

Sunnyvale City Council Summary - Thursday, February 13, 2025

The Sunnyvale City Council held a special meeting (in-person and online via Zoom) on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

The following council members were present at the meeting:

- * Mayor Klein
- * Vice Mayor Sell
- * Council Member Cisneros
- * Council Member Mellinger
- * Council Member Srinivasan
- * Council Member Chang
- * Council Member Lay

I. Review, Discussion, and Ranking of Study Issues/Budget Proposals:

- Public comment favored PLAs, HAWK signals, improved biking/walking infrastructure, and better paramedic services.
- Proposals 2025-04 (bike lane sweeping), 2025-02 (Homestead Road bike lanes), and DPW 24-02 (Fair Oaks Avenue redesign) received strong support.
- Funding requests included the State Safe Parking Program, sidewalk maintenance, and Fair Oaks Avenue safety improvements.
- The Moffitt Park Business Group opposed OCM 20-01 (Service Worker Retention Ordinance), potentially leading to its removal.
- Several study issues were dropped, including nuisance bird mitigation, sanctioned encampment plans, library collection improvements (LRS 24-02), and the Disability Awareness Program (DPS 24-04). Baylands Cricket Stadium (DPW 2015) was kept by a 4-3 vote.

II. Study Issue and Budget Proposal Review and Discussion (continued):

- Thirty-six study issues (~\$6 million) and forty budget proposals (~\$40.6 million) were reviewed. Council Member Mellinger questioned dropping CDD 23-05 (housing homeless minors); staff advised against it.
- Discussions included the merits of dropping the Single Web Application, levee closure, and nuisance bird mitigation study issues.
- Five budget proposals requiring immediate funding were discussed: sidewalk maintenance backlog (~\$38.5 million), Homestead Road bike lanes (\$415,000), Safe Parking Program (\$100,000), bike lane sweeping (\$975,000), and Sunnyvale website redesign (\$585,000).
- Council Member Srinivasan suggested a phased approach for the website redesign, prioritizing ADA compliance and a unified login system.

III. Office of the City Manager, Community Development Department, and Dark Sky Ordinance Study Issue Review and Ranking:

- OCM 24-01 (North Sunnyvale Quality of Life Improvement Master Plan) was dropped due to broad scope; a future, narrower study was considered. Council Member Mellinger suggested a roundtable discussion.
- OCM 25-01 (Resolution 606, 1944) remained, unanimously supported due to its historical significance for the Japanese American community.
- Eight CDD study issues were proposed; several dropped or deferred due to workload or integration into other plans (Housing Element).
- The Dark Sky Ordinance was deferred to prioritize Sign Ordinance amendments, with a suggestion to incorporate light intensity into the Sign Ordinance study.

IV. Public Safety, Public Works, and Environmental Services Study Issue Review:

- DPS 24-03 (vehicle abatement) was dropped due to operational capacity.
- DPW 2003 (waste reduction) and DPW 2208 (park renaming) were dropped.
- DPW 2307 (banning gas-powered leaf blowers) was dropped; addressed under the Climate Action Plan.

- Paramedic Services study prioritized over Moffett Park private road issues.
- DPW 24-01 (Art Crosswalks) and DPW 24-03 (Moffett Park infrastructure takeover) were dropped (7-0 votes).
- DPW 24-10 (DIY Red Curb program) was dropped 5-2; an existing program is in place. Multiple other DPW proposals were dropped or deferred.
- Four ESD study issues were reviewed. ESD 25-01 and ESD 25-03 dropped due to limited staff resources. ESD 22-02 was deferred. ESD 22-03 (cigarette butt abatement) remained, a top priority.

V. Library and Recreation Services and Information Technology Department Study Issue Review:

- LRS 25-02 dropped (7-0 vote) due to limited staff resources and lack of sustainability impact.
- ITD 25-01 (cell and internet coverage assessment) remained, highly ranked due to safety and equity concerns. Council Member Mellinger suggested inter-city collaboration.

VI. Budget Proposal Review and Sidewalk Maintenance Discussion:

- City Manager Kirby provided a budget proposal overview. Further discussion included PLAs, their fiscal impact, and potential timeline impacts on construction projects.
- Council members discussed the ranking of remaining study issues, emphasizing Fair Oaks Avenue safety improvements as a top priority (street sweeping pilot and PLAs).
- The \$38.5 million sidewalk maintenance backlog was discussed; partially due to improperly placed trees from the 2003 dot-com boom.
- Staff will use data from a current contract to develop a plan for addressing the backlog. A citywide evaluation may follow. The timeline for completion is likely longer than one year.

VII. Website Redesign and Other Budget Proposals:

- BP 25-05 (Website Redesign): Council deferred this budget proposal to gather more information, potentially phasing implementation.
- BP 2025-02, BP 2025-03, BP 2025-04, and BP 2025-05 were referred to the budget committee for

further review.

- Concerns were raised regarding liability for sidewalk injuries, with the city's knowledge of reported issues increasing potential liability. Temporary fixes are being implemented.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment:

- Vice Mayor Sell thanked staff for their work on preparing for the meeting and expressed enthusiasm for the ideas presented.
- City Manager Kirby praised the council's efficiency and effectiveness during the workshop, noting it was smoother than previous ones.
- Mayor Klein echoed the appreciation for staff's thorough preparation and the council's succinctness, resulting in a shorter meeting than usual.
- The meeting adjourned at 1:53 PM.

IX. Other Discussions:

- Council discussed HAWK signals vs. full traffic signals and the potential impact of PLAs on small businesses.
- A former union president and mayor highlighted the importance of skilled local workers.
- Council acknowledged staff capacity limitations, prioritizing issues sponsored by the current council.
- Discussion included updating the Historical Context Statement to include contributions of Asian Americans and other minority groups.
- Concerns were raised about the high cost and unusual nature of Sunnyvale's sidewalk maintenance backlog compared to neighboring cities.