

Los Paseos Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

March 21, 2024

Via ZOOM

Board members in attendance: Greg Peck, president; Karen Lattin, vice-president; Barbara Canup, treasurer; Lynne Steele, secretary; and Alan Chan and Herb Bowen, members at large. 19 guests, including Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Councilmember Arjun Batra, Michelle Dexter and Ammal Elhaddad (D10), Captain Steve Donohue, SJP, and Gavin Comstock, Open Space Authority.

Greg Peck called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Topics on agenda:

- LPNA Business and Neighborhood Update
- Congressman Jimmy Panetta Update
- District 10 Councilmember Arjun Batra Update
- Captain Steve Donohue, SJP Southern Division Update
- Gavin Comstock, Coyote Ridge Update

LPNA Business

- Recent LPNA Accomplishments:
 1. Successful NNO with over 500 in attendance, August 2023
 2. Dumpster Day, October 2023
 3. Successful Holiday Event in partnership with LPHOA, December 2023
 4. Graffiti abatement in Los Paseos Park and schools, ongoing with Greg and Alan
 5. Caring for park trees commissioned by LPNA with the Parks Department and Our City Forest
 6. Commissioning neighborhood street trees
 7. Placing Court signs along paseos: Greg has completed Paseos #1 and #2
 8. Completing wall at the end of Bernal Way
 9. Native Plant Garden in Los Paseos Park
 10. Active CERT Team
- **BeautifySJ Grant Update**
 - The 2024 Grant was applied for. The \$5,000 request has not been awarded yet. Will cover NNO, social events and improved bulletin board in Los Paseos Park.
 - Existing \$5,000 grants ends March 31. Covered street tree project, planting four trees in the neighborhood. Our City Forest helped implement and helped volunteers with planting.
- **Los Paseos Park Update**
 - The ten trees planted a year ago are budding. Watering will resume as the rain decreases.
 - Trees were inspected, pruned and the bark cleaned up March 13.
 - The Pruning session help in January with Our City Forest was effective.
 - Native Plant Garden is starting spring bloom.

- Spring cleanup is scheduled for March 30. Volunteers needed, email gardener@lospaseosneighbors.com
- **Paseo #2 Court SignPosts Update**
 - Greg has completed and installed signposts in paseos #2. Greg mentioned that people have commented on how helpful and nice the signposts are.
- **Great American Litter Pick Up, April 20**
 - LPNA and D10 leadership will join the national clean-up effort on April 20. Details to be announced ASAP.
- **Bernal Way Wall**
 - The height extension is complete. Greg mentioned that LPNA would like to keep the wall looking good with an occasional clear wood finish application. Michelle Dexter stated that the D10 office could provide some funding for this.—

Congressman Jimmy Panetta

- Congressman Panetta represents Congressional District 19, one of the largest including much of San Jose, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Cambria, and Kern County. He says his district encompasses everything from computer chips to cow chips.
- His priorities include legislation on the federal level to fund local projects; case-work involving the issues his constituents might have with government programs (IRS, Social Security, Medicare, Veterans issues, etc.) He also spoke of protecting the beauty of the area and our responsibility to preserve open space and support agriculture in balance.
- Panetta is on the Ways and Means Committee, including VA Clinics, military bases including bases in Monterey (including the Defense Language Institute and Ft. Hunter Leggett) and all armed services issues.
- Panetta is also focusing on housing, including low- and middle-income tax credits, increased tax breaks for renters, potential changes to capital gains laws, and first-time home buyer tax credits.
- Residents are welcome to call or email his office and are promised a response. Panetta has offices in Paso Robles, Monterey, Santa Cruz and on Blossom Hill Road in San Jose.
- Herb mentioned a few issues with D2 having issues with railroad easements, Lake Cunningham, and Almaden Lake cleanup efforts. Panetta said he would work with the City of SJ to assess the issues, ask the right questions and figure out what tasks need to be addressed.

Councilmember Arjun Batra, D10

- Councilmember Batra thanked LPNA for the many projects and events held in the past.
- He talked about the Mayor's Budget Message (presented March 11 and due to be finalized in June) and reaffirmed the mayor's priorities including reducing the number of San Jose unsheltered residents, increasing community safety, cleaning up our neighborhoods, attracting investments, and adding jobs and housing.
- [Bit.ly/2024MarchBudgetMessage](https://bit.ly/2024MarchBudgetMessage) is the link to view the budget message.
- Batra mentioned that based on the lessons learned last year, the approach will be different.
- He suggested quick builds including manufactured homes, insulated containers, and additional sites for the approximately 4,600 homeless in SJ and about 800 people living in RVs.
- Upcoming events include:
 - April 2, 5:30-7:00 PM Via Del Oro Community Meeting
 - April 13, 2:00-3:00 PM Town Hall Public Safety Meeting
 - April 20, 9:00-11:30 AM Great American Litter Pickup
 - A Shredding/E-waste event and a Dumpster Day are scheduled for June.

SJPD Captain Steve Donohue

- Captain Donohue reported that our area was quiet this quarter with one robbery, one aggravated assault and one injury accident.
- Captain Donohue also addressed the redistricting proposal, having sent it back with comments concerning staffing numbers, shift changes and locations. He also mentioned that removing “beats” might work to increase response time. Police working in teams, sharing workloads to get things resolved faster.
- He mentioned that Los Paseos is a “low crime” area.
- He discussed scanners and the complaints neighbors have that police radio communications must be encrypted under the federal law on privacy and scanners cannot receive the transmission. This initiative, Donohue says, creates a safer environment for officers as now privacy concerns are addressed, and personal information is more secure.
- Captain Donohue also emphasized that people please report crimes and concerns to the police department, not just on NextDoor.

Gavin Comstock, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

- Comstock discussed the opening of the new Mayyan Ooyakma in the Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve. Mayyan Ooyakma is a 1,859-acre property.
- Serpentine-dependent species include the federally threatened Bay Checkerspot Butterfly and the federally endangered Metcalf Canyon jewelflower.
- The Mayyan Ooyakma preserve is open 7 days a week, year-round while the Habitat Protection Area is open Wednesday-Sunday.
- Docent-led hikes are available in March, April and May with reservations required.
- The Habitat Protection Area operates on a Butterfly Access System. Passes are free and can be obtained on their website. 10 AM is the best butterfly viewing.
- Open Space Authority hosts Volunteer Orientation monthly and Interpretive Host Training quarterly.
- April 20 Earth Day Celebration, visit the website at www.openspaceauthority.org for additional information.
- Comstock also discussed the wildlife corridors in the news lately. Coyote Valley is a natural wildlife corridor with a variety of natural culverts on 101 by the golf course. The Open Space Authority is working with local agencies to establish safety corridors along Monterey Highway. Community meetings will be announced.
- Contact Gavin Comstock at Gavin-Comstock@openspaceauthority.org to volunteer or become a Land Steward, or sign up for Interpretive Host Training.

The next General Board Meeting is Thursday, June 20 at 7:00 pm.

Greg Peck adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.