

## **Sunnyvale City Council Summary - Monday, May 12, 2025**

The Sunnyvale City Council meeting was held in person and online (via Zoom) on May 12, 2025, at approximately 5:02 PM.

The following council members were present at the meeting:

- \* Mayor Klein
- \* Vice Mayor Sell
- \* Council Member Cisneros
- \* Council Member Mellinger
- \* Council Member Sunni Vasan
- \* Council Member Chang
- \* Council Member Lay

### **I. Board and Commission Interviews:**

- Interviews for 40 board and commission candidates spanned two nights; this summary covers 20.
- Candidate Wade faced extensive questioning on energy and sustainability.
- Candidates Lee and O were questioned on legal backgrounds, sustainability, circular economy, and decarbonization.
- Interview topics included Climate Action Plans, community outreach, heritage preservation, public art, affordability, and waste management.
- Council decisions were postponed to May 20th.

### **II. Planning Commission Candidate Interviews:**

- Martin and other candidates (Sumos, San Diego) were interviewed; Martin reapplied, emphasizing improved communication.
- Martin discussed the Moffitt specific plan (positive) and an adversarial hearing (negative).
- Candidates debated balancing retail and housing in village centers, mitigating business

displacement, and accelerating housing production (impact fees, density bonuses).

- Concerns included displacing minority-owned businesses and managing traffic.
- Sumos advocated a case-by-case approach, highlighting Sunnyvale's downtown revitalization as a model. San Diego emphasized walkable mixed-use neighborhoods and green spaces.

### **III. Personnel Commission Candidate Interview:**

- Richard reapplied, highlighting his military and finance experience and suggesting more review time for materials.
- Positive working relationships and a lack of internal conflict were noted.
- Richard's self-assessment of his performance was questioned by Councilmember Vasan.
- The discussion focused on ideal candidate qualities (impartiality, ordinance understanding, objective refereeing).

### **IV. Arts Commission Candidate Interview:**

- Christina, a Sunnyvale native, discussed her art therapy and film studies background.
- She proposed integrating mental health advocacy into city programs through art.
- She advocated for interactive and collective art projects and prioritizing literary, performing, and interactive arts.
- Cost-saving measures using leftover business materials for public art projects were suggested.

### **V. Parks Commission Candidate Interview:**

- David reapplied, focusing on increasing green space accessibility (repurposing property, late-night lighting).
- A past meeting empowering community members, especially youth, was highlighted.
- Improved staff-commissioner relations and collaboration were mentioned.
- Discussion included the Pg&E lot project and its evolving use.

### **VI. Library Commission Candidate Interviews:**

- The library bond measure's failure (despite 59% support) necessitates a long-term strategy for

expanding services.

- Candidates discussed utilizing existing demand mapping to prioritize underserved areas and services beyond books (cooling/warming centers, job resources).
- Candidates discussed integrating generative AI into library services, highlighting potential benefits and the risk of misinformation.
- Candidate preferences for library programs ranged from "oddball" events (Death Cafe, Lego installations) to quiet book clubs and diverse language sections.
- Concerns were raised about managing interactions between housed and unhoused community members using the library. Strategies for communication and conflict resolution were discussed.
- Discussion included the need for a variety of spaces in a new branch library (quiet study areas, community rooms, children's areas) and expanding multilingual collections, both physically and digitally. Candidates also emphasized the importance of community outreach to increase awareness of existing services.

## **VII. Planning Commission Candidate Erickson Interview:**

- Candidate Erickson's experience in Europe informed his views on high-density housing and green spaces.
- He discussed the need to balance high-density housing with sufficient green areas, citing European models.
- He highlighted Prop 13 as a factor impacting housing supply and suggested government subsidies as a potential solution to accelerate housing production.
- He expressed a desire to improve North-South traffic flow by creating a Murphy Street-like corridor with a train system, and allocate funds for Department of Safety initiatives and subsidized housing for essential workers.

## **VIII. Other Discussions:**

- The Sunnyvale Heritage Museum's volunteer reliance was discussed.
- A candidate's community involvement (Habitat for Humanity, Surfrider Foundation) was

highlighted.

- Topics for the Sustainability Commission's annual speaker series (waste management, battery disposal) were addressed.
- Concerns about a commissioner's negative attitude impacting the process were raised.
- Food deserts in Sunnyvale were discussed, focusing on preserving existing grocery access and challenges from village center redevelopment. A recent public presentation illustrating the impact of grocery store closures on walking distances was referenced. The council anticipates a thorough discussion of this topic in the upcoming Village Center master plan review.
- The frequency and timeliness of staff briefings on changing state laws were addressed. The need for more frequent updates was raised.

#### **IX. Library Commission Candidate Interviews (continued):**

- Candidates discussed the need to address the failure of the library bond measure and develop a long-term plan for library expansion.
- Several candidates suggested focusing on expanding services rather than solely on physical space. Ideas included mobile library services for preschoolers and extended Wi-Fi hours at the new Lakewood branch.
- The importance of data analysis and community surveys to inform future decisions was emphasized.
- Improving communication to increase public awareness of existing library services and programs was discussed.
- Concerns were raised about the impact of transportation limitations and internet access on library accessibility. Several candidates expressed a preference for a branch model that could better serve residents in different areas of Sunnyvale.