



**SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
PUBLIC LIFE IN SAN JOSÉ**

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018

The Council of the City of San José convened in Special Session at 1:39 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Council Members - Carrasco (1:46), Davis, Diep, Jimenez, Jones, Khamis, T. Nguyen, Peralez; Liccardo.

Absent: Council Members - Arenas, Rocha.

Staff: Assistant City Attorney Ed Moran; City Manager, David Sykes; Deputy City Manager/Director of Economic Development Kim Walesh; Rosalynn Hughey, Interim Director, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; Director of Transportation Jim Ortbal; Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Angel Rios, Jr.; City Clerk Toni J. Taber, CMC; Deputy City Clerk, Ruth Krantz.

Documents Filed: Presentation “Public Life Council Study Session”.

INTRODUCTION

Deputy City Manager/Director of Economic Development Kim Walesh offered an introduction on public life in San Jose and the opportunity to maximize the impact of collective efforts of the City and community partners through a strategic, cohesive approach.

WHY PUBLIC LIFE?

Deputy City Manager/Director of Economic Development Kim Walesh inclusion and compassion, spoke on social cohesion, showing the world another way. Demographic shifts, keep social isolation at bay and communities strong. strengthen connections across our neighborhoods. Change the course of climate change. Transportation alternatives.

Access the video, the agenda and related reports for this meeting by visiting the City's website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/city> or <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/civiccenterity>. For information on any ordinance that is not hyperlinked to this document, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (408) 535-1266.

WHAT IS PUBLIC LIFE?

Deputy City Manager/Director of Economic Development Kim Walesh offered that as San José continues to grow and change, we have the opportunity to evolve an original model of public life. When we're not in our homes not in our workplaces and not in our cars, how we become a more social and interacting city with diverse backgrounds coming together.

HOW IS PUBLIC LIFE CREATED?

Deputy City Manager/Director of Economic Development Kim Walesh continued with insights and best practices, the team's lessons learned from study tours and training. She highlighted the five major insights.

Matt Cano introduced Insight #1: It's about daily life. Designing spaces for daily experience and utilizing empty, vacant spaces.

Director of Transportation Jim Ortbal discussed Insight #2: prioritizing people on streets, and building a sense of community and pride.

Rosalynn Hughey, Interim Director, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement continued with Insight #3: About space between buildings: walkable and useable streets.

Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Angel Rios, Jr. discussed Insight #4: connected public spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all.

Director of Cultural Affairs/Deputy Director Economic Development, Kerry Adams Hapner concluded with Insight #5: Empowering the Community.

Council discussion and a question and answer session followed.

MEASURING PUBLIC LIFE: TANGIBLE BENEFITS

Blaine Merker, Partner, Director & Team Lead Urban Designer from Gehl Institute continued the presentation, discussing the importance of measurement and Gehl's ambition for clarifying this vision and strategy. Deputy City Manager/Director of Economic Development Kim Walesh followed with "Our Ambition", articulating a shared vision, convening public work partners and having them share their experiences in creating a robust public life.

Loren Haley, Office of Economic Development, discussed a shared, overarching vision and high-level strategy being formed and identified the four upcoming public life workshops to be held: public life 101, measuring public life, nurturing public life, and leveraging community partnerships. She discussed the technical resources to be developed by Gehl Institute.

Danny Harris, representing the Knight Foundation, offered closing observations, offering the foundation's support in making San José a more engaged, successful city.

Public Comments:

- (1) Susan Landry, environmental architect, coined the term “mingleration” and the desire to see residents interact as a community.
- (2) Scott Kneiss, Downtown Association, expressed support and the need to invest in our City.
- (3) Teresa Alvarado, SPUR, discussed launching an initiative around Guadalupe River Park and the need to create an identity for our City by way of a central, green space.
- (4) Ryan Sebastian, representing Public Space Authority, Moveable Feast and San José Made, spoke on the focus of public life and their desire to partner with the City to make this vision happen.
- (5) Bill Salvers talked about unification and creating a master plan for a “Grand Boulevard”.

Council discussion and closing comments followed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council of the City of San José adjourned the Study Session at 3:48 p.m.

Minutes Recorded, Prepared and Respectfully Submitted by,

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Toni J. Taber, CMC
City Clerk

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