was an anomalous value for land. Oct 23rd date has slipped.
 - Large D4 proj. on Seely Ave is going ahead regardless. If park fees cut, will still have a park, but no money for moving historic home to History Park, nor funds to fix up Agnews Park.
 - Market seems to be opening up; might not need park fee cuts; but Housing Dir. is advocating for no fees anywhere as housing is a priority.
 - Unbuilt Ohlone proj on W San Carlos may become an affordable housing mid-high project.
 - Q: what’s impact of Governor signing law saying developers pay fees upon completion rather than along the way? A: city was already expecting it...
 - Ohlone proj was hung up by VTA request for Tower, which n’brs & market did not support.
 - County Update, from Steve Kline:
 - Parade of Champions, including honoring Art Maurice & Mark Beck.
 - Regional Medical Center is being purchased by County to keep facility open.
- New Business:
 - Continued discussion on the structure of D6NLG.
 - Mary Pizzo and Judie Ciesla volunteered to help on subcmte to update “guidelines” into “bylaws”. [We’ll meet 11/29]
- Goal: be able to join UNSCC, get Board & Event insurance; also be able to get bank account & grants.
- Board and Commission Updates
 - Neighborhood Commission → “N’hd Assoc. Engagement Model” – Jim Carter (Oct. 26th)
 - Parks & Rec Cmsn – Larry Ames (D3)
 - Rangers for Alum Rock & Kelley Parks, plus some trails; funding for BeautifySJ program.
 - All Dist. Lead’shp Group – Larry Ames / Bill Rankin / Jim Carter
- Advocacy and Community Group updates; other new topics
 - Save Our Trails -- Bill Rankin. Next mtg: Nov 18th
 - SJ Park Advocates -- Jean Dresden
 - Federal grant for park at 3rd & Keyes, w/ brick bldg. that will be preserved -- only park in northern Calif to get Fed \$.
 - Elsewhere, Fed grant to convert landfill to park: possibility for Coyote Meadows?
 - 2 more parks on top of Communication Hill, making total of 4 at different levels.

- Beautiful Way Park taking shape.
- others?
- Old business:
 - updates or follow-up questions; roundtable discussion of issues local to individual communities
 - Mark Bettelheim, Buena Vista: Chick Fil-A on San Carlos at Race (former Burger King): concern about traffic impacts – queueing for drive-thru; incompatible w/ urban village plans. (Ed says it does barely meet the letter of Urb.Vil. req'mnts, if not the intent.)
 - State law now says only “quantitative” req'mnts can be enforced; makes hard to have design guidelines or historic preservation.
 - Judie: had mtg w/ Valley Water re: “perched aquafer” (groundwater near surface): flooding basements; requires sump-pumps to drain. (Also floods some sections of freeways: there the water has to be collected & hauled away due to road contaminants.) Also concern about Vermont House; will talk to Co. Sup.
 - Art: invite to attend Cory N’hd mtg 10/28 to hear from State Senator Aisha Wahab at Cory Elem.
 - Ed: evaluation of Blue Zones program. Also, trick-or-treat on The Alameda on Halloween.
- Date for next mtg: **Monday, Nov. 4th** on Zoom
- Additional topics? Announcements? Final thoughts? Adjourn!