

Moreland West NA Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
January 27, 2022

Agenda

- 6:30 p.m. Welcome & Announcements – Amy Cody
- 6:45 p.m. SJ Neighborhoods Commission – Gary Cunningham
- 6:50 p.m. SJ's 311 Website & App – Cyrus Shahriari
- 6:55 p.m. Campbell & San Jose Police Reports
 - Cpt. Ian White, CPD
 - Cpt. Brian Shab, SJPD
- 7:10 p.m. SJ Vice Mayor Chappie Jones
- 7:35 p.m. Campbell Mayor Paul Resnikoff

Welcome & Announcements

- Upcoming Events: March – County Supervisor Ellenberg and SJ District 1 candidates; April – Neighborhood Litter Pick Up; May – program on Responsible Pet Ownership.
- Thanks to Elisa Boyden for designing our recent flyer letting residents know about neighborhood association activities. Volunteers distributed 700 copies and several new neighbors joined the email list. Thanks, also, to yard sign hosts for supporting outreach.
- We have begun recording MWNA meetings so that those with schedule conflicts won't miss out. The link will be available by request.

Community Updates

Beautiful SJ Grant

MWNA's application for a \$5,000 BeautifySJ grant was approved. We signed the MOU in January and are waiting for funds. We'll implement a joint project with the Moreland School District to reduce pet waste and litter by installing two pet waste stations and three trash receptacles along Student Lane and Fallbrook Ave, which the school district will maintain. The grant will also pay for additional yard signs and a banner to promote our neighborhood litter up, block party refreshments, and United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County annual membership fees. Ideas for 2023 BeautifySJ grant projects include painting utility boxes and installing educational artwork near storm drains to help protect our rivers and the Bay. If you have ideas or would like to be involved in any of these efforts, contact Amy or Miranda Kwan.

1312 El Paseo & 1777 Saratoga Avenue Mixed-Use Village Project

Amy showed a slide that included key project info and drawings of all four buildings.

- In late November, the MWNA submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the El Paseo Signature Project. These are available on the MWNA website.

- Among our concerns is that the traffic study didn't take into account traffic from the proposed Costco Warehouse project. The EIR is supposed to analysis the cumulative impact on traffic from foreseeable development in the area, so we expect a revised traffic analysis to consider not only the Costco project, but Saratoga's new Housing Element, which calls for dense residential development around the McDonald's site on Prospect, as well as hundreds of new homes on Saratoga Avenue, near Cox Avenue.
- At the SJ Planning Division's community meeting on January 20, we learned that the Sand Hill Property Company plans to bring Whole Foods in as the anchor tenant.
- MWNA continues to express our concern about the impact that 1,600-1,800 new residents would have on traffic and parking in our area. We'll continue to advocate for fewer residential units, pedestrian/bicycle safety improvements, and more transit.
- We understand that the current proposal is just Phase 1 in re-development of the entire El Paseo de Saratoga Shopping Center. We don't know what the Sand Hill Property Company plans next, but it's likely to involve our end of the shopping center.
- January 20 meeting attendees pointed out that building 994 residential units in this single project, would come close to 2/3 of the 1,600 residential unit total that the City has said it wants to see built in the entire Paseo de Saratoga Urban Village, which includes the Westgate Mall and Westgate West. In response, a planner said that when we meet our 1,600 goal, the City could "float" additional density from other areas here.
- While it's important for our neighborhood association to discuss the El Paseo project and submit comments with a unified, amplified voice, the community input process doesn't always value this. During the Planning Division's online meetings, verbal comments are limited to one minute and written comments are not allowed.
- Neighbors are encouraged to review the project proposal, which was recently updated on the City's website, to email comments to the Planning Division, and to both attend and share your thoughts at community meetings.

Costco Warehouse at Westgate West

- The SJ Planning Division held a joint EIR Scoping Session and community meeting on January 26 for the proposed Costco at Westgate West. The public has until February 11 to submit comments as to what should be studied in the draft report.
- Country Lane residents and others who live adjacent to the site are concerned about a number of issues, which they expressed at the meeting. There were 43 speakers, all of whom had major concerns or opposed the project.
- Costco is preparing a FAQ document to answer the many questions asked on January 26 and at two previous meetings hosted by Vice Mayor Jones.
- This project would shoehorn a popular 166,058 sq. ft. membership warehouse into an unusually small site, in a dense urban location that is immediately adjacent to homes and diagonally opposite from a high school.
- Our neighborhood's primary concerns appear to be Traffic Impacts caused by this and other expected development in the area; Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety along Prospect Road, especially where students cross at Lawrence Expressway; and Site Access and Circulation issues, including adequate parking for Costco shoppers and protected parking for co-located businesses.

- Please share comments about what should be studied in the draft EIR and consider sending an email directly to the Planning Division.

Community Opportunity to Purchase Program (COPA)

- The City of San Jose is exploring whether to establish a program to give qualified nonprofits the opportunity to bid on for sale rental properties with the goal of increasing the supply of affordable rental units.
- COPA requirements would not apply to all rental properties. After many stakeholder meetings, City Housing staff have adjusted the proposed policy to apply only to rental properties with two units or more and to include certain exemptions. Sellers do not have to accept non-profit offers. However, opponents argue that COPA would delay the sale of rental properties and make selling them harder and more expensive.
- If you own a multi-unit rental property in SJ, this is a proposal you should be following.

Redistricting

- In December, new state assembly, state senate and congressional maps were finalized as part of the redistricting process, which happens every decade following the U.S. Census. New districts take effect with the June 2022 primary.
- Currently our neighborhood is in State Assembly District 28 and represented by Evan Low. In 2023, our neighborhood will be added to what will be District 23. The District will include Saratoga, run over to the coast and up to Pacifica, and swing back over to include Woodside, part of Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos. Most of that area is currently represented by Assemblyman Marc Berman, and he plans to run for re-election this June. (Evan Low plans to run in District 26, which is a new district that includes Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Santa Clara and a small part of San Jose.)
- Currently our neighborhood is in State Senate District 15 and represented by Dave Cortese. Beginning next year, the San Jose portion of our neighborhood will still be in Sen. Cortese's district, but Campbell residents will be in District 13 and represented by Sen. Josh Becker. Neither senator will be up for re-election until 2024.
- We plan to invite Assemblyman Berman and Senator Becker to join us next year so residents can meet their new state representatives.

SJ Neighborhoods Commission

Gary Cunningham is one of two Neighborhoods Commissioners for District 1. The Neighborhoods Commission is preparing its annual budget recommendation letter to share with the Mayor and City Council. Gary thanked MWNA for our input. The Commission also operates the ICOC (Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee), providing oversight for various bond measures. They just completed work for 2021 on the Measure B sales tax, which generated over \$46 million.

Separately, Gary also serves on the Measure T Oversight Committee, which is developing a report on the \$650 million public safety and infrastructure bond.

Neighborhoods Commission positions are filled during annual caucuses. Due to COVID restrictions, caucuses are on hold until city facilities are available to host them. There is a vacant position for District 1.

SJ's 311 Website & App

Cyrus recorded a short video on using the City of San Jose's 311 reporting system for neighbors not familiar with it. Through the 311 website, app or phone number, you can report streetlight outages, potholes, graffiti, illegal dumping, residential garbage issues and more. The website/app allow you to keep track of your reports and check their status. The 311 website: <https://sanjose.custhelp.com/>. Cyrus's 7-min video: <https://bit.ly/SJ311Services>.

Gary thanked Cyrus for his 311 analysis and input for budget recommendations.

Safety & Preparedness

Cyrus said that San Jose's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trainings have resumed, in case neighbors are interested in signing up for training sessions.

He mentioned that SJ Community Officer Josh White, who was unable to attend our November meeting, emailed a response on a variety of issues. Cyrus also touched on four recent crime cases in the area. He has created a MWNA Neighborhood Watch Google group focused on crime and safety. Contact Cyrus or email morelandwestna@gmail.com to join.

Amy recognized that Roy Tongilava, District Rep for Sen. Dave Cortese had joined the call. Roy shared contact info and encouraged residents to sign up for the senator's newsletter.

Campbell & San Jose Police Reports

Captain Ian White - Campbell PD

- Capt. White presented a chart showing a year-to-year comparison of crime stats for 2019, 2020 and 2021. There's been an overall increase. Violent Crime went from 132 incidents in 2019 to 275 in 2021. Total Crime (Property, Violent and Other/Auto Theft) went from 6,362 incidents to 7,841 during that same period.
- The "No Bail" policy from the County makes it difficult to stop the revolving door for individuals arrested.
- The crime stats also reflect an increase in proactive arrests, where police officers stop crime when they see it and also track down and arrest offenders.

- Campbell PD has had a lot of recent retirements, which is a trend nationally. They have a new police chief and new command staff. There are a lot of young employees, so lots of energy, but also training and career development.
- Hiring has become very difficult and there's been a drastic decrease in police officer applications. They need a large pool of applicants because many are disqualified due to background and psychological checks, or they don't graduate from training.
- New technology and equipment (e.g. car cameras) are helping the Campbell PD be more efficient and transparent. Back-end technologies that process videos and transcribe statements help to free up staff time, putting more cops on the street.
- They currently have enough officers hired, but several are in training. They probably will have five openings to fill next year.

Captain Brian Shab - San Jose PD, Western Division

- Crime is up regionally across the board, but residential burglaries have dropped, likely because more people are working from home.
- Sideshows -- This is a problem all over California, and can include up to 500 vehicles with non-local attendees. San Jose wrote an ordinance which made it a crime to be a spectator at sideshows (enacted 2019), and one to go after the promoters (2021), who can now be held civilly liable for cleanup and enforcement. These two laws have made a major impact on sideshow activity.
- A few months ago, SJPD blocked in two huge sideshows, issuing 200+ spectator citations at each event and towing away several cars. They conducted an investigation and went after promoters civilly and criminally. Both cases are in court and the promoters are looking at fines and jail time.
- However, the city was hit again last week by hundreds of cars coming from Sacramento to L.A. They took over multiple intersections, and guns and shooting were involved.
- Police are working with the Department of Transportation to make intersections less attractive to sideshow participants. San Jose will soon be testing out infrastructure upgrades such as extending islands and installing Bot's dots. But, as one intersection is addressed, they expect sideshow activity will move to another one, so remedies will be a long term and ongoing process..
- What can residents do to support the police?
 - Report! SJPD is thinly staffed. Response times aren't what we want them to be, but we won't get additional resources unless reporting goes up. So please report every incident, even if it seems small and inconsequential.
 - Be involved with your community, such as attending neighborhood meetings.
 - Finally, be patient with the police.
- Reach out by email: Brian.shab@sanjoseca.gov

SJ Vice Mayor Chappie Jones

Chappie Jones is our District 1 representative on the SJ City Council. This year, he is also serving as Vice Mayor of San Jose, Chair of the Santa Clara County VTA, and as chair or member of several other groups and committees.

- The City of San Jose has many major goals for 2022 – the biggest involve affordable/below-market-rate housing. Our core workers can't live in our area and face very long commutes; it is a crisis. Most people are in favor of affordable housing being built, but many want to see it located outside of their immediate area.
- The lack of affordable housing drives most other issues we're facing, including homelessness. There are over 6,000 homeless individuals in San Jose, including almost 200 in District 1. The City and County are really struggling with how to manage this crisis. State laws prohibit abating most encampments unless they pose an immediate danger or are in the public right of way. The City is trying to keep areas clean and is sending out homeless response teams to encourage people to take advantage of services and shelters. The County's recent implementation of Laura's Law is a step forward, but so much else needs to change.
- Chappie is focusing on quality of life issues this year, which is his final one on the City Council. Public safety is a large part of this. We have the most thinly staffed large city police department in the country. We need to support our police, advocate at the city, county and state level for changes in laws and policies, and report issues. Criminals seem more brazen these days.
- He's also focusing his energy on maintaining/upgrading parks, fixing potholes and improving streets, and increasing transit options in District 1.
- The Vice Mayor described how the City was required by state law to implement SB 9, which went into effect on January 1. He shared a presentation on SB 9 that City staff prepared for the Council in December. He believes that it won't have a major impact in our area, due to existing housing prices making available land less profitable for dense-housing conversions.

A question was raised about the citation/conviction to arrest ratio. Captain Shab responded that there's a big discrepancy between what SJPD arrests and what gets filed, which is a challenge. The push statewide for decriminalization (especially involving narcotics), Zero Bail, and low penalties for property crimes also contribute to the high recidivism that SJPD sees.

A resident questioned whether it makes sense to build so many new housing units when the state has serious water supply issues. Chappie responded that 1) whether we build here or in CA's exurbs, some of our water sources would be the same; 2) higher density development uses less water than single-family development; and 3) Valley Water is working with local jurisdictions to expand its advanced water purification capacity (aka toilet to tap).

He offered to come back and take a deeper dive on a particular subject.

Campbell Mayor Paul Resnikoff

Paul Resnikoff is a longtime leader in Campbell and the region. He was elected to the City Council in 2014 and currently serves as mayor. He's been on the Planning Commission and Parks & Rec Commission, and has been involved with many civic groups over the years.

- In response to the California Voting Rights Act, Campbell's City Council moved to the district system in 2019. There are 5 districts. Our neighborhood is in District 4. Elections for Districts 3, 4 and 5 will be held this year. Following the Census, the five districts are still population balanced, but the City is considering some redistricting options and soliciting public input. Paul prefers keeping the boundaries as-is to not disenfranchise anyone who didn't get to vote in 2020 and wouldn't get to vote again in 2022. Districts will be finalized in April. Serving on the City Council requires a good deal of time, is rewarding and frustrating, but a good thing to do. If you're interested in running and would like to learn more about the job, Paul would be happy to talk.
- Measure O, passed in 2018, provides \$50M in bond funds for a refurbished library and new police station. The Library budget is \$21M. Construction is scheduled to start this July and to be completed by February 2024. Library access is available online and via holds. In-person services are available at nearby Saratoga and Cupertino branches. The Police Station budget is \$25.8M. The station will be built at First and Grant Streets. Construction is scheduled to start this September and to finish in March 2024.
- Housing: Every eight years, the City updates its Housing Element to respond to needs of the community and adhere to state laws. Last time, the state, via the Association of Bay Area Governments, required that Campbell plan for 933 new residential units. This round, the requirement has more than tripled to 2,977. The City has created a site list – with a significant buffer – and plans to begin the environmental review process – to study development feasibility, traffic considerations, etc. – at the end of Feb/early March. The Housing Element update needs to be completed by the end of the year. The City encourages residents to continue to participate in the process.
- Campbell doesn't use 311 like San Jose, but does have a police non-emergency number, which is (408) 866-2101. The Campbell PD app is being updated and the new app is expected to go live in a month or so. Campbell PD will publicly announce when the new app is available. Please support the police department and report what you see! Sometimes what might seem just suspicious could turn out to be a bigger thing. Paul said it's frustrating to see things like porch piracy go through the roof because penalties are so low. It's these minor crimes that affect most of us. Campbell supports police officer hires and has been aggressive at funding infrastructure, such as body cams, car cams, and tech that enables quicker dispatch.

In response to a question on how to report potholes, the Mayor later emailed: Call Campbell's Service Center at 408-866-2145 or email them at publicworksmaint@campbellca.gov. A pothole may require some investigation prior to repair. Staff will need to confirm jurisdiction and also verify whether the street segment in question is already scheduled as part of a larger street

maintenance project. In most cases, though, requests will be addressed within a few business days.

In response to a question on data related to arrests and bookings in Campbell, the Mayor later emailed: In 2021, there were 2,007 adult arrests, 1,402 of whom were booked. The difference represents people who were cited and released. We don't have statistics on the number of cases that were subsequently filed by the DA's office.

In response to a question re: city budget projections for 2022:

- Jones: San Jose is a structurally underfunded city because we're a bedroom community for the rest of Silicon Valley. We need more retail and business to increase revenue for the city budget.
- Resnikoff: Campbell relies on two sources of income for police, fire, pensions, public works, etc: sales and property tax, which are about equal. Campbell took a hit during Covid because of our reliance on sales tax. At one point we ran a deficit of 9M, where the budget is 62M. Thankfully, we had enough reserves to cover full time employees, although they had to take a one-week furlough. We also received federal funds. We're doing okay, but need to get our businesses back more fully.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Submitted by Diana Lubliner, MWNA Secretary