

Minutes of the Meeting
Board of Directors
San Jose Downtown Association

June 11, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Jose Downtown Association, a non-profit California organization, was held via teleconference (Zoom Webinar) and broadcasted to the public via Facebook Live.

The following SJDA directors were present at the meeting: Bates, Burroughs, Calais, Cirone, Corbett, Gilbert, Helstrup-Alvarez, McClain, Nguyen, Nielsen, Pulcrano, Rewkiewicz, Ruvalcaba, Serpa, Vuckovich and Wong.

The following SJDA directors were absent from the meeting: Ashaolu, De Bernardo, Goddard, Jenkins, Lituchy, Marques, Marsh, Neale, Perez, Ramirez, Tabatabaie, Trinh and Truong.

Also present were 90 members of the public via Zoom webinar and 107 members of the public on Facebook Live. Also, SJDA staff Donna Butcher, Archana Dalglish, Corinna Dixon, Dori Gao, Eric Glader, Rick Jensen, Scott Knies, Nate Le Blanc, Chloe Shipp, Nathan Ulsh, Jessica Vuong, Autumn Young and Dennis Yu.

President McClain introduced herself, called the Zoom and Facebook Live meeting to order at 8:15 a.m., welcomed members, reviewed the meeting agenda and advised members that they are welcome to post questions or comments via Zoom chat.

Downtown Reopening

SJDA Executive Director Scott Knies provided an overview of what to expect in the coming months beginning with "No More Tiers!" effective June 15.

The short-term two-year strategic SJDA Stabilization Plan, created in August 2020, focused on downtown's pandemic recovery. One goal of the plan is to create a more equitable downtown with access for all. The complete SJDA Stabilization Plan can be found on the SJDA website <https://sjdowntown.com/sjda/>

To-date, SJDA has provided 68 weeks of Thursday "COVID-19 Update from SJDA" email messages to members. A "Virtual Job Board" has also recently been launched and ParkSJ is now offering 90 minutes of free City garage parking. Visit parksj.org for more information.

New businesses, including entertainment venues, have opened despite the pandemic. Offices, art venues and theaters are beginning to reopen. The Downtown Friday Farmer's Market has relocated to SoFA. The summer events start with Juneteenth in the Park Festival and LGBT Pride month. July will feature Dine Downtown restaurant promotions and the Downtown Doors student art program. The City Parks & Recreation Department will host Viva Parks activations in St. James Park June-August including SJDA's Starlight Cinemas free outdoor movies. SAP Center will again host music concerts starting in August. SJ Jazz Summer Fest and SJDA Music in the Park concerts will be held in August. SJ State University will be back in session August 19. The Urban Vibrancy Institute will open the Serpentine Pavilion arts center in SoFA in September.

PBID Operations Manager Chloe Shipp provided an overview of the Property Based Improvement District's (PBID) recent and future work.

The SoFA Pocket Park, featuring a dog park and Veggieelution demonstration garden and fruit stand, will hold its grand opening on June 30. Through a partnership with SJ Museum of Quilts & Textiles and LocalColor, the park will feature mural installations. New programmable/customizable lights have been installed throughout downtown and spring planting landscaping is underway.

The PBID Renewal is in process and Shipp welcomes feedback from members via an upcoming survey to determine future services to bolster, amend or add in the next 10 years.

Throughout the pandemic the 30 member Groundwerx team has been working hard to make the downtown as safe and clean as possible. Members were encouraged to download the Groundwerx Everywhere app.

SJDA, PBID and Groundwerx has advocated for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) for over a decade and is grateful for collaboration with PATH, the City of SJ Housing Department, and the County Department of Behavioral Health to make sure downtown's most vulnerable individuals receive the help they need.

McClain welcomed special guests in attendance including Director Department of Transportation John Ristow, Director Office of Economic Development Nanci Klein, Downtown Manager Blage Zelalich, Office of Economic Development, SYPD Central Division Captain Carlos Acosta and introduced County Supervisor Cindy Chavez.

Behavioral Health Cindy Chavez, Santa Clara County Supervisor

Chavez and meeting attendees observed a moment of silence to acknowledge the lives lost at the recent VTA tragedy.

Chavez introduced staff members County Chief Operating Officer Miguel Márquez, Director of Behavioral Health Services Sherri Terao, and Director Adult System of Care Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Department Dr. Margaret Obilor.

An ambassador program was created during COVID 19 to get word out county wide about Behavioral Health issue and services available in the community for adults and children that are homeless or otherwise challenged.

Chavez thanked Shipp and SJDA for their leadership to compassionately, yet urgently, work on the issue. County staff meet monthly with PATH and Shipp.

Chavez responded to questions as presented by McClain on the topics of: Laura's Law and Assisted Outpatient Treatment services (AOT); implementation of AOT and additional County resources to fill "gaps"; overview/clarification of AOT; additional health service innovations; how the county & city can work together to address housing/homelessness; and the implementation of Measure A funding for affordable housing.

Obilor spoke to the topic of availability of, accessibility to, and processes within behavioral health services.

Chavez welcomed meeting attendees to contact her office, or the SJDA, to engage further on the topic of behavioral health.

Homelessness **Raul Peralez, San Jose City Councilmember**

McClain introduced City Councilmember Peralez

Peralez introduced staff members City Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand and City Deputy Director Ragan Henninger.

Peralez responded to questions as presented by McClain on the topics of: City plans to place/house those individuals coming out of South Hall temporary shelter on July 15; sanctioned encampments; staffing investments to support housing programs; COVID initiatives/provisions that may stay post-pandemic; impact upon and resources available to vulnerable low-income population; affordable / equitable housing in D3; role of Office of Racial Equity in regards to housing; balancing empathy with negative impacts of homelessness upon shared public spaces; how D3 measures success.

Peralez encouraged attendees to educate, support and “take it home” to be a part of the solution.

President McClain reminded guests that the Downtown San Jose Farmers’ Market is open Fridays in the SoFA District and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

For more information about our district and events, please visit <https://sjdowntown.com/>

A recording of today’s meeting will be posted on SJDA’s website <https://sjdowntown.com/>