# 06-10 Meeting Summary: Community Parking District Budget, Policy Changes, and Future Planning

Date: Jun 10, 2025 at 5:33 PM

Date & Time: 2025-06-10 17:33:20

Location: [Insert Location]

Attendees: Greg Tadaris (Speaker 1), Sunny Lee (Speaker 2), Moran Stock (Speaker 3), David Cothell (Speaker 3), Gordon Pradick (Speaker 4), Seth Williams (Speaker 4), John Carroll (Speaker 4), Connor, Speaker 5, Speaker 6, and Wilbur.

## Overview

This document summarizes the discussions and decisions from a community planning and parking district meeting. It covers introductions, attendance, budget and financial issues, project planning, city policy changes, board membership processes, advocacy efforts, and the impact of emerging transportation technologies. The notes reflect concerns about reduced funding, transparency, and city policy shifts affecting community parking districts. Action items are consolidated at the end for clarity and follow-up.

## Introductions and Attendance

- Attendees introduced themselves, including Greg Tadaris (alternate chair, planning group), Patrick Gaffey (diamond parking), Sunny Lee (Discover PB), Moran Stock (beautiful beauty), David Cothell (resident from Northwest), Gordon Pradick, Seth Williams, and John Carroll (all from the planning group).
- Clarification was made regarding the composition of the planning group: Gordon, John, and Greg are regular members, with others visiting.
- Connor was introduced as a representative appointed by the town council, though not officially on the council yet. He will serve as a liaison and is authorized to participate in action items.
- Several members (John, Wilbur, Greg, and Katie) abstained from voting on the minutes due to not attending the May 20th meeting.
- All other members confirmed their presence and agreed to approve the minutes.

# Review of Previous Meeting Actions, Minutes, and Attendance

1. The group discussed the status of a previously voted item regarding pathways.
- The letter concerning the pathways was sent to the mayor and council members.
- The pathways project is being submitted to the city on the 16th, with the parking budget going to the city's Transportation and Infrastructure (ATI) committee on the same day. It will then proceed to the council on the 20th, 21st, or possibly the 24th of the current month.
2. There was confusion about whether the vote on the pathways was legitimate, as some members did not see it listed as an agenda item.
- It was clarified that the community parking district budget was item number eight on the agenda and was an action item.
- The city required specific project details for the budget, leading to revisions.
- The original budget was $100,000, but it was reduced to $50,000 to match the previous fiscal year.
- The group is unable to access their carry-forward fund balance this year, which had been intended for a larger project next year.
- Only one project was included in the current year's budget due to the reduced amount, with plans to consider additional projects for 2027.
- The revised budget and project details were included in an email and presented at the meeting for transparency.
3. Discussion ensued about the need for clear identification of voting items on the agenda.
- "Action item" on the agenda indicates a vote will occur.
- Some members requested clearer labeling, such as explicitly stating "vote" or using bold formatting for action items, for transparency.
- It was confirmed that the only action item at the last regular meeting, aside from approving minutes, was the budget revision.
4. The minutes from the May 20th meeting were reviewed.
- Motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded.
- Discussion arose regarding the length and detail of the minutes, with some members feeling the six-page summary was excessive for a half-hour meeting.

- It was explained that the minutes were generated by an automated system, which tends to summarize extensively.
- Suggestions were made to:
    - Focus minutes on action items and votes.
    - Use bold formatting for action items to improve readability.
    - Consider a more concise format, as preferred by some members.
- The group generally supported automation but emphasized the need for clarity and brevity in official records.

5. There was a suggestion to include a more concise summary at the top of the minutes, while retaining detailed content below.

# Budget, Financial Report, and Policy Changes

1. The financial report was distributed both in print and via email.
- The report only contains administrative costs for DiscoverPB administering the Parking District program.

2. There was confusion regarding the reduction from $100,000 to $50,000 and the loss of carryover funds.
- Originally, $250,000 was to be forwarded from the city, to be repaid with parking meter revenue:
    - $200,000 was intended for the beach bug circuit circulator.
    - $50,000 was for DiscoverPB administrative and advocacy costs.
- Due to contract missteps by the city, the purchase order was not issued, and the $50,000 allocated for DiscoverPB in that budget year was never received.
- The parking meters were installed late (around October), and the next fiscal year's budget (FY25) was based on only three months of operation, resulting in a $50,000 estimate.
- The group had planned to save remaining funds as a carry-forward balance for future projects, but new policy now requires all projects to be planned ahead of time for fiscal year 26.

3. The group approved the financial report, which details only administrative expenses reimbursed so far.
4. The current budget for the upcoming fiscal year (FY26) is capped at $50,000, based on revenue from only three months of operation in the previous fiscal year (FY25).

- There is uncertainty about the actual revenue generated by the parking meters, as the city has not provided clear financial records.
- Council policy changes now require full project details to be submitted ahead of the fiscal year.
- The city council can allocate additional funding to a parking district at their discretion, but this is not guaranteed.

5. Requests for financial records from the transportation team have not been fulfilled.
- Other parking districts are experiencing similar budget cuts and lack of transparency.

## Community Parking Districts, Advocacy, and City Council Decisions

1. There is a perception that the city is making it harder for community parking districts to operate, possibly aiming to eliminate them.
- Some districts have considered not signing contracts as a form of protest, but this would result in loss of funding and control.
- The group agreed that any available funding should be used for local improvements, despite the challenges.

2. The Gaslamp district spent $200,000 of their savings on a bollard program, expecting reimbursement, but the city later deemed it ineligible and refused reimbursement.
3. The county grand jury recommended eliminating parking districts, which was discussed in the media.
4. A letter outlining concerns was sent to officials after an emergency meeting, but received little response.
- Policy changes were approved by the city council without addressing the concerns raised in the letter.
- Most council discussion focused on Sunday parking rather than the issues raised by the districts.

5. The group feels further advocacy may not be effective, as policy changes have already been approved and council members have indicated a desire for change.

- The new policy allows the city council to allocate additional funding at their discretion, but the overall sentiment is that the city wants more control over funds.

6. The relevant city departments have been consolidated under transportation, no longer under sustainability.

## Board Membership and Nomination Process

1. Scott Chipman expressed interest in joining as a representative for the Northeast quadrant but has not completed the process.
- He needs to collect 25 signatures from residents in the same quadrant, as per current bylaws.

2. The group discussed removing the 25-signature requirement, which is seen as a barrier to participation.
- No official action has been taken; to change this, it must be added to the agenda and the bylaws amended.

## Business Improvement District and Funding

1. DiscoverPB oversees the largest business improvement district in San Diego, with 1,500 businesses in Pacific Beach.
- Despite its size, the district does not receive the most funding due to low assessment fees established in the 1990s, which cannot be increased due to a prior lawsuit.
- Additional income is generated from the farmer's market and fundraising efforts.
- Attempts to establish a maintenance assessment district in PB have failed three times but are ongoing.

## Tax Initiatives and Public Perception

1. There was discussion about a recent failed one-cent sales tax increase, which was narrowly defeated.
- Members believe a half-cent increase would have passed and could have alleviated current funding issues.
- The city has introduced or increased fees for services such as parking at Balboa Park and trash collection ($54/month reduced to $42/month).

- There is a perception among some members that these measures are punitive responses to the failed tax initiative.

2. Members noted that media coverage often presents potential changes as possibilities rather than certainties, making it difficult to discern the actual impact.

## Town Council Representation

- Connor was confirmed as the appointed representative from the town council, authorized to participate in board actions, even though his official council membership is pending.
- Charlie, the regular town council representative, was absent but had designated Connor to attend and relay information.

## Emerging Transportation Technologies

- Moran Stock presented a video demonstrating Waymo's lidar system detecting a dog and two people, with the car stopping safely—an example of advanced machine intelligence.
- The group discussed the implications of self-driving cars like Waymo, which currently operates in five cities.
    - These technologies are expected to bring a significant shift in transportation, similar to the impact Uber had on taxi usage.
    - The group acknowledged the need to prepare for such changes in future long-term projects.