

<b>Clairemont Community Planning Group</b>
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Minutes of the Meeting of  
April 21, 2026

Meeting Held at the Cathy Hopper Clairemont Friendship Center  
4425 Bannock Ave, San Diego, CA 92117

P Matt Wang - <b>Chair</b> P Glen Schmidt - <b>Vice Chair</b> P Marc Mytels - <b>Co-secretary</b> P Suzanne Smith - <b>Co-secretary</b> P Matt Wang - <b>Treasurer</b>	P Matt Wang P Glen Schmidt P Marc Mytels	P Paige Walker P Steven Palmer P Eric Leftwich	A Michael Angelo Hernandez P Eadie DeMarcus P Robert Scott P Briar Belair
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P - Present A - Absent L - Late

**Item 1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

MW called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Roll call was taken to determine if a quorum was present. Quorum was established with 10 of 11 members present.

**Item 2. Non-Agenda Public Comment**

Issues that are not on the agenda and are within the jurisdiction of the Clairemont Community Planning Group. **NOTE:** 2-minute time limit per speaker.

- Michael Dwyer reported the following:
  - Paper shredding is available at the Miramar Landfill.
  - New recycle bins are being delivered to some parts of Clairemont this week.
  - For the Pure Water project, Clairemont Drive at Denver is only one lane in each direction now and for another two weeks.
- Robert, a resident of Bay Ho on Connor Court, said his street is so full of potholes that they represent a severe problem. They get filled badly and then become potholes again. The city told him that his street is part of a project that is planned and the potholes will be better taken care of then.

**Item 3. Modifications to the Agenda - Requires 2/3 approval.**

None

**Item 4. Reports to Committee**

- MW had no CPG report.
- GS said our next PRS meeting is May 13, 2026.
- MW apologized for not sending the agenda with 72 hours notice.

**Item 5. Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

- SP made a motion to approve the March 17, 2026 minutes and PW seconded. All present approved, except RS and BB who abstained.

**Item 6. Council Representative Reports**

**District 2 Council (Dr. Jennifer Campbell) Report, Carrie Munson, Community Liaison, cmunson@sandiego.gov**

- Carrie not present.

**City of San Diego Mayor's Office Neighborhood Representative Report, Randy Reyes, Clairemont Community Liaison, randyreyes@sandiego.gov**

- Randy not present.

**California Senate District 39 (Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson) Report, Moana Alo, (619) 688-6700**

- Moana not present.

**City of San Diego Planning Department Update, Megan Co, City of San Diego, SMcGee@saandiego.gov**

- Megan not present.

**California Assembly District 78 (Chris Ward) Report, Field Rep Teannae Owens, teannae.owens@asm.ca.gov**

- Teannae not present.

**Item 7. Consent Agenda**

- None

**Item 8. Action Items**

**801:** Wireless Public Safety Communications Tower in Gershwin Park (PRJ1133870). The proposed location is 3549 Conrad Ave, located inside Gershwin Park on the southeast portion of the park, adjacent to the tennis courts, and amongst large mature Eucalyptus trees.

The proposed wireless facility will consist of:

- A 65-foot tall faux tree tower with twelve (12) panel antennas in three (3) sectors.
- Nine (9) remote radios.
- Three (3) surge suppressors.
- A single equipment cabinet with a small GPS antenna.
- A 20kw emergency generator is also proposed on a concrete pad inside a concrete masonry enclosure.

Michael McLaughlin did a presentation with slides he had shown at our April 8, 2026 Project Review Subcommittee (PRS) meeting.

Based on several questions at the PRS meeting about alternative sites, Michael showed a new slide with details about the alternative site analysis that was performed.

- Neighborhood Market at 4818 Gallatin Way, 0.7 miles NW of Gershwin Park was not selected because of its distance from the area needing coverage, rooftop installation limited to 30 feet, and limited space for equipment. This site is a preferred location 1.
- Quest Church at 3219 Clairemont Mesa Blvd was not selected because rooftop installation is limited to 30 feet, does not meet coverage objectives, limited space for equipment, and the owner is not interested. This site is a preferred location 2.
- Commercial retail corner 0.5 miles SE of Gershwin Park was not selected. This site is a preferred location 2.
- Clairemont Town Square, 4821 Clairemont Mesa Blvd was not selected because of the existing AT&T antennae on an architectural tower and the structure limiting options. This site is a preferred location 1.

Michael showed additional slides, including:

- Proposed site at Gershwin Park with overhead Google maps photos.
- The updated site plan drawing (revised 03/13/26) with a change so that no one can get behind the equipment.
- Examples of faux eucalyptus towers with photo sims of the views from Conrad Avenue, Jennifer Street, and the NE park entrance.
- Project summary and compliance with list of permits they must obtain, justification for the project and height, compliance with FCC standards for radio frequency emissions, and compliance with the City's design requirements for concealment/integration.

GS summarized the process so far and what happened at the PRS meeting on April 8, 2026. GS acknowledged the new slide Michael showed with information about the alternative sites and why they were not selected.

GS wrote a document named "Draft Motion regarding Gershwin Park Cell Tower." The document includes a section named "Recommendation to Deny the project as proposed based on the following" with 7 bullet points. The document also includes a "Possible Part 2 of motion if the city chooses to approve the project" with 8 bullet points. GS outlined a number of upgrades that could be made to Gershwin Park if the tower is built.

#### Questions and comments from CCPG members:

- PW asked about the tower and what it actually covers. 911? AT&T? T-mobile?
- MM stated that cell towers could become obsolete in a few years, and asked why a tower like the proposed one is necessary? Michael stated that technology is always evolving and that right now they need coverage with the tech they have.
- RS asked why a tower in a park can be 60 feet, but at a commercial site or church they are limited to 30 feet. RS also asked if the tower could be placed at the old Lenscrafters building that is now a 5 story apartment complex. Michael explained that a tower at that spot would duplicate what the existing tower in the Clairemont Square covers.
- ED had questions about human exposure to cell signals. ED also said that the more cell towers that are installed, the faster the connection is made so people are actually exposed to LESS potentially problematic signals. So, more towers could be less risky.
- SP asked what the experience would be like for first responders called to a fire in the area if the tower is not built. Michael said that cell phone connection could drop during an emergency. If power goes out, routers go out. There is very little coverage in the canyon on either side of Hwy 52.
- MW asked if on the project summary and compliance slide, it is really true that "Jurisdictions may not deny wireless facilities based on perceived health risks if the project complies with FCC standards." Michael said that is, in fact, true.
- MM asked about the diesel generator back up that would be installed as part of this project. Michael said backup generators are required by State law. Michael said for this project there is a back up battery AND a back up diesel generator.
- RS visited the site and noticed 30-40 real eucalyptus trees. What happens if those trees are removed or culled and then all that is left is the fake tower tree which would be ugly and out of place? Michael reiterated the park location is really the only available option.

#### Public comment:

- A community member asked if the generator will be run for maintenance. Michael said yes, once per month.
- A community member pointed at the existing FirstNet and AT&T coverage slide and asked again about the range of the new tower on the map. Michael said the two towers in the canyon are too low for the existing neighborhood.
- A community member said Gershwin Park is his park and he is against the project. Kids play in the park and there are lots of parties there.

- A community member said he brings his 4-year old to the park as part of a Dad group. He doesn't understand why this park is being targeted. Can't we have more, smaller towers instead of a big tower in a park?
- A community member said that she lives near the proposed tower and has AT&T and has never had a problem with cell phone coverage. She will leave AT&T if the tower goes in and will tell neighbors to leave AT&T as well.
- A community member said he appreciates the need for first responder coverage, but that the community should follow the money.
- A community member said the presentation was misleading and people living in the area have good coverage already. He also asked about tower maintenance. There are some old "tree towers" near the airport that look shabby. He recommends that we add maintenance issues to our list of things the City should be concerned with.
- A community member mentioned a portable antenna solution that she researched. She also mentioned the Clairemont Community Plan and park points. We are taking away park space when we need more park space for the anticipated greater density.
- A community member said he is talking to others and they are trying to hire a lawyer. He provided his phone number and wants everyone to organize.
- A community member said Gershwin Park is in a residential neighborhood. Families go there because it is smaller and quieter. A cell tower should not go into a small park. Kids need a place where they can play and not be harmed by environmental concerns.
- A community member said that the tower could go up in flames.
- A community member said it is unethical to put the cell tower in a public park. There is no net positive for the community. The money will go into the general fund and will not be allocated to Clairemont. We should not sacrifice our public space.
- A community member who lives next to the park and went there an hour ago said there were 40-50 people there. He encourages us to deny the project.
- A community member asked for clarification about coverage distance. If a cell phone tower covers about 0.7 miles, don't any of the alternative sites in preferred locations work? Michael said the site the community member mentioned leaves some areas still without coverage.
- A community member said property values drop 20% when near a cell tower. She also said that AT&T could actually extend the tower higher. The faux tree is made of pvc materials and the faux leaves degrade and send out microplastics.
- Mary Suriano, President of the La Jolla Town Council said that she will connect the group of neighbors concerned about this project with a doctor the La Jolla community used to prove the health risks.

GS:

- Thanked the community for their comments and for being respectful (except for one person who was disruptive).
- Asked Michael about portable antennas in an emergency. Michael said you can bring them in, but they take 8-10 hours to set up.
- Asked Michael about the plastics used in the fake tree. Michael did not have details.
- Asked Michael to show the slide again of the existing FirstNet/ AT&T coverage map. GS pointed to some other locations that could be a possibility. Also asked why can the tower only be 30 feet on top of a building but the tree in the park can be 60-65 feet?
- Talked about changes to how the City does funding. The City used to allocate DIF funds to the neighborhood where the work was being done. Now, DIF funds go into the general fund and the City can spend it however and wherever they want.
- Asked if Michael could return with a possible donation to the Clairemont Foundation.

Discussion took place around how to word the motion.

- BB said it was OK to deny and add the 7 bullet points at the top of GS's document, but not the details in the second section of bullets.
- GS made the motion to deny the project and include the 7 bullet points in the document. BB seconded the motion. All board members approved, except ED who voted no. The motion passed.

A community member that was disruptive and making other attendees very comfortable was asked to leave.

MW and GS called for a 3 minute break before continuing the meeting.

### **802: New & Returning CCPG Members' Assignments**

- Determine Officers
  - GS made a motion to elect MW as Chairman. BB seconded the motion. All board members approved and the motion passed unanimously.
  - EL made a motion to be Vice-Chair. ED seconded the motion. All board members approved and the motion passed unanimously.
  - PW made a motion to be co-secretary with BB. BB seconded the motion. All board members approved and the motion passed unanimously.
  - SP made a motion to continue as Secretary at Arms. GS seconded the motion. All board members approved and the motion passed unanimously.
  - MW made a motion for Chair to continue as treasurer. SS seconded the motion. All board members approved and the motion passed unanimously.

- Determine Chairs of standing committees
  - GS has been chair of the PRS for many years and would like to step back and be Vice Chair. EL agreed to be Chair. GS will be Vice Chair. SS will continue as Secretary. RS expressed interest in joining the PRS.
  - MW will continue on the Bylaws committee and may be the only one. The Board will explore this further.
  - PW will continue as our airports connection.
  - MM will continue doing social media. PW is researching how to create a website, will add that to a future agenda, and will communicate with MM.
  - MW asked for help attending the monthly Community Planners Group meeting.
  - SP asked if there is still a parking and transportation committee and MW said we have not had issues for that committee recently.

**Item 9. Information Items**

**901: Idle Oil Wells in Clairemont POSTPONED TO NEXT MEETING**

**Item 10. Workshop Items**

**1001: Hybrid CCPG Meetings Discussion POSTPONED TO NEXT MEETING**

**Adjournment at 7:58 PM**

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Cathy Hopper Clairemont Friendship Center, 4425 Bannock Ave, San Diego, CA 92117.**  
<https://goo.gl/maps/jkb4sftrQ1jm9oQj6>



**Note: Location subject to change, please see the meeting agenda for finalized location**