

City of San José COVID-19 Recovery Task Force

Meeting Notes | November 4, 2021

Date / Time November 4, 2021 | 6:00pm

Location Virtual Meeting - Zoom Webinar

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Task Force Background and Purpose
3. Task Force Members: “Who We Are”
4. Task Force Overview
5. Public Comment
6. Next Steps
7. Adjournment

ATTENDANCE

Task Force Members: 49 of the 55 Task Force members were present at the meeting; attached is the list of names.

Public: There were approximately 8 members of the public in attendance.

City Staff Presenters: Rosalynn Hughey, Deputy City Manager; Aurelia Bailey, Assistant to the City Manager; Carlos Velazquez, Assistant to the City Manager; Diana Yuan, Deputy City Attorney; Katerina Tubera, Staff Specialist. Other City staff served as facilitators and scribes for the breakout groups managed the Zoom call.

MEETING SUMMARY

Task Force Background and Purpose

After welcome and introductions, Rosalynn Hughey provided background that the Task Force was formed in March 2021 during the City Council’s discussion and action on the City Roadmap. The Roadmap includes eight Enterprise Priorities and 41 Initiatives. “COVID-19 Pandemic: Community + Economic Recovery” is one of the Enterprise Priorities, and the Recovery Task Force is one of the Initiatives. Rosalynn shared the guiding principles for Recovery, an overview of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding that the City has received from the federal government, and the scope of the Task Force. The roles and responsibilities of the Task Force are to:

- Advise and monitor progress on Roadmap Recovery Initiatives;
- Disseminate information to constituencies – Connect people to services;
- Develop a community engagement and communications strategy for an equitable recovery; and
- Develop potential new recommended actions for Council consideration

The following is a summary of the Task Force discussion/questions and answers session:

- A desire to include an explicit focus on workers in the Task Force scope
- The importance of inclusion and accessibility to Task Force meetings, particularly for persons with disabilities. American Sign Language should be made available.
- The Recovery Initiatives and other goals should have measurable impact
- Clarification that the Vaccination Task Force is separate from the Recovery Task Force. However, the Recovery Task Force may choose to create a committee or solution group regarding health and wellness.
- There are expectations from non-profit organizations/service providers and from community members that the Task Force work is meaningful, impactful, and inclusive of community voices.
- Along with the American Rescue Plan funding, there are other funding sources available through entities such as Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), High Speed Rail, Santa Clara County, and San Jose Evergreen Community College District.
- Interest in the Task Force weighing in on the unallocated American Rescue Plan funding and clarification that ARP funding can be spent in subsequent fiscal years (beyond Fiscal Year 2021-2022)
- Clarification on the role of the alternate members of the Task Force – to attend meetings as a voting member when the primary member cannot attend. Alternates can

also attend meetings as members of public and participate in any committees or solution groups that may be formed.

Breakout Exercise

Task Force members participated in a breakout group exercise to introduce themselves and share initial thoughts and ideas on existing Recovery initiatives, how to ensure an equitable recovery, and how to engage the community. There were nine breakout groups. A Task Force member volunteered to report out a key takeaway from the discussion. The following summarizes the “report outs” from Task Force members:

- Focus on essential workers. Support workers with re-training and getting workers into well-paying, sustainable jobs
- Importance of housing stabilization, including rent relief
- Include local artists in small business recovery
- Community engagement:
 - Use social media (e.g., Instagram and TikTok), in addition to in-person meetings
 - Meet people where they are
 - Importance of hearing the voices of the communities that organizations represent and serve
 - Use Promotora model
 - Use networks of Task Force organizations to “take the temperature” of the community and bring information back to the Task Force
 - Reach communities of color, various cultures and backgrounds
- Use synergy between different Recovery initiatives, e.g., workforce development and small businesses and local arts recovery
- Focus on self-help and self-sufficiency to stay resilient

Task Force Overview

- Diana Yuan, Deputy City Attorney, presented an overview of the Brown Act and Public Records Act. The Task Force is an advisory body and both laws apply to Task Force members. Staff clarified that Task Force members will not be given a City government email address and that any emails or communication related to the Task Force can be subject to a Public Records Act request and would need to be provided. Staff also addressed a question related to changes to the Task Force members. Because the City Council took action and approved the 55 member organizations, any changes to the membership would require another action by City Council.
- Aurelia Bailey and Carlos Velazquez shared the meeting procedures and proposed group agreements. To ensure better accessibility, a Task Force member suggested that Task Force members state their name and organization before speaking and to keep

comments at a reasonable pace so that closed captioning pick up what is being stated. Other suggestions to be included in the group agreements are to consider that “no one knows everything; together we know a lot” and that Task Force members should be able to ask for clarification when someone discusses a topic with which another member is not familiar. Staff shared that the monthly meetings would be two hours, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and that as public health orders are modified, in-person meetings would be considered. Regarding the meeting schedule, the Task Force came to a consensus on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

- One member of the public spoke and shared that alternate members of the Task Force should participate in meetings as some of these individuals have lived experiences that would benefit the Task Force.

The Task Force meeting ended at 8:27 p.m.

NOTE: The full set of meeting materials, including the agenda, presentation, video recording, and information distributed in advance, are available at:

www.sanjoseca.gov/COVID19Recovery.