



City of San José Youth Commission

District 1 – Anushka Deshmukh
District 3 – Edwin Sanchez
District 5 – Dali Guerrero Fernandez
District 7 – David Huynh
District 9 – Jingru (Ruby) Yu
Citywide – Marian Kucharewski

Neyha Pradeepkumar– District 2
Akashadha Badu Chakravarthi – District 4
Fiona Canfield – District 6
Aldojoell Gonzalez-Muñiz– District 8
Jinyoung (Kyle) Park – District 10

YOUTH COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2025 | 6:30 PM
San José City Hall, Council Chambers
200 E Santa Clara St, San Jose, CA 95113

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

A. Roll Call

PRESENT: Chair Kucharewski, Vice Chair Pardeepkumar, Commissioners Deshmukh, Sanchez, Badu Chakravarthi, Guerrero Fernandez, Canfield, Huynh, Yu, Park.

ABESENT: Commission Gonzalez- Muñiz.

STAFF: Division Manager Vidya Kilambi; Senior Librarian Megan Maloy; Youth Commission Librarian Emily Terada; Administrative Assistant Dziem Nguyen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. Quorum was achieved with 10 Commissioners present. 1 Commissioner absent.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve August 25, 2025, Attendance
- B. Approve August 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Canfield, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez, the Commission voted to approve the items on the Consent Calendar (10 yes, 0 no, 1 absent)

III. Public Record: There was 1 correspondence for the Commission to review.

IV. Open Forum: There was 1 public comment to the Commission.

V. Discussion/Action Items

A. ACTION: Climate Smart San Jose 2025 Updated Plan (A. Balis)

Anne Balis, Supervising Environmental Services Specialist, from the Energy Department presented on the Climate Smart San Jose 2025 Updated Plan.

- Background Information on the Climate Smart San Jose
 - Goal: Carbon Neutrality by 2030
 - Pathway to Carbon Neutrality includes 4 pillars:
 - Zero Emissions Vehicles, Vehicle Miles Traveled, Electrification, Clean Power
- Emission trends from 2023 report:
 - Transportation at 51% is the largest sector contributing to carbon emissions
 - Natural Gas at 21% is the second largest contributing to carbon emissions
 - San Jose is on track with the decarbonization electricity goal at 95.6% with Clean Energy
 - Goal is to reach Carbon Free-Electricity by 2030
- This Climate Smart San Jose 2025 Updated Plan is an Administrative Update to the original Climate Smart Plan adopted in 2018.
 - Key changes from the 2018 plan include:
 - Incorporated the 2030 carbon neutrality goal
 - Aligned with new state and regional policies
 - Streamlined metrics to focus on the most impactful actions for reducing greenhouse gases
 - Add new interim milestones
 - Updated new targets, dated action plans, and department workplans
 - Updated language to acknowledge that San Jose is not on track to meet its carbon neutrality goal by 2030
 - Engagement
 - Community and Staff Engagement
 - Outreach at events, libraries, and community centers
 - Generated over 200+ comments received
 - Input from 40+ staff across eight City Departments

No Public Comment.

The Commission engaged in discussion.

On the motion Commissioner Pradeepkumar, seconded by Commissioner Park, the Commission unanimously voted to adopt the following language. (10 yes, 0 no, 1 absent).

“The San Jose Youth Commission accepts staff’s presentation on the Climate Smart San Jose semi-annual status report and updated plan and recommends adoption of the Climate Smart San José 2025 Update by City Council.

However, we are alarmed at the slow progress against the 2030 goals and urge the council to invest in more urgent actions.

We specifically recommend the inclusion, early in the update document on pages 13 or 14, a section of at least one paragraph with the high-level heading and a graphic or bolding to highlight attention with clear language on how much we are off track from our climate goals and an acknowledgement that current efforts need to be scaled dramatically to meet these goals.”

On the motion of Commissioner Pardeepkumar, seconded by Commissioner Park, the Commission unanimously voted to accept the Climate Smart Updated Plan 2025. (10 yes, 0 no, 1 absent).

B. Informational: 28th Street/Little Portugal Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Project Update (A. Lopez and C. Philip)

Anthony Lopez, Public Communications Specialist, and Christina Philip, Sr. TOD Project Manager from the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority provided an update on the 28th Street/Little Portugal Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Project.

- i. TOD is an individual site that has been converted to affordable apartments or multi-use development
- ii. 28th Street/Little Portugal TOD Project is an opportunity for new development on 12 acres of land
- iii. Design Development Framework
 1. Real Estate Principles is compiled with studies of old plans, community engagement, and new interagency convenings to help VTA envision the types of developments that could be on this site.
 2. Goal of the Design Development Framework is to encourage a vibrant and walkable area.
- iv. Principles that guided how future developments could be:
 1. Highlight cultural identity
 2. Encourage new development that is both economically successful and rounded in place.
 3. Make walking, biking, and taking transit the preferred mobility experience
- v. Community Engagement to Date
 1. Over 700 touch points
 - a. Stakeholder meetings
 - b. Youth Engagement

c. Pop-ups at events

No Public Comment

The Commission engaged in discussion.

C. Informational: Adopt-A-Storm Drain Program Youth Commission Annual Survey Dates (R. Nair and T. Ngo)

Rajani Nair, Deputy Director, and Tiffany Ngo, Environmental Program Manager, from Environmental Services Department presented on the Adopt-A-Storm Drain Program.

- Clean Water Act
 - Prohibits any discharge of any pollutant into the waters of the United States
- Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit
 - Reduce trash discharge from 2009 levels into our storm sewers and waterways by the deadline of December 31, 2025
- Adopt-a-Storm Drain Program
 - Keep storm drains from getting clogged
 - This reduces flooding in your neighborhood
 - This prevents pollutants from entering our creeks and the bay
- Adopter's role:
 - Clean up drains monthly and before rain events
 - Record clean-up data
 - Promote neighborhood care and resilience
- City provides adopters with equipment.
- Requesting engagement from Youth Commissioners to:
 - volunteer by adopting a storm drain
 - lead a clean-up event
 - promote the program with Youth Advisory Councils, peers, and neighborhoods

No Public Comment.

The Commission engaged in discussion.

D. ACTION: Youth Commission Outreach Plan for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (Chair Kucharewski)

Commissioner Huynh reviewed the Youth Commission Outreach Plan for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

- Outreach Plan Key objectives
 - Promote Youth Advisory Council and Youth Commission activities, events, and recruitment
 - Develop community partnerships

- Maintain relationships within the City

No Public Comment.

The Commission engaged in discussion.

On the motion of Commissioner Pradeepkumar, seconded by Commissioner Babu, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the Outreach Plan (10 yes, 0 no, 1 absent).

E. ACTION: Identify Ad Hoc Committees to Support Work Plan Objectives (Chair Kucharewski)

Chair Kucharewski reviewed the Ad Hoc Committee assignments.

- **Community Ad Hoc Committee**
 - Neyha Pradeepkumar
 - Edwin Sanchez
 - Fiona Canfield
 - David Huynh
 - Jinyoung (Kyle) Park
- **Immigration Ad Hoc Committee**
 - Edwin Sanchez
 - Akshadha Babu Chakravarthi
 - Dali Guerrero Fernandez
 - Jingru (Ruby) Yu
 - Marian Kucharewski
- **Education Ad Hoc Committee**
 - Anushka Deshmukh
 - Neyha Pradeepkumar
 - Dali Guerrero Fernandez
 - David Huynh
 - Marian Kucharewski

No Public Comment.

The Commission engaged in discussion.

On the motion of Commissioner Babu, seconded by Commissioner Park, the Commission approved Ad Hoc Committee assignments (9 yes, 1 nay, 1 absent).

VI. Items for Future Commission Meeting Agendas

A. Council Liaison's Report (A. Montes)

District 2 Council Liaison, Anthony Montes, provided some updates on items that went to Council last month.

- i. Councilmember Ortiz submitted a proposal that law enforcement must identify themselves with proper identification. This was passed by the Rules and Government Committee

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- ii. Restarting the Mounting Unit – Councilmember Kamei and Ortiz wrote a memo to defer taking action on this item, as there are budgetary implications involved
- iii. Connecting Youth Commission with Parks and Recreation Neighborhood Services to have Commissioners be part of a discussion panel about civic engagement.

B. Parks and Recreation Neighborhood Services (L. Box)– Virtual Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Recreation Superintendent Lauren Box provided an update to the Commission

- i. Grant Opportunities:
 - 1. Trust for Public Park Activation Grant – Due 9/23
 - 2. Opioid Overdose Prevention Grant – due 9/25
- ii. Recruitment Division:
 - 1. Career Expo 2025 on 10/2
- iii. Recreation Division
 - 1. Recruiting Commissioners for the Senior Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission
 - 2. Conducting community satisfaction survey.
- iv. Parks Division
 - 1. Night of camp-themed fun on October 4, from 5-9pm at Leininger Center.
- v. Community Services Division
 - 1. Neighborhoods Conference on Saturday, October 4th from 8 am to 2 pm
- vi. Parks Division:
 - 1. Hop on the Tractor at Emma Pusch Farm Park for variety of Fall Activities

C. San José Library Report (V. Kilambi)

Vidya Kilambi, Division Manager, provided the Library updates.

- i. September is National Library Card Sign-up month
- ii. Banned Books Week with programs and activities from October 5th – 11th

D. Commission Chair Report (Chair Kucharewski)

E. Commissioners' Reports per City District

VII. Items for Future Commission Meeting Agenda

- A. Determine date for Aspire, Inspire, Motivate (AIM) event on November Agenda

VIII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next meeting will be an in-person Joint Commission Meeting on October 27, 2025 at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

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IX. Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Park, seconded by Commissioner Huynh the Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm (10 yes, 0 no, 1 absent).

Chair Marian Kucharewski
San José Public Youth Commission Chair

ATTEST:
YOUTH COMMISSION SECRETARY

Dziem Nguyen