

SJ Neighborhoods Commission (NC) June 8, 2016 meeting
informal notes by L. Ames, 6/9/16.

>[amended agenda](#)<

No public comment. No liaison report.

Staff noted that this is the last meeting w/ the original even-numbered Commissioners (including yours truly): we are termed out, and our replacements have been selected by the recent Neighborhood Caucuses. Accolades generously shared by Staff and Commissioners.

Agenda E1: Mayor's Office Smart City Vision,

by Shireen Santosham (Shireen.Santosham@SanJoseCA.gov)

informational presentation: no action requested.

>[Link](#)< to chartset

Proposal is to increase use of technology and data-driven decision-making.

Five categories:

- "Safety": e.g., "Vision Zero" (reduce traffic accidents to zero) – use data to find most dangerous streets and concentrate on improving them
- "Inclusive": tackle inequality. "Tech Hire" program to train for jobs
- "User Friendly": go for paperless; simplify permitting process to be on-line.
 - "Open Data Policy": make city's 600 data-sets available to public by 2020.
 - "Neighborhood Dashboard" – an app for reporting potholes, illegal dumping, displaying neighborhood info, ...
- "Sustainability": reduce greenhouse gas emissions; have more electric car chargers.
- "Demonstration City": try to have San José be the test-site for new technologies & services. For example: Facebook's "Terragraph" – internet 10× faster than "Wickedly Fast".

Agenda E2: Budget

- NC properly released two letters thru system to Mayor & Council: on [overall budget](#) and on [illegal dumping](#); have been distributed to Council and now are part of the Official Record.
- Council will consider budget at next Tuesday's meeting, and formally adopt on June 21st.

Agenda E3: 2016 Caucus Process

- Process successfully completed for all 5 even-numbered districts.
- Some districts had few candidates and/or few delegates; D6 had ~18 candidates (some of whom withdrew along the way) and a dozen delegates.
- [I participated in the D6 Caucus, both as a volunteer and as a Delegate for the newly re-formed WGNA. Caucus process worked smoothly; 2 min for each opening statement; time for 4 questions and replies; 1 min closing statements; caucus vote, and 2 Commissioners selected on the 1st ballot: Jim Carter and Olivia Navarro.]
- Accolades to Staff on success, & on withstanding excessive "Management" by a Councilmember

Agenda E4: Election of Interim Chair & VC

Both current chair (me) and VC (Matt Wahlin) are termed out. Current Commission wants to wait until new Commissioners join in August before selecting Chair and VC for the year, but need someone to run

the Aug. meeting. Commission selects Desiree (Dee) Barragan as Interim Chair and Nichole Edraos as Interim VC. (Interim officers can run for full-term positions, but don't have to.) Some discussion as to whether Commission in Aug. will select new Chair and VC to take over immediately upon vote or at the Sept. meeting. My comment: it's hard on selectee to suddenly jump in and take over running of the meeting. Suggestion: schedule the selection of Chair and VC to be last item on Aug. agenda.

Agenda E5: Review fo 2015-16 Workplan

Staff to give Council a report of what we did this past year. Commissioner's comments:

- Commission output: Letters written, but also Comments by Chair on behalf of Cmsn at various Council meetings, and the Q&A comments w/ presenters at Cmsn meetings.
- City Budget, both in response to final proposal and also Feb. letter during drafting of budget.
- Illegal Dumping; Illegal Fireworks; discuss Gang Prevention Task Force, Shrines, ad-hoc cmtes
- Consideration of Homelessness; consideration of, and declination to pursue, "Crime-Free Multi-Unit Housing" initiative.
- Commissioners to review our notes and forward additional info to Staff for report to Council.

Agenda E6: Begin Consideration of 2016-17 Workplan

- Don't take on too much work: allow room for flexibility. Limit to three major topics?
- Impact of illuminated billboards?
- Neighborhood interface w/ "Urban Villages"?
- Community Policing – officer rotation policy?
- Have the Cmsn meet at off-site locations scattered around the city?
- Whatever: to be decided beginning of next term in consultation w/ incoming class.

Agenda E7: Work Process Document

- First introduced last fall; been thru multiple revisions to answer comments from Staff & Legal
- Don't have time to word-craft to perfection: Want to have some info to give new arrivals
- Vote to approve as-is. Latest draft version: >[link](#)<

Chair's Report:

- It's been fun. (It's been work!)
- Please, everyone: keep involved, and keep the NC relevant.

Next meeting:

- No meeting in July. Next meeting: Aug. 13, 2016
- Aug meeting topics:
 - Introduction of new members
 - Brown Act
 - Work Plan
 - Selection of Chair and VC.

This has been my last meeting as Chair and as Commissioner of the Neighborhoods Commission. Bye!

I will not be bored: I've already accepted a position on the Santa Clara County's "National Heritage Area" Taskforce, to see whether the County should apply for listing under a National Park Service program, perhaps honoring the area's transition from "Valley of Hearts Delight" to "Silicon Valley".