



## Minutes for Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Normal Heights Community Center/Zoom  
4649 Hawley Blvd

### Attendees:

X = in attendance

	Paul Coogan (C)	X	Kenny Patrick	X	Emilie Colwell
X	Allan Harjala (VC)		Dan Soderberg	X	Sierra Orsinelli-Rivers
X	Sami Burrows (S)	X	Mark Lawler	X	Brian Adams
	Frances Prichett (T)	X	Nancy Lawler	X	Madison Stevens
X	Julia Corbett		(AABA)		

\*Denotes Virtual Attendance

Allan called the meeting to order at 6:05 and read the opening reflection. Then Allan gave a brief overview of the meeting procedure.

### Community Attendees

Estimate: 5 zoom participants, 10 attendees in person.

### July Minutes approved

Kenny 1st, Brian 2nd

Yes: Allan, Sami, Julia, Kenny, Brian, Mark, Nancy, Sierra

\*all other members in attendance were not present for the vote

### Non-Agenda Public Comment

- A zoom participant notes their concern over synthetic marijuana products and urges a citywide ban on these products as well as stronger zoning protections for sellers of these products
- An attendee discusses the new citywide trash fee. He notes the city council can't raise property taxes because of prop 13 but got around these regulations by charging an additional fee on trash collection

### Elected Representatives Reports & Updates

#### ***Sara Al-Agha from District 9 Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera's office***

Fencing is scheduled to be removed in August at the mock building site. The office would like to hold a celebration and cleanup in September at Ward Canyon Park. The office has requested that the 40th st intersection by the highway off-ramp is no longer used as a staging area for construction. Last week, there was a town hall held on the grocery transparency initiative. A recording of this meeting is available at [mysandiogo.info](https://mysandiogo.info). The budget process begins again in September.

- Ramie asks: Why does Sean Elo Rivera vote against reforms to the Bonus ADU program?

- Sara offers to follow up with her with more information

***Representative for District 79 Assembly Member Leschae Sharp Collins***

Assembly bill 802 - addresses youth hunger in juvenile detention facilities

a.b. 829 - establishes a fund for parkinson's disease research

a.b. 847 - provides law enforcement oversight committees with access to additional records and data

a.b. 987 - protects CA citizens from unreasonable towing fees

a.b. 1027 - requires cannabis testing to enhance consumer product safety

## Presentations

### **40th St Between Madison & Adams**

Before the late 1950s 40th st dead ends at the canyon rim. With the construction of highway 15 in the late 1950s 40th st. still dead ends at the canyon rim about 250ft north of Madison. Since the early 2000s after the 15 was completed, 40th st angles slightly west and extends to Adams Avenue. However, access to and from Madison is blocked. The northern half of 40th St belongs to CalTrans while the southern half belongs to the city. Proposed changes to 40th st and freeway ramps requires the city to pay CalTrans to reconfigure entrance ramps again and relinquish part of their 'right of way' - making these changes ultimately unlikely.

**Today's Issue: 40th St between the park and the freeway has been used by companies as a staging area for construction and boiling tar.** These activities are not permitted, generate dust, create noise at odd hours, and damage curbs, sidewalks, and barriers to through-traffic. It has been hard to establish responsibility for these activities. The area is not zoned for light industrial use.

Comments from individuals living in homes next to the 40th street location used as a staging area:

comment 1: Requests that the southbound traffic route is re-opened since exiting north off of the freeway onto Adams is now very congested. Notes issues with traffic safety at the highway off-ramp

comment 2: Staging with loud lights and noises at the 40th street location sometimes occurs between 3:00am - 5:00am. Dust from the location's use as a staging area also ends up in homes, the dog park, and the future community garden which poses a health issue. This kind of staging has been going on for 12 years at this site, and the city's attention has only been brought to this issue since media coverage of the issue. In addition, there is sidewalk damage from cars, trucks, and contractors attempting to circumvent the barrier on 40th street by driving on the sidewalk. This sidewalk damage is dangerous for elderly and disabled persons who use the sidewalk to access the park. The audience member requests 1) something in writing from the city that staging will no longer continue 2) for a point of contact at the city and 3) for sidewalk damage at the 40th barrier to be resolved by the city

**Board will write a letter to the council office, mayor office and others in support of these 3 asks by resident regarding the 40th st staging area**

Emilie motions, Sami seconds

Yes: Allan, Sami, Julia, Kenny, Mark, Nancy, Brian, Sierra, Emilie, Madison (unanimous)

## Actions/Decisions

**Board will write a second letter to the city regarding property lines, with reference to the 1906 map & consulting Mr. Pallamary**

Sami 1st, Julia 2nd

This item was discussed and approved at the previous meeting.

### **Filling of any empty seats on the board**

Eydie has resigned from the board, there is now a vacant seat. Please reach out if interested in joining the board.

## **Reports/Updates**

### **Standing Committees**

#### ***Community Planners Committee- written statement from Paul***

The group drafted a letter regarding the barriers to access public records from the city. The letter included criticism of the \$34 administration fee to access public records and the \$1000 appeal fee in addition to the burdensome appeal process.

The Adams Avenue Street Fair is on 9/20 - 21

#### ***Adams "Community Recreation Advisory Group" - Nancy***

The demolition of the mock building is scheduled for completion by the end of August. The city trimmed the two big trees next to the mock building and got rid of the palm tree. There are summer camps at the rec center for \$125/week including breakfast & lunch.

#### ***Adams Avenue Business Association - written statement from Scott***

The AABA just received notice that their core funding has been slashed by \$38k by the city and is now projected to operate at a loss.

#### ***Parks and Recreation - Nancy***

AABA put up money for movies in the park programming at Ward Canyon Park. These movies are listed online.

#### ***Joint Mid-City Communities Plan Update Committee - Emilie***

The next community plan update meeting and will discuss the 'Draft Ideas Report', or ideas for what the community plan update will look like.

### **Advisory Committees**

#### ***Utility Undergrounding & Street Lighting MAD - Emilie***

Intends to request a meeting on utility undergrounding in the community. There is no upcoming meeting currently planned.

#### ***Traffic Calming - Brian***

The committee will submit a few requests to the city one at a time. First, a letter has been drafted regarding the intersection at Mountain View and will be presented at the next meeting for a vote.

Sami: there is a CBS8 article from 7/29 reporting that sections of Adams Avenue will see speed limits reduced between 30th and Ohio.

#### ***Community Engagement and Finance Committees - Sami***

The group was unable to meet this past month due to scheduling difficulties. The signs directing folks to our meetings are located on the back right hand side of the stage, and anyone arriving early to the meeting can put them out.

### **Adjournment**

Paul called the meeting to adjournment at 7:07pm.