

Meeting Notes

[Posted online agenda.](#)

City Clerk (Toni Taber) calls roll

City Clerk administers Oath of Office

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day - 6:00pm

II. *Public Record*

III. *Consent Calendar*

IV. Reports & Information - 6:05pm

Frederick Ferrer (Chair) calls meeting to order w/ overview of agenda

- A. Introductions - One minute (timed) for each Commissioner to state their name, District and BRIEFLY share one thing you hope you can say about the process.

Prompt: I hope that...

- **Barbara Marshman** - Willowglen District 6 - Appt by Mayor - Hopes all of us here can feel good about the ideas we recommend for how the city might be reorganized and mayoral issues will resolve.
- **Christina Johnson** - District 2 - Hopes we make government more transparent and accessible for all of our residents.
- **Dan Bozzuto** - District 10 - (absent)
- **Elizabeth Monley** - District 6 - Hopes at the end of all of this, we come up with recommendations for the council and that they can produce them to the public and come to a very good decision.
- **Ella Matsumura** - she/her - District 3 - Hopes we really have hashed it out and engaged the public to live up to the council direction of improving equity and inclusion in San Jose (SJ). There are many things that are clear in our country, the ways we make decisions have tremendous implications for people here. Hope we live up to that opportunity.
- **Enrico "Rick" Callender** - District 7 - Hopeful that the decisions made by council make for a more inclusive San Jose.
- **Frank Maitski** - District 10 - Positive influence on this issue, have complete and thorough decision.
- **Garrick Percival** - District 9 - Hopes to build a set of recs to improve San Jose and improve the lives of those in the community in the sense that people can engage and are well represented in city government
- **Jeremy Avila** - District 7 - (absent)

- **Jeremy Barousse** - District 8 - Hopes that we can all do our part to create a more welcoming San Jose for families and for all.
- **Jose Posadas** - District 3 - Hopes he can live up to the expectations the community has in this process and for him individually as a council member.
- **Louis Barocio** - District 5 - By end of the process, hopes we can make SJ a beacon and model for the dem process and collectively we recommend the best we can for city council to consider. Bring together all the voices in the city of SJ.
- **Lan Diep** - North SJ, citywide mayor appointee - Hopes we will be engaged enough to share our thoughts with our friends and create a domino effect to share the renewed fire of SJ engagement.
- **Linda Lezotte** - District 9- Hopes that we begin and end meetings on time.
- **Magnolia Segol** - District 6 - Hope we feel good about the recs at the end of this, that we put in the time and the research to educate ourselves and each other, that we're open minded to each other's research and POVs so we can come up with educated recs that we feel good about for the families and people of SJ.
- **Maria Fuentes** - District 8 - Excited to be part of the time and believes we are going to come up with great work together. Hopes at the end of the process - ten years after we finish our work - everyone will realized out contributions brought our city to more inclusion and advances out great city beyond what we have today
- **Roshni Saxena** - District 4 - To hopefully engage the community more effectively and more edifying conversation and contribute to something greater than we are right now.
- **Sammy Robledo** - District 1 - Have good conversations and a great outcome.
- **Mary Segura** - District 2- Transparent, inclusive, quality recs
- **Thi Tran** - District 4 - Hopes when it comes down to it we have thoughtful dialogue that leaves people feeling all perspectives are heard and that we can come together and bring a rec to the council that feels suitable.
- **Veronica Amador** - she/her- District 5- Equity inclusion and transparency is included in what we deliver to the council.
- **Yong "Jenny" Zhao** - District 1 - This is a learning process for me and I hope we can all be open minded and respectfully hear each other, and come to something we feel proud of.
- **Frederich Ferrer** - Appointed by mayor - Congratulations on not taking the full minute - wants us to be efficient, we're all busy working. I will work hard at keeping us moving and on time. Hopes at the end of the process, even if you disagree with a recommendation, you don't disagree about the process being an inclusive and thorough one, based on the research and the education we find as a commission.

B. Brown Act Overview - Questions

1. Public records act applied to us as well?

- a) Any email you send Toni is a public record and people can request them - so be mindful when you communicate with each other and with Toni. All of the agenda items submitted in writing are public record. Recordings are retained for 2 years.
 - b) Lan: Brown Act Groups? (11) - We don't do Brown Act Groups - but should be aware of it - don't talk to each other about relevant issues outside of public meetings. Daisy chain can get very messy. In a group of 23, it can easily get to 11. There are cures, through the attorney's office. Don't try to hide it.
 - c) Magnolia: can members of our district who want to talk to us and give their opinion, is that a violation of the Brown Act? You can talk to community members about what's going on, don't express your opinions - give links to material and website. It shouldn't look like you are deliberating with other people. There will be a lot of public hearings.
 - d) Elly: Is there a standard vice chair role? You are going to nominate the Vice Chair at the next meeting.
- C. Expectations - One and a half minutes (90 seconds, timed) for each Commissioner to share one ADDITIVE expectation about how this Commission is run
- 1. **Lawrence Grodeska (facilitator):** Asks that we present and minimize distractions. As much as you can, be on camera. With the understanding that we all have home responsibilities. Conversations will be detailed and potentially philosophical.
 - 2. **Maria Fuentes:** Everyone gets a turn to speak. We listen intently to each other. Make sure our community process is very accessible and known to the community so they can easily engage with what we're doing. I'm not always seeking that everyone agrees. I want to at least make sure we're inclusive of each other's opinion. Value the diversity of ideas and bringing them together.
 - 3. **Frank Maitski:** Want to begin with the end in mind, what is the final product we're working towards and move in that direction. Project management might help. What are the tasks and are we on schedule? Move it along efficiently. What is our decision-making process? Likes the idea of Majority and Minority report. Still learning.
 - 4. **Barbara Marshman:** Spent years in the news writing about what other people did. First time participating in the city process. Really had no idea how this was going to work with this number of people. The goals and ideas included seem to get more inclusive and general, I'd like to know soon if we can decide what we'd like to address and focus where we're going. I really hope this can be straight forward and

everything on the table and nobody afraid to say anything and also nobody attacking anyone else.

5. **Christina Johnson:** Hope we approach convos with open hearts and open minds. More productive convos happen that way. Not have one person dominate the conversation. Hoping people are mindful that other people want to share as well.
6. **Elizabeth Monley:** Make the promise to yourself that you'll be present at every meeting. Be prepared for discussion, leaving personal political opinions outside of the conversation so that your opinion is pure, the discussion remains pure on the agenda and that we don't take side-trips. Stick to the agenda, be efficient.
7. **Elly Matsumura** - This is a very serious business in terms of impacting the future of SJ. Look far and wide with open minds to learning about cities across the country and globe to learn what it's going to take to create more inclusion and safety across SJ. To hold ourselves accountable and model it in our process of engaging with the public. Make meetings not just accessible but actively reaching out to members of the public to engage especially during COVID. And especially to folks who haven't had representation, what we're seeking to remedy.
8. **Frederick Ferrer** - Clarity. Expect that we have a clear agenda, a clear task in front of us, a clear picture of where we're going. Our process is a clear map to get us through the process with clear input from the community. Have a good sense of what the map looks like.
9. **Garrick Percival** - interested to learn other people's experiences and perspectives. One of great things about commission of this size is the diversity of expertise. Hope to learn a lot from everybody else. Having a clear set of goals and a recognition that there really is no perfect system of government. They all come with benefits and costs, so keeping an open mind to that. At the end of the process we might still be left with questions and things that could be better.
10. **Jeremy Barousse**- Echoing make sure we're including as many community voices as possible. Elevating and centering community voice. Asking really good questions to get us to a good place, getting good material and info from staff. Doing our own research into models around country.
11. **Jose Posadas**- Re: Process, being inclusive, being respectful with each other and members of the public, having a robust public outreach effort and paying special consideration to groups that aren't normally successfully engaged (language communities, youth groups, without access to internet)

12. **Lan Diep** - Re process: that we get on the same page about what the process is and ground rules. It's not clear how long this commission is assembled for but having a schedule so we can plan our lives around it. Recognize that our reports will be a starting point for council discussion and ultimately it will be on them to decide which amendments to put before voters. Knowing that we are creating a report to spark the discussion, I wouldn't limit ourselves to what the council wants us to talk about, if there's time to look at the whole charter and update areas they might not have considered.
13. **Linda Lezotte**: First look at the areas the council wants us to. The charter needs to change as times change. Get through the items the council recommends and then if there's time look to other areas. We need to be honest about its recommendations to the council so we can't have people with their own agenda putting forward recommendations that won't go anywhere. It will be a waste of time. Thinks we need to get to consensus, does not have to be everyone agreeing but strives towards consensus.
14. **Louis Barocio**: Add clarity that we do understand the task; a couple of bullet points at the beginning about district cycles and amendments; put those in a succinct way; since there's 23 of us, good to see something on the screen that shows who is next so we can prepare for that. (shared screen doc). Clarity on how we will organize what needs to be discussed and weave in and out. Take steps back when we need to.
15. **Magnolia Segol**: Would like to break up the research and present our piece to the group with a source so that each commissioner can visit the research we did in addition to their own research and the readings provided by the city. It will be enormous for everyone to do everything. Each be responsible for presenting a piece of it. Will help keep us engaged. Would be nice to have a comment board or blog where members of the public can share their ideas - life experience. I want access to their stories and what they want to tell me. Blog with each question that we're charged with making recs on. That would be helpful.
16. **Enrico "Rick" Callendar**: Being able to clearly ID some outcomes and topic areas to focus on so we know exactly what we're working towards and working on. Make meetings accessible, open and accepting to folks' comments. Wants to see a project plan so we know exactly the timeline we're working on - otherwise could be spiraling into the unknown.
17. **Roshni Saxena**- Having a clear outline of what we'll be discussing; making sure that conversation doesn't get monopolized; equitable

decision making process; engaging parts of the community that wouldn't normally be part of meetings - those along the digital divide.

18. **Sammy Robledo** - Allow everyone to speak and be engaged in the conversation, if we have a hard end point, that would be great. Meet our deadlines.
19. **Sherry Segura**: Everyone has made great suggestions; transparent fair inclusive process where all perspectives are respected and appreciated; clear process for the decisions we'll be making
20. **Thi Tran**: 1) Be methodical within these deliberations 2) be patient at the same time. This is an enormous task we've been asked to do. The last thing we'd do is rush something through, if we need more time, i think we should have that flexibility. Should not feel nervous to say we need more time.
21. **Veronica Amador**: centering community voice and amplifying that. Being mindful about how long I take up the air space; listening to understand and not assuming from others.
22. **Yong "Jenny" Zhao**: Agree with everyone and expect to do a lot of listening and learning. Listen to everyone here and to the public. Keep in mind that a lot of us come from different backgrounds and perspectives so I will try my best to keep an open mind.

- V. *Public Hearing - N/A*
- VI. *Old Business - N/A*
- VII. *New Business - N/A*
- VIII. **Public Comment - 7:30pm (Fred - 10 mins)**

A. Members of the Public are invited to speak on any item that does not appear on today's Agenda and that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council.

1. **Ellina Yin**: Resident of District 6 (born and raised District 4) pleased to hear so many care about community engagement-- I subscribe to every single council members newsletter -- not one mentioned this meeting, or on social media. Would have missed it if she hadn't talked to Toni personally. The Brown Act is a little disheartening - that we can't have a dialogue with the public. Agree that we need to look at the city charter and look at what's outdated.
2. **Jake Tonkel** (he/him): Echo Ellina's comments. The reason he found out about the meeting was her proactive outreach to him and asking him to tell his network. As you go through to look at how to be more accessible and inclusive, I ask that community input takes centerstage - meetings about how the outreach has worked from one meeting to the next, important to developing the framework of how the new

government system will be formulated. Especially given the new virtual reality.

IX. **Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items - 7:40pm (Fred - 20 mins)**

A. Set the next meeting date and schedule of future meetings.

For this section, we will use an online polling tool with real time results. This will not be possible with Zoom Webinar polls (can't restrict to Commissioners/Panelists), so CivicMakers is testing a few other options.

B. Will use the raised hand feature

1. When do we want to meet?

a) Day: Mondays are strong preference

(1) Not prohibitive for people present

b) Time: Preference to start earlier in the evening.

c) **POLL:** What is your preferred start time for Commission Meetings?

(1) 4:30 PM (2)

(2) 5:00 PM (3)

(3) 5:30 PM (7)

(4) 6:00 PM (9)

Elly: We have two people missing, perhaps people who might not be able to do Monday at 6pm. Do we have a process for getting them that information?

- A: Toni will check-in on them

2. How long are meetings?

a) Let folks know that meetings will be no less than 2 hours, for larger topics will be designing three hour agendas

(1) 30 minutes for preamble, 2.5 hours for work

(2) Maybe want to shift to 3 hours for work for bigger topics

b) POLL: In general, will you be able to attend a 3 hour Commission meeting?

(1) Yes **6pm-9pm is not prohibitive for people present**

(2) No

3. Frequency

a) Preference for bi-monthly to establish a rhythm.

b) May need to schedule separate public hearings for just listening to public, only need quorum, CM might not need to hear them

c) These will be Zoom hearings through at least June

d) **POLL:** What is your preferred frequency for Commission meetings?

(1) Weekly

(2) Every other week (17)

(a) *Sherry: bi-weekly isn't an issue except that she has a class that ends at 6:30pm - if it's consistently every other week on this week, she'll have to keep leaving early. First and third weeks.*

(3) Monthly

(a)

4. Time limit for commissioners?

a) Maybe soft 15 mins

X. Decision: **Mondays every other week 6-9pm with flexibility for public comment.**

A. **Frederick Ferrer:** Recommends we have an end time and that we hit it. We will think about this in the design.

B. **Lan Diep:** *Do we have an end date that the council has to vote and do we know how many topics we will explore? That might mean we have to meet less or more.*

C. **Frederick Ferrer:** Now that we know the meeting time and cadence we can now come up with a timeline that the commission can uphold, turn down or adopt based on what we have to get done. We will come up with a proposal for the schedule overall and the methodology for accomplishing the tasks needed and topics to be discussed.

1. Hopes we can facilitate most of our convos in a time frame - without long soliloquy or monologues. Prefers to have timing on all of our conversations and extending those for bigger conversations on substantive issues.

2. Expectation to not repeat things - if you conquer, don't restate, just conquer and move on.

D. **Toni** will follow up with the two commissioners who are absent.

E. **Magnolia Segol:** *Between now and next meeting, if the public wants to give us their input, how would we take their questions?*

1. **Frederick Ferrer:** *All data should go to Toni and Toni will distribute it to the full commission. Any member of the public that wishes to address the commission should send it to Toni so she can distribute it and put it in the agenda packet. Will be more organized and efficient.*

2. *If you have other suggestions on how different communities communicate with us, we certainly want to incorporate that into our model. We want to model those behaviors, how to be more inclusive. Will work with Toni to make sure there's good public noticing for communities.*

XI. **Elly Matsumura:** *It looks like we have other staff members with us as well. Thank you for your work and if there's an opportunity to share about their roles, that would be great.*

A. **Toni:** *Megan, a deputy clerk (dedicated staff person) starting March 1st -- all this material will go on the charter review website - she'll be in charge of that. Excited you'll have your own staff person.*

XII. **Toni:** *Will need to do open form before we adjourn. → no public comments*

XIII. *Public Open Forum: no one raised hand.*

XIV. **Adjournment - 8:00pm**