

Moreland West NA Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Meeting  
March 31, 2022

25 attendees

**Welcome & Announcements**

MWNA President Amy Cody

- Meeting is being recorded for those who can't attend, private link to recording will be made available upon request to residents only
- Next meeting on 5/26 will focus on pets and pet ownership

**Community Updates**

**MEF 5K**

On Sunday, March 20, the Moreland Education Foundation held its first 5K Walk for Moreland Kids. MEF is a volunteer-run nonprofit that raises money year-round to support music, sports and other activities at Moreland schools. Nearly 300 adults and children participated in the 5K which wound from MMS to Latimer School and back. Several of our neighborhood streets were blocked off during the event, and MEF thanks Moreland West residents for our patience and support.

**Moreland West Neighborhood Litter Pick-Up**

- Will be held Saturday, April 23 from 9am-Noon
- Annual event organized by the MWNA, with support from the City of San Jose's Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti programs and Beautify SJ.
- A big thank you to Moreland West resident and 8th grader, Ruhan, for designing this year's event flyer, which will be distributed electronically to MMS & Latimer School students.
- We're looking for volunteers to cover the welcome table for an hour and to pick up litter. If interested, please send an email to [morelandwestna@gmail.com](mailto:morelandwestna@gmail.com).

**Beautify San Jose Grant & Campbell Neighborhood Assistance Grant**

- We recently received our Beautify SJ grant check!
- The vast majority of the \$5,000 grant will support a **Pet Waste & Litter Reduction Project** we're conducting in partnership with the Moreland School District. Our neighborhood association will purchase two doggie bag stations and three metal litter receptacles that the school district will maintain. These will be located on school district grounds with high public use along Student Lane and Fallbrook Avenue.
- The grant will also support the purchase of additional yard signs, an event banner, and outreach and refreshments for a Get-to-Know-Your-Neighborhood Block Party on Fallbrook Avenue.
- We also applied for a \$500 Neighborhood Assistance Grant from the City of Campbell to purchase yards signs and support a 2nd block party. We expect to hear back from Campbell shortly.
- If you're interested in becoming a yard sign host, let us know!

**El Paseo Signature Project**

- Project overview
- Asked developer team for renderings that show the entire project from different locations and from a pedestrian perspective to better understand how the project would look in the existing space

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- Expecting responses to comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report
- Our neighborhood and others continue to have concerns about the project's density and building heights, and the need for more comprehensive traffic analysis and planning given the number of proposed and expected development projects in the area.
  - > Forthcoming petition, led by Baker West residents, to the Mayor and City Council 1) opposing building heights greater than 8 stories and 2) demanding the City of San Jose address cumulative traffic congestion impacts from the newly proposed Costco development and high density housing projects proposed in Saratoga's Housing Element.
  - > Early discussions with other neighborhood groups about working together to host a community meeting looking at all proposed and expected development projects in this border area. We would invite officials from SJ, Saratoga, Campbell, Santa Clara County, and Valley Transportation Authority, and residents from surrounding neighborhoods.

**West San Jose MTIP**

The final draft of the West San Jose Multimodal Transportation Improvement Plan (WSJ MTIP) will head to the City Council this summer. Developed by SJ's Department of Transportation, MTIP identifies and recommends transportation projects and programs to make walking, rolling, biking, and taking transit in West San José safer and more enjoyable. The plan will likely result in improvements such as better bike lanes, safer pedestrian crossings, and dedicated bus lanes.

Notes:

- Paseo de Saratoga Urban Village area is not included in the plan
- Priority Corridors Nearest Us: Stevens Creek & Winchester.
- Complete Street/Quick Build Area Nearest Us: Saratoga Ave, but no planning being done. "If community believes planning should be done in this area, DOT can seek funding, which may take 12 months to secure."
- Toolboxes: Pedestrian improvements; Bike infrastructure and connectivity; Better public transit and Placemaking
- Placemaking in our Urban Village Area to encourage pedestrians and shoppers. Not just "over by Costco": Public art & street murals; Public plazas; Pedestrian scale lighting; Parklets; Green infrastructure; Wayfinding signs; "Street activations"

**Civil Grand Jury Service**

Mike Krey, MWNA VP for Campbell

The Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury is a low profile organization that should be better known. California is unique in having the Civil Grand Jury. It is a branch of the Superior Court but does not participate in trials. Watchdog over local government from the county level, city offices, agencies, school districts, etc.

A 19-member panel serves a one-year term. Apply to join, fill out application and interview with a judge, then names are drawn from the pool to fill the panel. CGJ investigates complaints filed by citizens or creates own investigation based on jury interest and concerns. Continuity review previous investigations. Investigates possible misconduct by public officials. Not criminal charges but civil ones (i.e. SCC Sheriff Smith was investigated for willful misconduct by the CGJ at the request of the SCC Board of Supervisors.)

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Jurors are paid \$25 per meeting/day and reimbursed for mileage. It can be a lot of work especially at the end of the term when reports must be finished. The large time commitment makes it more likely that members are retirees, though some businesses give workers time off. Anyone over 18 can apply. Usually get 60 applicants, hoping that at least 30 will qualify for the pool.

On calendar year schedule, apply in the summer for the following year. It's a great experience, you learn a lot about how the county operates. Mike was so impressed by the elected officials that he met during process. He concluded "We need the watchdogs, it's important!"

Superior Court's civil grand jury website: [https://www.sccscourt.org/court\\_divisions/civil/cgj/grand\\_jury.shtml](https://www.sccscourt.org/court_divisions/civil/cgj/grand_jury.shtml)

Here's a longer video, 15 minutes, but gives the grand jury story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6uBK4tkuw>

Link to interview this week with San Benito County civil grand jury foreperson: <https://benitolink.com/qa-roxy-montana-opens-up-about-serving-on-san-benito-county-civil-grand-jury/>

### **Neighborhood Safety Updates**

Cyrus Shahriari

CERT/Emergency preparedness:

- Upcoming training, events, operational guide
- New coordinator is Chris Losavio

Cyrus attended Senator Dave Cortese's Neighborhood Safety Town Hall on March 23 with representatives from the SJPD, CHP, and SCC Sheriff's Office. Key points:

- Catalytic converter theft, smash and grab still a problem
- Don't engage, call 911 if you see suspicious activity!

#### **SJ Community Policing Officer Josh White for Western Division**

- 48 calls for service in last month. 1/4 are "self-initiated" meaning officer traffic stop or other patrol checks
- Very low crime numbers reported. 5 violent crime reports (majority are family related), 6 property crime reports.
- Smash & grab robberies of vehicles continue to be a problem at the mall. Don't leave valuables in your car! They use blue-tooth finders to identify cars with electronics inside
- Report those incidents by 911 or online reporting system giving as much info as possible
- Not yet seen any reports of gas thefts (siphoning or drilling from tanks)

#### **Campbell - Agent Favreau**

- Seeing same vehicle crime trends as Officer White described
- Campbell PD smartphone app is not monitored 24/7 so it's better to call 911 if there is a need for immediate response
- Car fire on Castro & Calado 3/19 is still under investigation by arson specialists
- Amy asks about reports that automated license plate readers are coming

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- Campbell police have readers in their cars already. Will be put into major intersections. Used to scan for vehicles on the “hot list” for major crimes as well as retrospective research for investigations
- In SJ the license plate readers are paired with the gunshot detection devices that are being piloted in the Cadillac Winchester neighborhood. It is not as robust a system as the Campbell ones being trialed. Only accessible by a sergeant or lieutenant, can gather info but requires investigation officer to run the plate individually.

**County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg**

Thanked Mike for his pitch about Civil Grand Jury. There is a goal to expand diversity on the CGJ - time commitment makes it a challenge. She hopes to increase the payment to broaden access for those who can't get paid by their employer for the time off. Makeup should reflect the diversity of the county (not only racially but by age, gender, economic status etc.)

Supervisor Ellenberg gave a quick primer on the difference between city and county government. Santa Clara County has 5 districts, each with approximately 370,000 residents. We are part of District 4 which includes West San Jose, Santa Clara, Campbell, and unincorporated Burbank. Board is responsible for policy setting; budget oversight; local, state, and federal advocacy; and oversight of county executives. There are policy committees for finance & government operations; public safety & justice; health & hospitals; children, family, & seniors; and housing, land use, environment, and public transportation. 2021 county initiatives included universal school meals, school-based mental health services, black infant health and perinatal equity, broadband infrastructure expansion, small business grants, housing, and Afghan refugee support.

County mental health and incarceration services are big priorities for Supervisor Ellenberg, especially expanding mental health services and safe alternatives to incarceration before trial. Law enforcement and jails are used for people in crisis when it's not what they actually need, then they are released in worse shape than when they got arrested. Does not help anyone and can have fatal consequences. There are many grim stories about individuals in crisis who died or are permanently disabled - three cases she mentioned led to lawsuits that cost the government a total of \$20 million after settlement. Need to expand outpatient services, engage leaders (law enforcement, judges, and residents) to scale up behavioral health system. Need more services, need more facilities from lockdown to outpatient, and staffing. Currently the greatest barrier to expanding services is worker shortage.

State sets laws on patients rights and to change how care is provided - this may mandate treatment for small number of unhoused individuals for “forced care” and there are questions about this approach is different. Proposal from governor does not include funding . “Care Court” is small part but not the answer. It's hard to compel people to accept treatment. If we don't have the beds for them in treatment or stable housing after, they will regress.

Strategies:

- Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) under Lauras' Law launched last month for people who have had multiple referrals to care (outpatient only, not a solution to homelessness) To learn more about AOT, visit: <https://bhsc.sccgov.org/get-help/assisted-outpatient-treatment-aot>
- Community mobile response piloting now - does not include law enforcement, but EMT and mental health professionals, would evaluate and if necessary transport to mental health facility

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- July 2022 national 988 mental health emergency number goes live to expand access for crisis without impacting law enforcement
- Youth support for on-campus behavioral health
- Link to slideshow about SCC behavioral health services: <http://sccgov.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=224296>
- Please email [angela.reddell@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:angela.reddell@bos.sccgov.org) with any follow up questions.

**San Jose City Council Election**

On June 7th, San Jose residents of Moreland West will elect a new representative for our district to the SJ City Council. Our current councilor, Vice-Mayor Chappie Jones is termed out.

Candidate Rosemary Kamei joined the meeting in person and briefly introduced herself. Ramona Snyder sent a short video.

Candidates for SJ City Council, District 1

- Ramona Snyder -- <https://ramonasnyder.com>
- Rosemary Kamei -- <https://www.rosemarykamei.org>
- Tim Gildersleeve -- <http://www.alternative voice for san jose.com/party/>