

Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee Meeting Minutes, August 11, 2026

A video of this meeting is available at: <https://youtu.be/Mi6Wz1XEK8s>

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

Members present

Lynn Edwards, (Co-Chair), Rolando Park	Jessica Arreguin, Webster
Bettina Rausa, (Co-Chair), Redwood Village	Jen Eastman, Webster
Sonia Lang, (Vice Chair), Rolando Park	Joseph Yorty, Business Owner (Webster)
Jim Westheimer, (Secretary), El Cerrito	Richard Diaz, Oak Park
John Hogan, (Treasurer), Redwood Village	Valerie Inge, Member-at-Large (Webster)
Emily Perez, Rolando	

Absent: Amertah Perman, Oak Park; Kim Nguyen, Rolando

Quorum: Yes

Chair's Welcome

Bettina welcomed all attendees in person and online.

Adoption of Agenda or Agenda Changes

Lynn made a motion to add an action item concerning the project at 4841 68th St. John seconded the motion and the agenda was adopted unanimously with the added item.

Communication from the Public on Non-Agenda Item

- Lindsay Riggs-Rodriguez from El Cerrito wanted to ensure that the concerns of her community are represented at the EACPC and the El Cerrito Community Council is in the process of being reconstituted.
- Cesar Javier spoke about long-standing environmental health concerns affecting residents near a substation and a business emitting poison gas, which he linked to his wife's Alzheimer's diagnosis and his own health issues.
- Yvonne Jones from El Cerrito said that the triangle area south of University Ave has been mistakenly included within the El Cerrito borders on maps, but that the 1998 Mid-City Community update designated the area to Darnell, now known as Redwood Village.
- Jonathan Irving introduced himself as the acting director of the El Dorado Community Service and he can be contacted if the community has any concerns about the clinic.
- Becky Rapp wanted to bring attention to an August 7, 2026 article in the *Times of San Diego* that the city's attorney has brought civil action against the owner of 11 smoke shops for selling Kratom and that several of these shops fall within or nearby the Eastern Area. She encouraged residents to be vigilant and report similar activity.
- Jan Hintzman of the Friends of the College Rolando Library provided an update on the construction proceeding on the property next to the library and that her group continues to work with City Council on acquiring property for parking and access to the facility.

City, County, and State Representatives' Reports

- Catalina Cifuentes and Bruce Williams for Webster and Oak Park, District 4, Councilmember Henry Foster III
 - Catalina introduced herself as the new associate policy advisor in the office.
 - Confirmed that Phase 2 of the Streamview Dr project is fully funded.
 - Undergrounding utility project in Ridgeview, Webster, and Oak Park is nearly complete.
 - Noted the first draft of the Mid-City Community Plan Update has been released. Their office plans on responding and encourages public input. Special note made of the absence of library plans in the draft.
 - Bruce seconded Catalina's updates.
 - Daniele Laman reminded Bruce to check with traffic engineering about the left turn access into Oak Park library in construction and he said he will follow up.
- Sam Gonzalez – Representative for 39th Senate District, State Senator Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson
 - Their office sponsored a backpack giveaway and resource fair at O'Farrell Charter School with over 20 vendors present the weekend prior.
 - The Senator wants her constituency to know that two legislative items she's pushing, SB 869 labeling of sugar content on restaurant menus and SB 1067 annual K-12 math assessment for remedial intervention are both working their way through the process.
 - Nominations for Hispanic Heritage Month Community Leadership award deadline is August 31. Nominees must reside within District 39.
 - Starting September 1 and running several weeks, the office will accept public submissions for "There Ought to Be a Law" campaign.

Information and Action Items

Information Item: Update from Friends of the Oak Park Library and the Library Naming Process – Elida Chavez, Friends of the Oak Park Library, and Misty Jones, Library Director, City of San Diego

- Ms. Jones explained the naming criteria and process for adding an honorific title to one the city's community libraries.
 - Criteria naming: Must always start with the community location followed by any optional title. Honoree should have lasting historical and/or cultural contribution to the community, and have broad community support. Cannot have any commercial association.
 - Process: Community submits proposed name with supportive documentation to director, then sent to the library board of commissioners for review, and if endorsed passed along to the City Council for final approval.
 - Ideally, submissions should be made before construction is completed in order to minimize signage costs.
- Elida Chavez
 - Wanted it known that there had never been any discussions at meetings or otherwise among the Friends of the Oak Park Library as honorific naming for the new library and that public comments made at a previous EACPC meeting by board member Richard Diaz about such naming were not authorized.

- The Friends are not opposed to honoring a community member, but want to avoid clashing with other groups or parties.
- Claudia Thompson (online) – a long-time Friends of Oak Park Library member wanted to shift the focus from the naming to developing sustaining programs housed at the new facility that will the community.
- Elida invited everyone from greater San Diego to attend the Friends meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month at 4 pm.

Information Item: Update on Streamview Drive Improvement Project Phase 2 – Ronak Rekani, City of San Diego, Engineering & Capital Improvement Projects and Nick Dorner (Rick Engineering Company).

- Ms. Rekani shared a PowerPoint presentation of the current updated Streamview Dr. project completing the corridor from 54th St to College Ave including maps, colored renderings, and details. The project will include 5 new roundabouts, raised medians, curb extensions, sidewalks, drainage improvements, water quality basins, and landscaping.
 - After taking feedback from the community, the most significant changes to the project involved adding drought resistant landscaping in the medians, roundabouts, and sidewalks. The city also plans to plant 74 native trees along the corridor.
 - The estimated total cost of about \$55 million is fully funded from a variety of sources included grants, local sources which has been allocated into three categories – \$21.8 million for transportation, \$20 million to stormwater and \$13.1 million to public utilities.
 - The city expects to resolve the utility conflicts and right-of-way acquisitions along the corridor by this winter, then get the City Council approval to advertise the construction project out for bidding. It is projected that work will commence in the Summer of 2027 and take 3 years to complete.
 - Ms. Rekani and Mr. Dorner fielded a number of detailed questions and concerns from the board members and the public.

Action: Rescind recommendation to not approve scope change for 4841 68th St. made at July meeting

- Lynn explained that the board did not have a legitimate reason to vote to not recommend approval of the additional ADUs for the project. The developer was code compliant and the project meets zoning regulations and is in the Transit Priority Area.
- During discussion, board members noted that the developer should not have been advised to come back to EACPC to seek approval for the additional ADUs since EACPC had previously recommended to approve the lot split.
- Sonia made a motion to rescind the recommendation to not approve made at the July 14 meeting and let stand the original recommendation. Richard seconded. Motion passed 7-0-2.

Review, Correction, and Approval of Minutes – July Minutes

July minutes approved unanimously without any changes.

Subcommittee Reports

- Community updates
 - El Cerrito – Jim noted the board vacancy for the community and will work with members of the El Cerrito Community Council to advertise to fill the vacancy.
 - Oak Park – Richard announced that their council has subdivided the community into geographic quadrants with the goal of increasing localized engagement.
 - Redwood Village – John reported that the community is still focused on the pocket park and Jennifer Bennett is actively seeking funding sources.
 - Rolando – Emily announced Pendleton Elementary will host a Movie in the Park on Saturday.
 - Rolando Park – Lynn reported that the community had just hosted a Movie in the Park last Saturday. Jennifer designed a mural concept for Rolando Park Elementary that the school district has approved. Lynn has submitted a grant application for funding this mural and an additional one in Redwood Village. A decision on the funding is expected by the end of October and if granted, murals could be completed before the end of the year.
 - Webster – Jen announced a community potluck is set for August 27th, still seeking funding for a pocket park on Mary Lou St, and continuing to advocate for the relocation of the proposed Fairmount Fire Station. Tiffany Harrison of Council District 4 wanted to make it clear that their office's priority is the Skline Hills Fire Station and not Fairmount.
- Mid-City Plan Update – Lynn
 - The first draft of the Mid-City Community Plan has been released. City Planners will be present at the September meeting to hear feedback and take questions from the board and the community at large. Lynn urged all board members to review the plan and to take special attention to the urban design concept, park & rec inventory, and overall density for each member's respective neighborhood. Members should come prepared with at least two questions for the planners. The majority of the September meeting will be devoted to discussion of the draft of the Community Plan Update.
 - At the October meeting, the board will finalize a response to the draft based on reactions, observations, and responses gleaned from September meeting. The written response will then be submitted to the City Planners before the October 30th deadline.
 - A working group meeting for the Mid-City Community Plan Update is scheduled for September 18th and is open to the public.
 - Lynn and Bettina both emphasized the importance of the members coming prepared to interact with City Planners as a demonstration of the Eastern Area future vision.
- Parks & Recreation – Daniele Laman
 - Progress report on the addition of Portia Dawson's name to the Colina del Sol Rec Center. Daniele met separately with members of PANA and the Somali community. Neither group had any opposition to the naming, so one of the last hurdles has been cleared and the councilmember's positive recommendation should be forthcoming.
 - Pendleton Park construction continues and she encourages residents to observe the transformation in person.
 - At the last College Area Planning Group, it was announced that the developer of the soon to be demolished Chabad House site will pay \$2.5 million in DIF fees (Developer Impact Fees) and Daniele plans to advocate that those fees be directed to the design of Montezuma Park on Catocin Dr.

- CPC Meeting – Lynn
 - Discussed the cost of appeals for planning groups; the fee is now just over \$2,000 (previously free).
 - Also discussed that most of the planning groups in the city operate with little funding and are unable to have bank accounts due to their lack of non-profit status.

For the Good of the Order and Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.