

City of San José COVID-19 Recovery Task Force

Meeting Notes | January 13, 2022

Date / Time January 13, 2022 | 6:00 PM

Location Virtual Meeting – Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
2. General COVID-19 Update
3. Ideas for Task Force Committees
4. Breakout Discussion – Proposed Task Force Committees
5. Public Comment
6. Next Steps
7. Adjourn

ATTENDANCE

Task Force Members: 46 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 10 members of the public in attendance.

City Staff: Rosalynn Hughey, Deputy City Manager; Rob Lloyd, Deputy City Manager; Aurelia Bailey, Assistant to the City Manager; Carlos Velazquez, Assistant to the City Manager; Mike Jones, Staff Specialist; Katerina Tubera, Staff Specialist

MEETING SUMMARY

General COVID-19 Update

After welcoming and housekeeping, which included the introduction of Deputy City Manager and new Recovery Task Force City staff member Rob Lloyd, San José Vaccination Task Force Director Alvin Galang provided a brief update on recent trends in COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County. Following responses to Task Force questions about the data and booster shots, City staff shared ways the Task Force and public can stay informed about vaccinations and COVID-19 resources.

Ideas for Task Force Committees

Rosalynn Hughey introduced the ideas Task Force members submitted for potential committees. Ideas were to be based on the three pillars of the Recovery Task Force and relate to the City's six recovery initiatives. There were 31 ideas submitted by 19 Task Force members. Staff grouped the ideas into seven categories:

- 1) Supporting Workers,
- 2) Supporting Small Businesses,
- 3) Housing,
- 4) Community Engagement,
- 5) Data & Budgeting,
- 6) Community Health & Wellness, and
- 7) Arts and Culture.

Nine ideas were not categorized as they did not fit within one of the categories, or more information from was needed.

The description of all Task Force member submissions can be found at this link:

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/81269/637776731148370000>

Carlos Velazquez presented the ideas, and Task Force members who submitted ideas provided additional information and/or clarity. The following is a summary of the Task Force discussion:

- **Supporting Workers**
 - Airport and hotel workers have been hit hardest by the economic impact of COVID-19 and many of these workers are Latino, AAPI, and African American. These industries are slowly starting to recover and the need for workers to be part of the recovery process is essential.
 - In addition to supporting hospitality workers impacted by COVID-19, working to increase travel demand would be key to a speedy recovery and support small businesses and arts groups.
 - It is important to enforce mask policies at businesses and construction sites so workers do not have the added stress of being the "mask police." The importance of paid sick time and hazard pay for employees who may need to get tested or have COVID-19 was also emphasized.
 - Recognition that people with health conditions or a disability that may not be able wear masks.
- **Supporting Small Businesses**
 - Create a bridge where small businesses are aware of resources and incentives in the community.
 - It will be important to define what we mean by a small business, recognizing the Federal definition of a small business is one with 500 or less employees. The small businesses that are most in need of support are those with nine or less

employees, and women who own small businesses or who may be the single source of income for a household.

- Housing
 - Integrate opportunities for taking on the development of more affordable housing for people of all incomes, especially low incomes.
 - An increase of accessible units for people of all disabilities and disability-friendly spaces.
 - Focus on creating more homeownership opportunities.
 - Staying mindful of the impact of new developments which can displace local small businesses. Focus on anti-displacement policies.
 - Better, more authentic communication is needed. Incorporate youth voices into outreach. An example shared was the City's vaccination efforts last summer using young social media influencers to share vaccination information.
 - Clear, specific information when sharing information on social media.

- Community Engagement
 - The importance of showing people how to communicate with and understand the process when reaching out to agencies for assistance and services. Improve "handoff" when there are staff changes in agencies.
 - Listening, creating, responding, and bringing resources to people in the community. Instead of creating ideas of what we think they need, we should listen to them.
 - What are the barriers that do not allow people to get resources? Some members of our communities may not have access to all the paperwork needed to access services, such as pay stubs or even a home address. Can we better equip our community centers to help these groups of people
 - Some business associations are aware of what the community needs and provide outreach to communities already. It is important business associations as a resource.
 - Connect residents to existing resources.

- Data and Budgeting
 - Use equity lens in City and County budgeting processes
 - Acknowledge limited remaining American Rescue Plan funding

- Community Health and Wellness
 - Importance of the community's ability to be engaged and have access to healthcare, to feel safe, to be able to respond to emergencies, and be able to develop a communication plan.
 - Focus on measuring community wellness. What are the data points and how will they be used? What action plan will be in place based on data says to improve community wellness?
 - Measuring data on health disparities can be a way see if we are moving

the needle on community wellness. Data such as ethnicity, race, where you live are ways to measure. Link health disparities to health care, link health disparities to safety issues, link health disparities to ability to respond to an emergency.

- Mental health assistance for families and ensuring it is accessible for everyone, regardless of their status. This is key for families to thrive.
 - Many of the staff of social service providers are people of color and may be on the lower end of the income spectrum. How can we support them to ensure they and their families can be part of the recovery?
- Arts and Culture
 - Use of local talent and encourage businesses to partner with artists in promoting or assisting the community in recovery. Writers, musicians, actors, composers, and videographers can help promote and market our community and businesses in various ways.

Rosalynn Hughey presented the nine other ideas that did not fall into the seven categories. Some of these ideas are part of City departments' current work plans, such as the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act program. Other ideas were the existing Enterprise Priorities in the City Roadmap.

Task Force members engaged in a discussion on youth development:

- Create a mentoring model at the grade level to help children develop leadership skills and life skills needed to adapt to the changing world. Starting in middle school is key and can help strengthen families. Focusing on children would guide and support their life skills in the future.
- Models like City Year, or the Junior League may be good mentoring models to look at.
- Understanding what it takes to break the cycle in coming from underserved areas, especially youth who do not have access to digital equity resources. MACLA's youth space and partnerships with AACI have been effective.
- Youth development helps with emotional and mental health, helps create self-assurance. A topic like this could be incorporated into any of the committees, from community engagement to health.
- Importance of role models for youth and support mechanisms.

Aurelia Bailey briefly explained a proposed structure for Task Force committees to think about during the breakout exercise.

Breakout Discussion

Task Force members participated in a breakout group exercise to provide feedback on what committees they are interested in joining, the proposed structure, and who should join the committees that were discussed. There were five breakout groups. The following is a summary of the "report outs" from each group:

- Task Force members are interested in joining several committees. A suggestion of a poll to vote to narrow down committees and time commitment. Allow the committees to decide how long they should meet, how frequently, as not all need to keep going until November.
- Many of the committees connect with another, as community engagement is a key part of all the committee topics; hospitality and health intersect; workforce development crosses other topics. Approach the committee work using all our professional and personal perspectives/lens.
- The importance of community engagement and access and representation of youth in envisioning the future. Social and emotional wellness is a key topic to incorporate into the Community Health and Wellness committee. Importance incorporating many voices in committee work, including disability-accessibility, education and youth.
- Combining committee topics could be a way to condense all the ideas. There is a need for synergy and collaboration. A suggestion of a minimum of five people for each committee; task force members could be limited to two serving on two committees.
- Form committees around the seven categories that the ideas were grouped in and then have the committee members work to narrow down or prioritize the ideas and their work. A monthly meeting cadence is recommended.

Public Comment

One member of the public spoke about various City commissions and collecting good advice and preparedness for the future.

The Task Force meeting ended at 8:20 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, Alma Burrell, Annie Wu, Araceli Gonzalez, Araceli Sierra, Ben Roschke, Christine Fitzgerald, Claudia Damiani, Darcie Green, David Bini, David Low, David Meyer, Derek Grasty, Dolores Alvarado, Dr. Anupama Balakrishnan, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Dr. Nereyda Hurtado, Edwin Tan, Frederick Liang, Gerard Manuel, Hector Moreno, Hugo Garcia, Ivon Perez, Jean Cohen, Jesus Flores, Jose Rodriguez, Justin Wang, Kiana Simmons, Kyra Kazantzis, Luis Arguello, Maria Noel Fernandez, Maribel Martinez, Melanie Daraio, Milan Balinton, Mimi Hernandez, Monique Yamamoto, Poncho Guevara, Rev. Ray F. Montgomery, Reymundo Espinoza, Rosalie Gutierrez Ledesma, Roy Hirabayashi, Ruben Escalante, Samuel Kehinde, Victoria Ramirez, Zia MacWilliams

