

Sunnyvale Downtown Association Minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting July 6, 2022

Meeting held via video.

1. Call to Order: Mike called to order a general meeting of the Sunnyvale Downtown Association on July 6, 2022 at 10:00 am. Leigh Odum took minutes.
2. Attendance: Mike Johnson, Gary Gold, Maria Rodriguez, Angela Obeso, Lena Guillory, Amit Rajgarhia, Katie Voong, and Leigh Odum.
3. Acceptance of Minutes:
 1. Gary made a motion to approve the June 1, 2022 minutes. Amit seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.
4. Public Comment -
 1. Gary commented that the message of available parking is not clear.
 2. Leigh commented that the smell of marijuana is very strong in the stairwell in the underground parking on Francis and Evelyn St. Maria recommended that we contact public safety regarding this.
 3. The Wednesday night music starts tonight.
 4. Urban plates is opening this week. They are offering scheduled free meals.
 5. Mike reminded everyone to call 911 if anything looks suspicious.
5. City Report – Vice Mayor, Alysa Cisneros - Not here today.
6. Police Report with Lt. Ramirez - Not here today.
7. Dawn Maher – CEO, Sunnyvale Chamber
 1. The Chamber has high school and college interns. This program allows students to get real experience. They have between 8 and 10 students.
 2. They are reopening an ambassador program. As things open up they are holding more business ribbon cuttings and getting out on the street and talking to potential new members.
 3. Dawn asked for feedback on the Art & Wine festival. They thought it was a success and went smoothly. There were about 40,000 attendees. It was a safe event, people were happy with the event. There were some comments that attendees wanted more food trucks, but the chamber was committed to featuring our downtown businesses.
8. Angela Obeso, Principal Transportation Engineer in Public Works
 1. She's presenting to let us know what is going on with the grade separation plan and get community feedback.
 2. She is focusing on the Sunnyvale Ave. crossing location.
 3. The existing crossing is at grade (tracks and road at same level). The city is considering lowering the road to run under the tracks to make the roads and tracks safer. The trains will be running more frequently, the grade separation will lower the noise (to more noise at gates), make it safer, faster for cars, bikes and pedestrians to cross. Trains will be upgrading the electric, moving faster and more frequently. They are looking at up the 174 to 348 trains running daily. They currently have 92 trains running daily. This is why it is important to improve the

safely. The initial discussion explored multiple possibilities. The result would be for Sunnyvale Ave to run underneath Evelyn Ave, the train tracks, and Hendy Ave. Sunnyvale Ave would start to incline at the corner of Washington Ave. Evelyn and Hendy Ave will not change. The tunnel portion between will include a bicycle and pedestrian path that will be higher elevation than the Sunnyvale Ave roadway in the tunnel. They would create a driveway to the corner commercial buildings and the parking lot. The estimated cost will be between \$225 - 275 million.

4. The other option would be to close off the intersection to automobiles and build a bike and pedestrian tunnel. This cost would be \$90 to 120 million. They will present this to the the BPAC bike and pedestrian groups in Sunnyvale. There is a community online survey that people can complete. They will then present to City Council on August 30th. Once the feasibility phase / environmental clearance is over they will start with the Mary Ave project. The timeframe for the project to start would be in 7 years for the Sunnyvale Ave project. (5 years for the Mary Ave project)

9. Old Business

1. Music while dining on Murphy Avenue ended last Thursday. The two months of music provided an enjoyable experience for the many patrons dining on Murphy.
2. The Sunnyvale Chambers Art & Wine Festival was another successful event we participated in this year. It brought many new visitors and residents back downtown with the expanded vendors, music, and many added community performances this year. Dawn delivered as always and made this event another memorable experience.
3. On June 23, The Sunnyvale Chamber and SDA hosted the PRIDE Celebration on Historic Murphy Ave. The event lasted about an hour, and afterword's, many of the participants that attended disbursed to our downtown businesses for dining. The event was well received and allowed the SDA to showcase our downtown.
4. As discussed in an earlier board meeting, after the Minkoff Group presented the proposed new project at 490 Mathilda, we were asked to support this project. I have prepared a brief letter from the SDA in support of the project.

10. New Businesses

1. Angela Obeso, Principal Transportation Engineer in Public Works, spoke about the Caltrain Separation Project. Find more information on the project webpage: <https://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov/business-and-development/projects-in-sunnyvale/infrastructure-projects/caltrain-grade-separation>
2. Our Summer events will officially kick off this evening as we start our Summer Series today with First Call.
3. On Saturday, 9 July, Andre Thierry will be the first Jazz & Beyond Series artist. We look forward to an enjoyable season and helping our businesses while providing an exciting event season to the residents, community, and visitors this year.
4. We are excited to welcome Urban Plates to the downtown, located in the Cityline on McKinley Avenue. The Grand Opening is scheduled for Tuesday 11, July 2022.

5. Reminder about employee parking passes they will be mailed out by our Public Works staff. Businesses can check with them to find out what the schedule is for the distribution. They can call 408-730-7415 or email pubworks@sunnyvale.ca.gov.
6. Employee permits will be issued based on the employee count listed on active business licenses. If a business needs to increase the number of employees, they need to contact Finance/Business License. They can be reached at businesslicense@sunnyvale.ca.gov or call 408-730-7620.
7. Salvador Foresta of Sweet Sicily submitted a request to be a board member last month and I wanted to follow up with the board on their consideration in moving forward with his request.
11. Meeting adjourned at 10:35. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday July 6, 2022, 10:00 am.