Mount Hope Community Recreation Group

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES | October 22, 2026

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2026 | Scheduled start: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting format: Hybrid; agenda location was Center for Employment Training (CET), 4153 Market Street, Suite C, San Diego, CA 92102; GoTo meeting 187-715-757.

Presiding: Rick Smith, Chair. Secretary Dale Huntington was reported absent. Prepared from the meeting recording and organized under the original October 22 agenda.

Status: Draft for review and approval. Exact call-to-order and adjournment times were not stated in the recording.

1. Call to Order

Rick Smith called the meeting to order after reviewing the quorum requirement and stating that three voting members were present, establishing a quorum.

Roll call identified Rick Smith, Chair; Elena Franco, Vice-Chair; Rachel Powers, resident; David Noriega, Area Manager, City of San Diego; and Daniele, District 9 representative to the Parks and Recreation Board. Richard Hayes and Lynette (Lynn) Hayes attended together via GoToMeeting. See the review notes concerning name spellings and attendance.

Previous minutes: The August 27, 2026 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Public Comment

Public comments were taken later in the meeting and are grouped here to follow the published agenda.

Cemetery landscaping: A concern was relayed about bare ground in the southern portion of Mount Hope Cemetery near a previously burned palm tree. David Noriega explained that active burials and equipment traffic make planting premature; staff intend to establish grass as activity in that area subsides. No planting date was provided.

Cemetery access and safety: Participants raised concerns about cut fencing, unauthorized entry, trash, and fire risk. David stated that the cemetery does not have nighttime security, described work addressing encampments on City cemetery property, and distinguished the neighboring privately owned Home of Peace cemetery from Mount Hope. He also described prior police monitoring in response to fires.

Cemetery movie event: David reported that the seasonal movie event had been canceled following complaints. Participants discussed seeking its return next year and potentially moving it to Dennis V. Allen Park. Electrical service was identified as an obstacle; offers of nearby power and a generator were discussed. David agreed to inquire about options. No event, expenditure, or support letter was approved.

3. Officer Nominations and Election Preparation

A. Nominating committee report: The group discussed the need to fill Chair, Vice-Chair, and Recording Secretary positions. No complete committee slate or formal report was presented. The chair noted low attendance and the need to obtain additional nominees.

B. Additional nominations and consent: Rick Smith self-nominated for Vice-Chair, stating his willingness to remain involved and that he could continue as Chair only if no other candidate sought that office. Lynn Hayes declined a board position. Rachel Powers said she was considering service but was not ready to commit. No additional consenting nominee for Chair or Recording Secretary was recorded.

C. Election procedures and timeline: Participants discussed a December election and officers assuming office in January. An initial suggestion that floor nominations could be taken in December was corrected during the meeting: the chair stated that the bylaws specify October floor nominations and a slate presented at least one meeting before the election. The group then planned an additional November meeting to receive nominations before the December election.

Meeting dates: The group unanimously approved moving both the November and December meetings to the third Thursday to accommodate the holidays. The revised dates are November 19 and December 17, 2026. Rick Smith moved the December date change, and a second was acknowledged. A motion was also made for the November date change, with Lynn Hayes seconding.

Rick Smith committed to promptly email the revised dates and emphasize the importance of submitting nominations at the November meeting. A Facebook notice was also planned. An email recap of the candidate slate and a light flyer campaign to build participation were discussed.

D. Voting eligibility and quorum: Discussion covered neighborhood connections, attendance eligibility, and the agenda's quorum formula of 25% of membership or three members, whichever is greater. Participants considered whether October, November, and December attendance could satisfy the consecutive-meeting requirement. Rick raised possible consideration of an attendance-requirement waiver at the November meeting. No waiver or eligibility change was adopted at this meeting.

4. Fundraising Strategy and Follow-Up

The chair invited fundraising input and noted that several people involved in earlier discussions were absent. The proposed recreation center was identified as the fundraising focus. Elena reported that the recreation center was a leading Southeast Planning Group priority and that a support letter had been submitted.

No specific grant application, sponsorship, fundraising event, expenditure, owner, or deadline was approved. The agenda's proposed review of grants, including RPIF, and other fundraising methods did not result in a recorded action plan.

5. Committee Reports

Events and outreach: Before the formal call to order, participants reviewed the recent Hispanic Heritage event, including children's activities, performances, and attendance below expectations. Later discussion emphasized strengthening neighborhood participation. Rachel Powers was thanked for helping canvas the neighborhood for the event, alongside the participant giving the outreach report.

Council office update: Rick read CRG-related portions of an update from Roberto. Residents were encouraged to submit Get It Done reports for park safety concerns and share the reports with Roberto's office for follow-up. Cemetery concerns included aging infrastructure, potholes, brush abatement, and general maintenance; an update was expected within approximately two weeks.

Dennis V. Allen Park restrooms: The written update described the replacement project as still in design, with a status presentation and public feedback sought for a November or December CRG meeting. A presentation date was not confirmed. David reported meeting with engineers the previous day and agreed to reach out to the staff member working closely with them concerning a presentation. He also said he had raised the need to elevate the new restroom area to address recurring flooding.

Park maintenance and safety: David described Get It Done referrals and related action on encampments and a vehicle leaking sewage. Participants expressed appreciation for the response. No separate formal fundraising, events, outreach, or facilities committee motion was recorded.

6. Announcements and Next Steps

Next meetings: November 19, 2026, for further nominations, and December 17, 2026, for officer elections. Both holiday schedule changes were unanimously approved. The follow-up notice should confirm meeting time, location, and virtual access.

Rick Smith: Send the revised November and December meeting notices promptly, emphasize nominations and participation requirements, and provide these minutes to David Noriega, who requested a copy. No separate deadline was stated for the minutes.

David Noriega: Contact the appropriate project staff about a restroom project presentation and inquire about options for restoring the seasonal movie event, potentially at Dennis V. Allen Park. No firm deadlines were assigned.

Further business discussed: Consider attendance eligibility at the November meeting; obtain further nominees; increase CRG visibility and participation through neighborhood outreach. No new CRG event was scheduled.

7. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with thanks and farewells. A formal adjournment motion and exact adjournment time were not stated in the recording. GoTo session history shows the online session ending at 6:51 p.m.; that session end is not treated here as a confirmed formal adjournment time.

Review Notes — Resolve Before Approval

Confirm the official call-to-order and adjournment times if independently recorded.

Confirm Elena Franco's name spelling and Daniele's full name. The recording's roll call and automated transcription do not establish all spellings reliably. Confirm the complete in-person attendance roster; an online connection list is not a complete roll call.

The recording contains discussion interpreting nomination and attendance rules. These minutes describe that discussion; they do not certify that a rule was amended or that a proposed waiver was authorized. The agenda's governing-document summaries were not treated as evidence that an action occurred.

Source Record

Original agenda: Mount_Hope_CRG_Agenda_2026-10-22.pdf, supplied by the user. Recording: 2026-10-22 17.53 Mount Hope Community Meeting.webm, supplied by the user. The recording was transcribed locally for this draft. GoTo session history was used only as supplementary evidence of online attendance and session timing. User clarification confirmed that the previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved. User clarification also confirmed unanimous approval of moving the November and December meetings to the third Thursday because of the holidays. The user confirmed that Richard Hayes attended with Lynn Hayes via GoToMeeting.

Recording reference points (approximate elapsed time): call to order and roll call 16:54–18:00; previous minutes 18:00–20:36; nominations and scheduling 20:36–32:30; fundraising and staff reports 32:30–40:20; outreach and public comments 40:20–56:57. Business is organized by agenda item rather than recording order.