

Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee General Meeting Minutes March 11th, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm.

Members present

Lynn Edwards (Chair), Rolando Park
John Hogan, (Treasurer), Redwood Village
Alex Zukas, El Cerrito
Andy Huelskamp, Oak Park
Bettina Rausa, Member at Large

Emily Perez, Rolando
Jen Eastman, Webster
Kristen Hurst, Webster
Laura Riebau, El Cerrito
Sonia Lang, Rolando Park

Absent: Richard Diaz, Oak Park

Quorum: Yes

Chair's Welcome

Lynn welcomed everyone present and online to the meeting.

Friends of the Rolando College Library are seeking support when attending this week's Planning Commission meeting on Thursday at 9:00am.

Adoption of Agenda or Agenda Changes

On Page 2, the election results (vote counting) needs to be changed to Alex and Sonia.

Communication from the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Ozzie Meneses from Groundwork informed that they received more responses to the new Sunshine Berardini Park design survey thanks in part to their presentation to the group last month. Groundwork will also present at the Colina Del Sol Recreation Committee meeting next month.

Kathleen Lippitt commented on the City's changes to the zoning regulations primarily regarding the lack of infrastructure in densely developed areas. She also mentioned concerns about the City's budget deficits.

Lisa Deines asked what, if anything, is being done about the illegal dumping on Streamview Dr. She also asked if anything was being done about the drug and homelessness activity surrounding the liquor store on Redwood St.

City, County, and State Representatives' Reports

- Mathew Gordon – Community Representative for District 79, State Assembly Member Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins: Mathew informed us about two pieces of legislation the Assembly member is working on: 1) The Working for Families Legislation package consisting of 7 bills focused on supporting families in need, and 2) AB 766 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Strategic Plans.

- Roberto Marin – Community Representative for District 9, Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera: Roberto informed us that the District 9 office, in partnership with the Mayor's office, Environmental Services Department (ESD), and Open Space Division cleared Chollas Parkway of encampments and brush; with Urban Corp and ESD cleared 7 tons of debris and brush; with Parks & Rec's Volunteer Department and Aziz Church of God, 200 volunteers removed 2 tons of trash. In total 10 tons were cleared.
 - Working with the Mayor's office to expedite the red curbing of Chollas Parkway and expects the installation of signs to deter campers and freight truck parking
 - Hughes Street improvements should begin in mid-to-late March
 - D9 Office will participate in the Rolando Street Fair
 - Next month's El Cerrito and Rolando Village neighborhood council meetings will be attended by Molly Weber, Chief of Staff
 - High Fire Severity Zone maps previously excluded Zena Canyon and parts of Chollas Creek and the Fire Marshall informed Roberto that once the State reviews the new map, they will take a closer look at those areas that need to be included
 - Mt Hope tree planting event on March 21, volunteers welcome

Information and Action Items

Information: Introduction of any candidates who are present

Two new candidates introduced themselves:

- Michelle Riener, resident of Oak Park
- Kim Nguyen, resident of Rolando Village

Action: Volunteers and set up for participation at Rolando Street Fair

Lynn, Laura and Bettina volunteered to represent the EACPC's booth, and John volunteered to make a large map and provide an easel to display the map, which will be used to conduct outreach and education about current CIPs in the Eastern Area to fair attendees. They will be encouraged to write their own priorities on sticky notes to put on the map; we will provide candy as a fun giveaway to those who stop by. This will be our outreach activity for the year.

Review, Correction, and Approval of Minutes (February, Kristen)

- Laura suggested a few modifications.
- Motion made by Alex to accept the modifications, seconded by Andy, approved unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

- Parks & Recreation – Daniele Laman
 - Sunshine Berardini Park GDP will be presented at the Colina Del Sol Rec Center next week
 - Chollas Lake Little League had its opening day on February 26
- CPC January Meeting – Laura
 - The Child and Teen Friendly Program and survey preliminary planning ideas were introduced
 - Ad-hoc committee to be formed regarding helping community councils with their websites and outreach

- Mid-City Community Plan Update – Lynn
 - Meeting next Wednesday via Zoom or in person at the Normal Heights Community Center 6 pm to 8 pm, to discuss public engagement and historical impacts
 - Expected to release first draft in the Fall
- Community updates:
 - Kristen announced that residents of Webster have formed a new community group, Friends of Webster, 1st meeting on March 27, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Groundwork
 - Lynn announced the Rolando Park & Redwood Village Joint University Ave cleanup/street sweep on March 22, 8:00 am to 9:30 am, meet at Party House Liquor
- **Election Results – Alex and Sonia**

At 8:01pm, the voting was closed; Alex and Sonia tallied the ballots. Results:

 - Laura Riebau, re-elected, El Cerrito
 - Kim Nguyen, elected, Rolando Village
 - John Hogan, re-elected, Redwood Village
 - Bettina Rausa, elected to Redwood Village seat (move from current seat of member at large)
 - Michelle Reiner, elected, Oak Park

Note: Expecting Cathey Martinez next month to run for the newly open seat of member at large since Bettina is now serving in the 2nd Redwood Village seat.

For the Good of the Order and Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.