

City of San José COVID-19 Recovery Task Force

Meeting Notes | December 9, 2021

Date / Time December 9, 2021 | 6:00pm

Location Virtual Meeting - Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Presentations on City Roadmap Recovery Initiatives
3. Review Group Agreements/General Updates
4. Public Comment
5. Next Steps
6. Adjourn

ATTENDANCE

Task Force Members: 42 of the 55 Task Force members were present at the meeting. See the end of this document for members in attendance.

Public: There were approximately 7 members of the public in attendance.

City Staff Presenters:

City Manager's Office:

- Rosalynn Hughey, Deputy City Manager
- Aurelia Bailey, Assistant to the City Manager

Housing Department:

- Jacky Morales-Ferrand, Director
- Ragan Henninger, Deputy Director
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Office of Economic Development & Cultural Affairs:

- Nanci Klein, Director
- Blage Zelalich, Interim Deputy Director Business Development
- Kerry Adams-Hapner, Assistant Director
- Monique Melchor, Division Manager
- Allain Mallari, Supervising Accountant

Department of Parks & Neighborhood Services:

- Uyen Mai, Program Manager
- Hal Spangenberg, Division Manager
- Nicholas Georgoff, Recreation Supervisor

Library:

- Jill Bourne, City Librarian
- Ann Grabowski, Division Manager
- Lauren Hancock, Community Programs Administrator

MEETING SUMMARY

Presentations on City Roadmap Recovery Initiatives

After welcome and introductions, Rosalynn Hughey went over the agenda for the evening. The main portion of the evening was the presentation of the City Roadmap Recovery Initiatives by City staff. Rosalynn provided a refresher of the City's Roadmap and highlighted the first Enterprise Priority, "COVID-19 Pandemic: Community and + Economic Recovery," which includes six Recovery Initiatives: 1) Housing Stabilization, 2) Re-Employment + Workforce Development, 3) Small Business Recovery, 4) Food + Necessities Distribution, 5) Digital Equity, and 6) Child Care. City staff presented descriptions and accomplishments to date of the Recovery Initiatives and shared how the Task Force can help.

The following is a summary of the discussions and questions raised after each presentation:

- **Housing Stabilization:** Ragan Henninger presented on the City's Emergency Rental Assistance, Eviction Prevention Help Centers, Legal Assistance & Tenants Rights' Service efforts.

Task Force Feedback/Questions Addressed:

- A need for data collected on households with people who have disabilities to prevent eviction, as well as funding for housing equipment or construction to support individuals with enduring health issues after getting COVID. Improving the application process to add this data, or developing a local survey with a question regarding disabilities would be helpful. Currently, there are weekly reports on disabilities through the COVID-19 Rent Relief Program offered through the state of California.
- A need for continued rental assistance funding for those impacted from COVID-19. Locally, there are rental assistance and homeless programs, and the Housing Department will continue to scale up as funding is available.
- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County provides information on rental assistance to parents when they pick up their children from afterschool programs.
- **Small Business Recovery and Re-Employment + Workforce Development:** Blage Zelalich presented on the City's work to assist the most vulnerable small businesses and building the small business ecosystem. Kerry Adams-Hapner presented on the grants and technical assistance provided to art non-profits and creative entrepreneurs. Monique Melchor and Allain Mallari presented on the work2future and Resilience Corps programs, offering high growth, high wage occupations to marginalized individuals in San José.

Task Force Feedback/Questions Addressed:

- Staff provided clarity on Quetzal Gardens project, a 71-unit affordable housing project located at Alum Rock Avenue and King Road. The project will also house the new headquarters of SOMOS Mayfair and a small business incubator sponsored by the Latino Business Foundation.
- The work with property-based improvement districts, Alum Rock residents, and Alum Rock Business Association is a key component to recovery work with the Office of Economic Development & Cultural Affairs. As implementation starts with programs such as the launch of Quetzal Gardens, there are plans for more engagement with partners.
- A suggestion of being open-minded and aware of people with disabilities when working with small businesses.
- A focus on the airport, hospitality, and hotel workers and their recovery. These workers have been impacted by the pandemic and the suggestion of a solution group about this topic.
- A focus on workforce issues, specifically healthcare workers who handle the logistics of clinics. In addition, healing can also be found through the arts and hopes of working with work2future.
- While it is understood that public health is under the auspices of the County, there is a need for the City to focus recovery efforts on people living with chronic diseases.
- Food + Necessities Distribution: Uyen Mai presented on the efforts to distribute meal and grocery delivery services to seniors, the homeless, low-income and vulnerable residents.

Task Force Feedback/Questions Addressed:

- A need for better access to food distributions for people with disabilities. Meals on Wheels is one mobile food program that will be funded by the end of the fiscal year.
- A focus on local purchases and supporting local farmers in the South Bay. Second Harvest Food Bank, Catholic Charities, Off the Grid, and Veggielution are working in partnership with the City of San Jose. A broader conversation will happen with Santa Clara County regarding food insecurity.
- Digital Equity: Jill Bourne and Anne Grabowski presented on the City's work to address the digital divide exacerbated by the pandemic by alleviating the digital gap for students, connecting unconnected or under-connected households, and expanding opportunities for WiFi access around city facilities.

Task Force Feedback/Questions Addressed:

- A need for computer assistance for women ages 35 to 65 and hopes that the Library can assist with programs and assistance geared towards older adults.

- Silicon Valley needs improvement with Wi-Fi access; this needs to be a priority for businesses and education. This will make a difference in our community.
- A need for higher quality connection on WiFi hotspots. Multiple devices need to be supported in households.
- Increased outreach to families regarding availability of hotspots.
- Santa Clara County Office of Education has been the strongest partner with the San Jose Public Library in the distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots and deployment of resources. Students with special education needs received a high rate of hotspots.
- Child Care: Hal Spangenberg, Nicholas Georgoff, and Lauren Hancock presented on the City's work to provide scholarships and programs to residents in need of affordable childcare.

Task Force Feedback/Questions Addressed:

- Importance of social and emotional support in childcare programs.
- A request to have a referral system to be used for non-profit organizations to connect City services to people in the community.
- Importance of finding a transportation solution to get youth to their afterschool programs.

Review Group Agreements/General Updates

- Aurelia Bailey presented the Group Agreements that will allow the Task Force to work together and ensure that everyone is valued, respected, and included. A vote was taken as a group by using the raise hand feature in Zoom and a consensus was made.
- Rosalynn Hughey shared follow-ups from the meeting in November and many comments mentioned the importance of strengthening families, supporting workers, and supporting small businesses.
- Rosalynn also mentioned that the next Task Force meeting will focus on the formulation of committees or solution groups. This will allow Task Force members to focus on an area of interest and collaborate with residents.

Public Comment

- One member of the public spoke and shared the importance of bridging the digital divide and digital equity.

The Task Force meeting ended at 8:15 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.

Task Force Members in attendance:

Adriana Caldera Boroffice, Allie Lopez, Araceli Gonzalez, Araceli Sierra, Ben Roschke, Christine Fitzgerald, Claudia Damiani, Eric Mussynski, David Low, David Meyer, Derek Grasty, Dolores Alvarado, Dr. Anupama Balakrishnan, Shammy Karim, Dr. Nereyda Hurtado, Edwin Tan, Elizabeth Truong, Frederick Liang, Gabrielle Antolovich, Gerard Manuel, Hugo Garcia, Ivon Perez, Jean Cohen, Jose Rios, Jose Rodriguez, Justin Wang, Kyra Kazantzis, Luis Arguello, Maria Noel Fernandez, Maribel Martinez, Melanie Daraio, Mimi Hernandez, Monique Melchor, Monique Yamamoto, Mukhtiar Shaikh, Poncho Guevara, Quency Phillips, Rev. Ray F. Montgomery, Roy Hirabayashi, Sarah McDermott, Victoria Ramirez, Walter Wilson