



GASLAMP QUARTER ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 | 3:30 PM
Zoom Meeting
San Diego, CA

Present Board Members	Absent Board Members	GQA Staff
Dania Duke Bruce Getz Josefine Jandinger Laurel McFarlane Laurie Peters Pam Schwartz Nathan Wing Stephen Sherman Joe Santos Aron Langellier Howard Greenberg Sumeet Michael Georgopoulos Rick Jefferies Jim Shaw Wayne Partello	Kim Shattuck Jeffrey Burg Carlos Becerra Cindy Blair	Michael Trimble Alma Ascencio

1. **Call to Order** – Directors Present

Dania Duke
Laurel McFarlane
Pam Schwartz
Howard

Zoom

2. **Minutes approved by: Executive Board- All in favor Pam, Dania...(seconds)**

Dania: Hey everybody. Good afternoon, good afternoon.

I'm going to go ahead and call the meeting to order. Wednesday, May 26, 2021, and I will turn it over to Michael Trimble, our executive director. Thank you, Michael.

Michael: Welcome everyone to the May 2021 Gaslamp Quarter Board of Directors meeting. I'm happy that everyone is here to join us.



Alright, so are there any non-agenda public comments from anyone before we start with our liaison reports? OK, well then, we're going to kick it right to Captain Danny Grubbs. We're going to hand it off to you to give us an update on how things are going in the neighborhood. Thank you for coming.

Captain Grubbs: We haven't met in some time and I understand the reason for the pause. Last time we were on the downtown partnership meeting they wanted to know about the suspect/suspicious death in Little Italy, homicide continues to work that case. They do have leads on that case that was the woman dumped at 20:00, 200 State Street in a garbage bin. Everything is pointing towards an overdose, but there's probably somebody else involved in that overdose. Yes, but they are working that investigation right now and there's the woman was a homeless person living in the area that same day May 4th. We had the stabbing of the basically the event planner, who works for the Padres for Petco Park. He was stabbed in the area of 1100 Imperial Avenue by a total stranger unprovoked. We do have photos of the suspect wearing mask our detectives at Central Division. It appears he got into a fight with another individual just prior to the stabbing and then he has actually knocked down twice in the fight. So, it's still unknown if he thought the person he attacked. We have not gotten a positive ID with them. But with these new photos that we're sending the flyers out. We should have him identified soon. On May 7th at 11:10 C Street. Again, I know this is like this is out of the Gaslamp, but a downtown partnership security guard was slashed with a knife by a female at the Jack in the box at 11:10 C street that suspect unfortunately is outstanding. Then rolling into May 9th in in the area of 400 Broadway. We have a white male swinging a chain on video. There's a black male who were all familiar with, he drives around in an electric wheelchair. He's in his 60s, his wheelchair often runs out of juice and then he'll call the police to come push him home, which we've done more than one occasion unprovoked.

We are at our peak, we increased that to 13 officers and one Sergeant. Unfortunately, due to some injuries incurred during the protests. We lost about 5 of those officers' long term. So, after the shooting and then the unfortunate jumper where we lost a Gaslamp team down on 1000 J Street. To our bike team Tyler Dougherty was running 13, Oscars by himself, which is much larger than the span of control.

We do have people who have expressed interest. There's not a lot of people. They're basically signing up to work permanent weekend nights year-round, so it was nice to get the team up to 13. We've got an additional 4 and several sergeants interested. Tapping on top of that, so that team probably won't be operational, though by the time we get them trained up until the the end of June 1st, part of July.

We are hiring extra officers specifically for the Gaslamp and specifically for Petco Park in the East Village.

We're trying to improve things. I drive through the Gaslamp and there's tremendous potential for improvement. The Police Department can do better.

This morning, a letter went out with a list of misdemeanor crimes, and as soon as I have an update on that, I will let you know via myself, or Officer Turner. I'm going to open it up for any questions or anything else you may want to feedback for us.

Michael: Thank you, Captain Grubbs. Howard, you have something.

Howard: I just had a quick follow up question. If you know if they've made any progress on opening 20th and B for the tent city situation.

Captain Grubbs: I have not heard about 20th and B. I know we have a lot of resources going into Golden Hall and NPD spends a lot of their staffing and time at Golden Hall. I think 20th and B is a great solution. I will find out specifically about 20th and B, but I've heard no conversation for 20th and B.

Howard: Great. Thank you, any support on that would great.

Captain Grubbs: absolutely, thank you.



Michael: Captain Grubbs, any movement on an obviously the push to defund the police has after that City Council hearing. Is there been any movement? Any way we could help?

Captain Grubbs: thanks, thanks for the support Michael and the rest of the members of your association calling in people from our other associations around the city. There's been no defunding of the police. We're very grateful for the support these meetings, I used to go to them, and it was about 90% against us.

Michael: We'll keep us posted anything we can do to support you guys, we will.

Captain Grubbs: Absolutely, we appreciate the support you guys have been fantastic.

Michael: Wonderful, anyone else have any questions for Captain Grubbs or Officer Turner? Well, thank you captain for that update.

I just got a text from Alonzo. He has a brief update from clean and safe, so I'm going to hand it to him for just a moment before Nathan Fletcher joins us, Alonzo.

Alonzo: Thank you. Michael I can keep this super brief, 2 minutes OK. I want to keep you guys on track. So, I'm going to be sharing my screen if that's OK with you guys. All right, so I don't think I had an opportunity to meet with the entire board. At the at the previous meeting. So, I just wanted to give a quick recap of some work that we've been doing internally and some work. We've been working with Michael and Dania. I would say probably 2 months now, so we did a quick walk with Dania and Michael, I believe it was last month or the month before that. We went ahead and noted several things within those were some concerns around. Some sanitation issues, gum and obviously some security, so some of the things related to public safety that I wanted to touch on some things that we're still going to continue to do. Even with the pandemic our overnight security and more specifically also our monthly security network meetings, so I know some of you attend those meetings as Michael. I appreciate you attending at on behalf of GQA those are always very important for us. Some statistics, some things I wanted to point out was in the past 2 months, we've made 163 calls to the San Diego Police Department and 42 calls to 911 for various issues in the Gaslamp quarter. One of the things that we're really focusing on right now is folks that are impeding the sidewalk getting a lot of calls about folks laying on the sidewalk. Blocking the sidewalk just you know spending too much time on the sidewalk and really disrupting the business in the last 2 months. Our folks have contacted 1877 individuals for impeding the sidewalk. I do want to clarify those some of these are repetitive, so we could move someone from the 711 on 4th and E and then 5 minutes later. We're moving him from the 711 on 4th and G and then an hour later. We're moving him from the 711 on 5th and island so that's something that we're going to continue to work on so.

We really appreciate everyone's support now that everything is reopening, we are starting to notice illegal dumps. We're starting to notice businesses that are leaving their trash outside of the perimeter of their trash containers. We're starting to notice grease and oil being left on the public right away our job is still to clean it. We're still going to go out and take care of business, so if you see this please let us

We will clean it up immediately. We just ask for the support for all the restaurants to please either work with your neighbors or report out if they need to clean up after themselves. Some of the other kind of issues that we're having with some problem properties. This isn't specific to the Gaslamp, but it does impact the Gaslamp quarter. These are encampments and tents that are literally 2 blocks away from the Gaslamp quarter. This is not good. These are areas where your patrons are parking their parking on 8th, 9th, 7th Avenue and they're running into to these structures. And, of course, the Environmental Services Department from a sanitation perspective and then the other thing we're doing is working with property property owners. Unfortunately, some of the properties that are here listed right in front of you. 2 of them are government owned so that's something that I am working with the downtown partnership.



Some of the things specific to the Gaslamp quarter that we're working on right now, we are painting all the light poles in the Gaslamp quarter. So far, we've painted 60, we but we have about 157 light poles to go. We we would like to be done prior to July first. But that's kind of the anticipated date for right now.

Michael, maybe we can do a volunteer event or something soon. In June as things are reopening to gear up so we can maybe get some folks out there to do some of this work with us as well, and get also just people excited about you know cleaning up the Gaslamp.

Michael: Excellent, we could talk about that for sure.

Alonzo

Favorite topic for Howard and Dania. The scraper and using all the machines that we have and working with our contractor. This sidewalk here. It's on 5th Ave between F&G. This took us about two weeks to get the way it is. It's not only removing the gum, but also removing some of the oil and a lot of these bricks have been there for Michael probably know better than I do, but I think 20 or 30 years. So, they're a lot harder to clean, but we are doing it. We're at about 3 sidewalks so far, and we're kind of right now just picking the worst of the worst.

The last thing to report out is beautification projects. So, corner planters. We hope you all like them. We've installed additional corner planters from Market Street all the way down to Harvard. We've gotten some positive feedback from the folks that have their businesses right next to them, and we thought it was a really nice way to give a little bit more color to the district.

Michael: thank you Alonzo. Are there any questions? Alright, thanks Alonzo, I really appreciate you joining and giving us that update. We we love our clean sidewalks for sure.

Next subject: Which is the consent agenda? I'm looking for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 31st Board of Directors meeting. I'm looking for someone to make a motion.

Stephen: A motion.

Michael: OK, Steve Sherman, is there a second? Howard Greenberg all in favor. Can you raise your hands, please?

Michael OK, Rick. Laurel, Thanks, Wayne. Well, we'll put Joe as an abstaining, but so motion carries. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Michael: So, let's move to the the third item, which is the safe sidewalks. All of you have heard. Doctor Jonathan proposal for safe sidewalks, which included the Gaslamp Quarter as a slow zone slash. No ride zones. They're looking for support for that letter and I attach the letter to all the items that we sent out on Friday. I want to open it up for discussion and then I'll be looking for a motion of one way or the other.

Or I'm looking for a motion. A motion to support this, that's Nate. Is there a second? Alright, Joe Santos will be a second OK, all in favor if you can raise your hands.

Sumeet: Is this is just for the sidewalks not like when we checked on the road?

Michael: It's well how it affects us is basically 5th Ave and also you know making that a slow zone and potentially making it a no ride zone as well as moving the corrals off of 5th Ave and into other side streets so they're looking to get some traction. We haven't been getting a whole lot of support, although I do have heard that we are going to have a limited number of operators in the next in the next round, so.

Sumeet: Really, I'm voting no.



Michael: OK.

Howard: We want to discuss it maybe summit has some points he wants to bring up.

Sumeet: I think this you know the mobility of we're saying that bikes can't go down 5th Avenue. I mean, I can understand when we're shut down with the bollards. But I don't see why.

We're making it harder for people to get to businesses. People ride their scooters and the bikes from the East Village to the Gaslamp constantly. So, I just I don't know if we're saying the sidewalks that's one thing, I agree with that, but down the road on 5th Avenue. I don't get it. That's that's maybe just me.

Howard: So is this asking, suggesting we're taking all the scooters off 5th Avenue and you can't ride your bike on 5th Avenue you.

Michael: I didn't think there were bicycles involved in that letter. I can double check it, but I think what we could potentially get. Howard is just a slow zone. I don't believe that the city is going to support a no ride zone.

Howard: So, maybe we can have an amendment to the motion we would. That's what we want to support is not a prohibition from any of these activities, but maybe a slowing down of the activities so there were not scooters on our control and bikes aren't out of control and skateboards aren't up on the sidewalks.

Howard: Offer an amendment to the motion.

Michael: OK, so basically the amendment, yes.

Dania: Michael yeah, can I jump in? Thank you. So, Doctor Friedman was speaking specifically regarding the Governing ordinance for the scooter rental companies and that's what it was about, so it didn't mention anything about bicycles.

Michael: Yeah, I didn't think it did.

Howard: But the picture that they're showing on this slide shows bikes and skateboards

Michael, I mean that was just taken from his Facebook page.

Howard: Why don't we just confirm it in the motion that we're talking about? Slow zone for scooters and not a broke prohibition against all moving devices.

Michael: For scooters only.

Howard: And it's low zone, not a prohibition.

Sumeet OK.

Howard: I can support that.

Dania: And you know, I'll add that you know it's seeking a seat at the table to discuss revisions, and the endorsements from DCPC and DRC that's already endorsed. The effort of Doctor Freeman regarding safe walkways.

Michael: OK, so we have an amendment to the motion. Supporting the slowing down of all scooters on 5th Ave or in the Gaslamp but not a prohibition and and has nothing to do with bicycles, or other wheeled devices.



Dania: I would go so far as to say that we want a seat at the table. To be part of crafting the ordinance in the amendments along with the Director of mobility, Melissa, who is looking to make changes. So that's what we are really asking for, for us to support having a seat at the table for variations that are are being made and for us to be able to participate.

Michael: OK, so I'm going to go back around, I'll start.

Dania: Now, so let's restate the motion. Would someone like to restate the motion?

Michael: I could do that. So we're looking to lend a letter of support for the proposed letter from safe sidewalks with an amendment stating the slowing down of all scooters in the Gaslamp, not a prohibition on bicycles or other wheeled devices, and looking for a seat at the table to craft the ordinance to protect the Gaslamp. OK, I'm going to go back to you. Start with you. Are you still sticking with your vote or do you want to amend your vote?

Sumeet: I'm comfortable with the amendment.

Michael: OK. OK, so the only person I probably didn't get a vote from was Aaron and Mike G

Mikey G: Yep, I'm good, I raised my hand by the way.

Michael OK, so motion carries.

Alright, it's my pleasure to announce. Supervisor Fletcher has joined us to discuss some of the items that are concerning to the Gaslamp Quarter. I really do appreciate your time.

Nathan Fletcher: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you for allowing me to join you for for a few minutes this afternoon.

I know it's been an exceptionally long year, and I think when we think about those entities that have been impacted most by Covid certainly are our hospitality or entertainment. Our restaurant folks, nightlife all of those who have just been devastated by the pandemic. The good news is we're coming out of it, I think June 15th is just a couple weeks away, where we should see a lifting of all restrictions the state may maintain a few for mass indoor events.

It's time to move on. We have a vaccine and really move on with our economic recovery. I know I've talked to individually to several you or feeling quite optimistic. about the economic recovery in terms of what we see ahead, and I know that it can't come soon enough.

But you know, we're daily reminded of the challenges that are still out there, particularly as it relates to issues of mental health and drug treatment. And you know, sometimes issues of mental health manifests themselves in the most tragic ways. You know, not just the the challenges of the homelessness who are out there, but I know that the tragic death of Taylor that touched so many lives. I know Laurel, who I believe is here. You know, someone who worked you know directly for Laurel. Someone you all knew very, very well in a horrific tragedy. You know really reminds us of the the perils of mental health and those types of issues and motivates us to do more along with the just senseless death of the young gentleman who worked for the parking company in downtown. I'm acutely aware on a daily of the real challenges we face.

Around the issue of homelessness and in particular, the impact that it has on our downtown communities in area. I talked to our mayor every single day about this issue. And I can tell you that we are doing everything we possibly can it's not enough and we have to do more. And we must move faster to try and tackle this issue. It is a a problem as you all know that has been generations. In the making and honestly. We haven't had a Board of Supervisors truly committed to investing in in trying to address it. Some of the items that I brought forward in the in the first 2 years I was here. I was not able to gain enough support, we have a new board. We are aggressively moving forward on those items.



But it's not just things that are long term planning that are going to take time. We must address things in the immediate. And while we build out the long-term system to try and help structurally address it and I just wanted to quickly highlight a few of the things we're working on and then really reserve. Most of the time for your questions or comments thoughts criticisms and just some feedback. For what you all are seeing along with anything even even broader than homelessness.

I know we have some MTS issues. We're working with the city on surrounding the promenade. I think that's an incredible thing. I know we've got issues around illegal vendors on the streets and and I've got County teams increasing their presence in activity and it's difficult tracking folks down but issuing cease and desist letters and and trying to do all of that. But really quickly on homelessness the county 's got about 30 County funded outreach workers now that that are out there and engaged. You know they don't always wear a big County of San Diego vest that identifies them often their County. But what we're looking ahead towards is June 15th. We ought to have a significant increase in the capacity in our shelters and in our other providers. A lot of those entities have had their capacity completely cut in half because of Covid and as we head into that June 15th deadline and the lifting of all the restrictions. We ought to be able to begin to move people and and shift people out of there. But we know we must do more and the federal funds that are coming in I've really pushed and prioritized. Response to homelessness as a key priority for the County. Right now, it's proposed that \$85,000,000.00 of the federal funding that we're getting will go towards homelessness is and what we're working on is a robust series of outreach efforts with more outreach workers truly flooding. The areas most impacted with outreach workers and particularly tying those folks into substance abuse treatment programs. When I first got here at the board, I tried to get the board to change their attitude and mindset around harm reduction strategies. I brought it back in January of this year. We changed the policy and you may have seen just in recent weeks.

We're beginning to unveil that changing our new locks own strategy, changing our syringe service strategy, bringing on new treatment beds, bringing on new facilities, adding drug treatment services to our psych hospital. Working aggressively to try and try and change that. Just this week the mayor and I announced the 1st \$5 million of \$25 million in the behavioral Health Impact Fund, again increasing bed capacity transitional beds, building out more mobile crisis response teams, something that we were able to get done in my first two years here. A very significant investment to get a non law enforcement response to a lot of these calls. You know, if someone swinging an axe then law enforcement got to go, but if they're not a danger of their self or someone else, law enforcement is not the best to respond to because their presence often escalates, a situation, and then if they're not going to take you to jail, they often just leave you there. By late summer we should have online. The mobile crisis response teams that can respond to these psychiatric, or substance abuse issues.

With clinicians and and they're trained as outreach workers, and they know how to engage and motivate and get those folks to the right place to get them off the streets and get them into care. And then we're also working with law enforcement agencies to divert 911 calls. We we've seen this work in other jurisdictions, and we think it will will work here, but we're moving. Aggressively to to get that out and get that on the streets. We're also trying to increase the number of crisis stabilization units. This takes a little bit more time because it is a medical grade facility. Significant investment in Hillcrest to increase capacity there a significant increase in East County and North County and South county. Really trying to increase that capacity so we have places that we can take individuals for where they want to go. We're also increasing. Our efforts conservancies are not a magic solution that you can just put everyone out there into a Conservancy there there are. Limits in the law about what it takes to do that, but in 2020 we did over 1000 conservancies. In 2021 we're going to do more than we did in 2020 and in this year's budget I have increased staffing for the legal team that helps process those, and we're also working. It takes a clinician. To evaluate them and we're working on how we can get those clinicians in the field to do on site evaluations and see if we can increase the effectiveness of those. In addition to all the harm reduction or substance abuse treatment programs in this year's budget. It is not only the largest Health and Human services budget in the history of San Diego County, it's the largest increase in particular in behavioral health services, mental health and drug treatment and and you know, we've got to get those programs up and running, but I think it is. It is moving in an aggressive direction and trying to do more.



But I want you to know that I hear you and I know how desperate the situation is and how urgent it is. And and in moving with the greatest possible. Feed not just with our dollars, but with our actions to try and help increase it. And we're we're not in this situation. From 10 years ago or the city blames a county and the county blames a city and all that nonsense. It doesn't help anyone. You know the mayor knows the situation in downtown, is is dire and is moving. They're spending some of their ARPA funds. The county knows it is very dire and and I'm doing everything I possibly can here at the board to to get us moving in that direction. And so, I don't in any way ask for your patience. You need to not be patient. You need to continue. The pressure but I want you to know that there is an acknowledgement of how serious the problem is and there is a genuine desire to do everything we can to address it too, in the immediacy make it less bad while we build out some of these structural situations that can make it much better. And so we're going to continue to work really, really hard as we go through that. And again, I, I think just a general acknowledgement of what a what an impossibly hard year has been in the burden that you all have had to bear. I can tell you that no one in the history of democracy ever ran for elected office, and said when I get elected, I'm going to close restaurants. You know, I mean, it was just a a truly historic situation we faced and I hope never again in our lifetime we face it again.

But the good news is we are by and large through it. It is. It is pretty much over. We're just a couple weeks away from from lifting all the restrictions and being able to move on with our lives and looking ahead to the economic recovery. And looking ahead to the focus on other issues we face primarily around them, the challenges of homelessness, mental health and drug addictions. So appreciate the opportunity to join you all and and didn't want to wait talk too long. Just wanted to give you an update and then have plenty of time to hear your thoughts and address your specific concerns and questions.

Michael: Thank you so much. I really do appreciate your time and want to open it up and see if anyone has any direct questions?

Howard: I just had a quick question. I appreciate everything you've mentioned but there's 140 clinicians. I think you mentioned that you were looking to hire what's the outlook for being able to fulfill those positions. I hear that's tough tough role the whole right?

Nathan Fletcher: Well, it's hard. I mean look when I first got here, we were able to add a lot of hurt clinicians. This is where we were putting the psychiatric emergency response teams with law enforcement and I got him in the budget and then I came back a few months later and so where are they? And they're like can't hire him. And so, we had to come in and give a huge pay raise. I basically said, well, what does Riverside pay their per clinicians? OK, we'll pay 25%. Or let's steal theirs. And and there is a little bit of that that we're in and the reality is, you know we're going to hire what we can. And then we're going to poach and steal what we can. Late this summer, I'm hosting a behavioral health workforce conference because we have huge problems in this field. You know, in in Obamacare they created parity for mental health and drug treatment services in the private pay market for private insurance. But there was no corresponding national strategy to increase the workforce. For these folks, there was a a recent study out of UC. Jeff and it was like 67% of psychiatrists in California are over the age of 60, and this problem will get worse. And so, we're working with our university presidents and chancellors with our Community College heads to open that pipeline and design those systems. Now, you know, I'm not going to just magically create a bunch of psychiatrists.

Tomorrow I mean this is a structural problem that we've in here. And and so all the efforts we've done over the past few years have been increasing that pipeline and ramping them up.

Nathan Fletcher

And and we're going out. It's two things. One is hiring the new people. We need. The second thing is making sure we're retaining the people we have. This work is incredibly hard, and the burnout rate is is very, very high. And so, we're engaging. And specific strategies just to support and enhance the the workers we must make sure they feel valued. They feel appreciated and we keep them, and we keep them in a good mindset while we go out and hire them more. So, it was a question I literally asked the sheriff today in a public hearing, which is, you know? How confident are you when I fund these positions? You know later this month you're going to be able to get him, and he seems to think that they will be available, and we'll go out and get him. We may have to pay a premium for him, but it is. It is an ongoing challenge in



that in that you know, having enough workers to to be able to meet this need. But we're going to do everything we we humanly can. To get the ones that are out there to train some new ones quickly, some more entry level positions of a mobile crisis response. You know you can make an EMT in 1416 weeks. These are essentially mental health EMT's, so it it's not like this is a position that needs eight years of school. And so if we provide the right incentive and the right training, we think we can get people in the pipeline. The other thing we're trying to develop is basically a pipeline in this field of maybe mobile crisis response is the entry level job and then you do that for a little bit. You know, like a firefighter might ride the ambulance and then do training to become a firefighter. We're trying to create a similar pipeline where people can have career where they have rungs that they can climb. As they do additional training. So we are thinking as much about getting the bodies as we are funding the physicians. So I don't know exactly when we'll have 141 on hand. We got to get it through the budget process and then and then move on it.

Howard: Ask a quick follow up on the we've been talking a lot about the 20th and be city owned property. I know it's not County, but I'm sure you've had discussions or been involved in discussions about that because it relates to the tents on the street and we just talked to police. Captain Grubbs about it and his support for it, but there seems to be a stumbling block somewhere. And I think it's in the mayor 's Office, who you apparently talked to on regular basis, can you give us any insight into why that isn't a good idea, I haven't heard anyone tell me that isn't a good idea.

Nathan Fletcher: I don't know the specifics on that. I mean essentially what we do as it relates structure versus services. We partner with the city on a ton of those. One thing we're doing that the county's never done. You know when the city went and acquired some motels to convert those into permanent supportive housing, then we moved millions of dollars to provide the services, and so when they identify a structure that works for them in their jurisdiction. You know they're the one. I mean, this isn't passing the buck, I'm just walking you through how it works. They identify a structure. We're going to move people in the Convention Center. OK, that's a structure in the city you're going to use structure. I'm going to flood in the service and and we do that in existing shelters where we provide on site mental health and drug treatment services. We did that at the Convention Center. We're doing that at the motels that they've converted and as they identify other locations, we will do the same as the county and incoming into to support those with services.

Howard: So, it's not a lack of services at the at the County that the that the 20th and B can't open. It's if that was identified as a place you would be able to flood services to it.

Nathan Fletcher: Yes, anywhere the city identifies as a location to house people, I will bring and I I have not failed in getting the board to support services for any of these, so it's it's not, you know I got to get my call I don't. I don't just, you know, wave a wand, and say, hey, here's \$10 million, but I have not failed yet. When there's an identified location for structure for the county to come in and provide robust services, and I don't think we will moving forward now, you know we have a challenge you know everyone. Look, let's be honest. Everyone like solve homelessness if you don't solve it anywhere near me. So, you know I'm willing to keep fighting to to push, to do all of that and and we need we need some more folks like those folks in La mesa to fill the field the same way.

Michael: Thank you, Mikey, I think you have a question.

Mikey G: Yep, Nathan thanks. Thanks for coming today. We really appreciate it. Obviously, you've had a thankless job for the last 18 months, so we appreciate you stick it in there and helping us and shepherd us through this. We're in the crunch that the rest of the country is in which is we can't hire staff fast enough where actually I actually had to shut down a very lucrative brunch up operation on Saturday and Sunday because I can't staff it. And so, we're fighting for employees. And what I'm getting now, both I'm overseeing some properties in Little Italy now and in the Gaslamp is that employees who are willing to come back to work. They don't want to be downtown because it's not worth the hassle. It's not worth the risk, you know. Set aside the the shootings and the the suicide jump and the mental health stuff. It's also the the homelessness and what they refer to. Not my words, as the crazy is walking around and assaulting people. I had a manager in little Italy last week got hit.



I think it was maybe Todd office. What else can we do to support the restaurant industry and it's just stop putting hurdles in our way and just and just stop making it more difficult to operate. So right now, the homelessness is certainly one. The hot dog thing you touched on, so I'll bring it up cause it's a hot button for a lot of people on this call, and maybe it doesn't, certainly doesn't nearly amount to what the homelessness does, but it's just another nuisance, so I had to run in with the county health inspector the other day who was very particular, very aggressive and whatever doing her job, and I mean I'm basically being called out for doing having small infractions. And then I get these homeless guys you know, cooking hot dogs on the side of the road, which is not healthy, not sanitary. So, you touched on, you're aware of it. I know that I know there's some emails floating around that I'm on, but can you just go into that a little bit more about what?

Nathan Fletcher: Yeah, I still let me let me take both of them. My key one I've talked about hot dogs more in the last two weeks of my life than I have in the 323 years of my life. And I got five kids' man. So, like we, we've plowed through some hot dogs in our life and I'm still like talked about it more and I have one more. But you know, here. Here's the point. That I've made to county staff and this is not an excuse. It's just context and that that we had a county that was never aggressive.

Yeah, we're more progressive than got three. Democrats were progressive, but we are more aggressive where the county's always been passive. Go back and look at HEPA.

Right and look at the cafe where it took him like seven months to get hand washing stations and look at COVID. We had him up three days later, right? But that is a mindset shift that must happen and the the education process I've done with county staff has been this. I said imagine the frustration that you run an establishment with employees with a permit with inspectors and someone comes in and Dings you for something OK, fine, but then you get told you got to close to fix this thing while the person outside without a permit, without employees without a process, just runs amok. And I said, now, think of the inherent unfairness in that, and think about what message we're sending as a county that if you try to follow the rules and you try to do what's right, we're going to come after you.

But if you don't do any of that, then we're just going to be like, oh, I don't know, not our problem, and I said that's what has to change, right? That's the attitude, you know that that has to change, and we're going to get there. And we're getting there. And they're out now, issuing cease and desist letters. And they're doing that now.

Look, it's challenging, right? Because you get a county person that goes out to respond to a complaint and the hot dog vendor runs away with their card and they're like chasing him down the street or they won't give him their name. I mean, you can't serve a cease and assist when they won't give you their name and PD has no ability to enforce because there's no city ordinance that corresponds to it, so they they don't have any. I'm not making excuses. But I am I am lighting a fire on this issue because of the inherent unfairness of the issue and that you all play by the rules you follow. The rules you do what you need to do and we have to, you know, make sure that that we are having a corresponding level of commitment to try and do it, and we're working on the city as well.

And you know some of our our county folks have gone out late at night and and it's gotten ugly.

You know you've got folks that are in a different state of mind at 1:00 AM. That really just want a hot dog and you know. I mean, it's just and, and so we're we're trying to trying to figure that out where you know they don't have the same ability because PD can't really go with them and accompany them because there there's no city rule that they're being broken. It's a county Department environmental health. But we are issuing cease and assist, and we are going to step up our efforts around that and might be on homelessness. Look, I had it happen. I'm sitting outdoor in Little Italy and someone walks up to the table and picks up a drink from someone at the table and drinks it and walks on. Then you have a greater ability to enforce what's there, and as we build out those outreach workers, we can begin to make progress, and it's not just you know, removing someone for the day is just kind of chasing your tail. I mean, they're you know they're going to be right there three days later. I mean, it still may make it better for a day or two, but you know, throw had this line about improved means for unimproved sense and we need improved ends. You know and and the investment in the jails, the investment and some of these things have got to get us to a place of improved ends. And I I know it. I know it's not happening fast enough, but you know, we literally literally every day and with County Suffolk. What are we doing now? I'm glad we're building a \$300 million facility in Hillcrest. And it'll be wonderful. Four years from now when we open the doors. But what are we doing between now and then? And that's all of these other programs where we're trying to flood the area to try and try and see. I mean there's no magic solution to homelessness, right? Anyone that comes in and tells you just



this one thing, and then it all goes away. It's just, it's just nonsense, it is complex and hard, and you must try everything that you're doing. One thing that will help hopefully is June 15th when we have hundreds of new beds available, then we can begin getting people into those locations, but it's going to take everything we're doing.

Michael

Thank you. supervisor, Fletcher I'm asking to bring up that one thing about MTS and the left turn off 7th and the fact that basically we can't include the whole Gaslamp in the in the Promenade 5th Ave project. I know you're the chair of MTS and I know it's the city's telling us that you know it's your fault and everyone pointed the finger, so anything you can enlighten us on or how we might be able to solve this situation.

Nathan Fletcher: Yeah, they're. I got an update today and they're trying to figure out how to close the street. We're working on it. It is. Sometimes it is a city thing, sometimes it's an MTS thing but we're trying to work it out. There are some transit things around routes that must be published and must be set and then at times there's just the logistics of like how the bus is going to go. We can't shut down transit one because people depend on it. And so, we have an obligation in service areas to provide that service. But we're going to get it figured out and and we're going to get it done.

Michael: I appreciate that, and I will update the merchants who keep asking me. Thank you for your efforts.

Nathan Fletcher We're we're working through it, and some of these are federal rules. I mean, some of these are just things that you know are put in place because of the revenue streams of where it comes from. It's overly complex. It sounds like I'm making a lot of excuses, but not we know we got to get that done. We're working on it and we'll get it figured out.

Michael: Wonderful thank you. I think Laurel had a question. My last question.

Laurel: First off, thank you. Thanks just so everyone knows. Nathan has been a champion for our event industry so just thank you again for that. And then I was just curious cause I work curbside and I closed the Gaslamp. I just noticed, unfortunately there's just really no place for any of the homeless to go to the restroom, so they'll go inside doorways. They'll go inside, you know, all over the place, I know down at tin fish there used to be a bathroom down there that was opened and then they closed it and there really is just no place for anybody to use the facilities, is there any thought on creating at least some of those cause I think that would also really help.

Nathan Fletcher: Yeah, the no. These two public bathrooms is very real and that that you know in in in the jurisdiction that is the the entity that that has that jurisdiction, so the city you know would run into minister, public bathrooms and city. I know from MTS they've been pushing us to add more public restrooms at MTS and we have been adding more it stops or I will tell you it is. It is very expensive because you you got it not only on the bathroom, but if you're going to have a public bathroom. You got to have 24/7 staffing. We have them here at the county at the Waterfront Park. And we have public restrooms available here at the Waterfront park. But it is a 24/7 security staffing that you must have, or you will have things go very, very bad and so at county facilities we have them at MTS. We're looking to expand. I have no doubt the city is is trying to work through what they can do in their jurisdiction well.

Laurel: But just even for quality of health, for those people you know, like just having a place to go to the restroom and just even for mental health and everything, I just would think that would be, you know important. So, thank you.

Nathan Fletcher: Yep, thank you, Laura.

Dania: Yeah thanks, thank you for joining us today, Chair Fletcher and thank you so much for your leadership during the pandemic. We appreciate you taking it time out today and I know we're going a little long with you, but I I had one question also regarding the recent letter of request to the county Administration Office. Regarding the Labor Standards and enforcement, giving them 120 days to respond. And I I just wanted to ask you today if you could share what what would be different about your plan versus the cities.



Nathan Fletcher: I don't know what the city's plan is on an office of Labor standards. I know at the county we've never had it and so you know what happens is the folks that follow the rules have a competitive disadvantage against the folks who don't follow basic Labor Standards and rules. And you know part of what you're experiencing on the hot dog vendors isn't case in point of, you know invariably they're not following and what you know we cannot like the rules or not like paying Social Security or workers comp or unemployment, but that's like that's that's the thing and you know one of the one of the things that frustrates me in government is when we don't properly enforce what the requirements are. One you're disincentivizing people who do the right thing, but the second thing is you're putting businesses in this situation where the moral thing to do is to do the right thing. You're supposed to do, but the right thing to do from a business standpoint is not because you watch your competitors not doing it, and so this is not an entity that is designed to be punitive.

The people who are making a good faith effort to comply. It is designed to go out and get those in the illicit market who are not following the establishment of Labor rules and protocols. And so, I know our District Attorney is working to increase efforts. The reality is, if an employee steals from you, they're going to get prosecuted, and if they bad faith employer steals from their employee, it's the same, you know. And so again, we're not talking about a mistake. We're not talking about overly burdensome on people trying to do the right thing. You know we're talking about when there are perfectly hot dogs, when there's no enforcement mechanism, then everything kind of breaks down into walls, and so we're working our county. It's going to be in development. It's going to take us a little bit to get it together. Most other counties have some type of office of Labor standards and enforcement. Right that you can call and say, hey I'm encountering this situation and I got the state thing that says this and city thing and then kind of a resource for folks proactively to help guide folks through what it is so it's not just a punitive approach, you know, if you have some of these questions, there's often nowhere to really call to try and get help and guidance, and so we're trying to make it be a value add and so that's what we're doing.

Dania Great, thank you very much.

Michael: Thank you, thank you for your time. All right, thank you all. Supervisor Fletcher, thanks for everything appreciated alright, great day, thank you alright.

Nathan Fletcher: Thank you Michael, thanks guys.

Michael

Moving on, although we can move to the next slide, keep going so.

So, the Executive Board put in a request to bring this to the Board of Directors Laurel five-year contract expired or will expire. Come June 1 and Laurel has been instrumental in helping with the marketing and the events through the parking district and for the association. So, we will be going to RFP, which will be the next item to discuss. But in lieu of that time frame, before we actually have the RFP out, going through all the interviews and hiring a company to fulfill that, we are looking to keep Laurel on an amendment to her existing contract, which is for two months, June and July at \$4500 each. So, each month, so \$9000 total.

Howard: So, move.

Michael: Well, I know Howard, I think you made that motion, or at least our suggestion at that exact.

Howard: I just made the motion.

Michael: OK, Howard made the motion. Is there a second?

So, there was another slide in here, but I'm not sure why it's not there. I'm also looking for a motion to put out an RFP for the marketing and events. Position is what we've done five years ago for for Laurel contract, I'm looking for a motion to.



Michael

Go to RFP and, uh, start the process to re re hire that that position for the GQA.

That's Howard Greenberg makes the motion. Is there a second?

Michael

Pam Second, is there any discussion?

Pam: Just so it's clear it's not really an RFP for exactly what we did before before it was just about events. Now it's marketing and events.

Michael: Yes, correct Pam. That's exactly right because times have changed and job descriptions have changed, so I'll be able to send that out to make sure you know work with the language to make sure it's what we need.

OK, well I'm asking for a vote.

Michael

I see Howard, Dania, Steve Laurie. Ah, that looks like it passed Bruce. OK. Unanimous with Laurel abstaining. OK, great, thank you all.

Michael: We lost Taylor to a horrible accident. We had talked about doing something for her.

Had been brought up that we could do a plaque and I know that Alonzo and I talked about planning it.

So I actually have a request in for a dollar figure to figure out what it would cost to produce a plaque for Taylor and work with Alonzo to put it into place somewhere in the Gaslamp to memorialize her memory. I don't have a dollar figure, but if we could make a motion that you would like us to proceed with this memorial for Taylor, I'll be looking for a motion regarding that.

Dania: I'll make the motion

Michael: Hey Lori, OK is there a second?

Laurel: I'll make the 2nd.

Michael: OK, can I see a show of hands in support of this plaque? Wonderful, OK, that's unanimous.

Michael

Thank you so much for that. I will keep you posted on the on the dollar figure what it would cost, and the allowance and I will get together and find out how that how that's all going to work out. OK, moving on.

GAQ elections starting in July 2022. Then the following board members will have terms expiring. You could see them up there. Cindy, Jeff, Mike EG Iran, Josephine Laurel, Pam, and Nathan. So I'd obviously look to have a nominations committee to be formed for new members and also look to current members to look if they would like to run for another two year term, and you necessarily don't have to tell me right now. But if you could let me know within the next week or so. So we can work on that and make sure you're part of the slate, but I do need an action to form a nominating committee of at least two board members to work with Dania and myself to vet the new members that are looking to join our board. Is there someone who like to make that motion?

Howard: I'll make it.

Michael: That's Wayne, all right, is there a second?

Speaker 3

Rick: second it



Michael: OK, all in favor. OK, now now that we have that unanimously passed, what two board members would like to join us in the search for new board members that will be qualified?

Stephen: Yeah, I can help.

Bruce: can help if you need it, alright.

Michael: Alright thanks Bruce. OK, we'll keep you posted. Please let me know if you are interested in rerunning for the board and we'll get that Slate set up.

Michael

OK, so I'm not sure how everyone read the actual memo I put together, but at the City Council meeting there was a motion made by our City Council person basically, to renew the bids with a 6 month extension with the 3rd amendment of the bid management agreements subject to compliance and accountability provisions. So what that means is they're looking for all bid directors and staff and Board of directors to go through an anti-harassment and inclusivity workplace training and what that means is we'll come up with a a module that we can all go through, maybe even at our board of Directors meeting next month, but it will just show that we've gone through that training. I think those of you in corporate America probably know they've gone through these trainings before. I think the nonprofit world was a little behind the ball on this and and that's what the policy is that you guys got to review which will become a new policy that will need to be voted in next month as official GQA

CFE policy so I really wanted just to open that up. It's really there's nothing to vote on if anyone has any questions or thoughts or concerns. I'm meeting with my bid directors tomorrow with the bid alliance to go over what they're planning to do, what the city is also requesting us to do is to look at our bylaws and ask if we wanted to add or subtract anything in regards to these issues or other issues that might fall into the same categories and I think this would be a topic that we can bring up at our retreat. I discussed this with the Dania and Howard and the Exec Board and really, it's just one of those things. A new requirement that you know we must do to have our budget renewed.

Michael: Any questions or comments about this?

Dania: Michael, Yeah I'll just say one thing, I I think that you know the Board of Directors and the Executive Board, you know we all need to recognize that the phase that we're in taking on the Promenade project and a huge influx of cash. We we really need to make sure that we have our eyes dotted and T's crossed and that we rely on the city to help us stay in line and and for our attorney and for us to be you know, judicious in in every step, so I I think it's important and it is definitely good timing. I think for us and we will, you know, move forward taking care of all these things in the next month or two.

Michael: Thank you Dania. Yeah yes, that's important as well. Seeing is that we do take city money and we want to make sure that we are doing everything. So, thank you for that. And like I said, if anyone has any questions please feel free to let me know and I did speak to our insurance company. We'll cover anti-harassment training so that will be no fee to us, so I'll be working with our attorney to put together a GQA module that we can fulfill that requirement by the city.

Michael: I did actually speak to Sammy time. We were looking for a steering committee and I know I've already spoken to Howard and Dania about joining that on the the week of the 14th of June. There is a large city meeting with the mayor's office and all the engineering and department heads that will be working on phase one of the Gaslamp Promenade closure which consists of the bollard installation at every intersection. What I've been told which eliminating the asphalt to a point where they're putting some thermoplastic type of treatment on the street, which would be like a stamped historic look with a gradient feel. Taking the entire from parklet to parklet. So, it's we're still waiting to see exactly what that looks like. They've also discussed overhead lighting from across 5th Ave up and down the street. I've had multiple meetings with the designers and it it's really happening right now. It's it's going to happen. I have requested from the mayor's office.



OK, any questions more to come. OK, thank you. Let's move on.

So, the annual retreat, like we've been talking about for the strategic plan for FY22, we've identified the date, which is Wednesday. Actually, I'm sorry. June 30th, not June 20th. We need to discuss, you know, the time, how long it would take, and if we're going to do it in person, or we're going to do it virtual. In person meeting anyone have any concerns about going back to the way we used to meet.

Josephine: I think it's about time.

Dania: We'll be hosting it at the Hilton Gaslamp.

Michael: So, we're all on on board with our direction and with our budget and everything will that we will be discussing. So, thank you for that. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Michael: All right, so I'm going to hand it to Laurel to give you guys an update of our new normal campaign and everything we've done to promote the parking and the Gaslamp Quarter for the end of this fiscal year.

Laurel: We came up with a marketing campaign that's for our hope is at six months. So basically, it's spring summer, fall, winter so that the gas lamp is always changing and has more relevance. And it's not just stuck in the same campaign. We have the new normal as the campaign. We came up with and it's the new normal is now open-air dining, easy parking, Gaslamp promenade. The Gaslamp is obviously it's being paid through the district. The parking district funds so we've incorporated parking into it and then we'll have a concept for potentially Fall and winter. You can kind of say see the new normal is dancing. We have the new normal movement, laughing, socializing, shopping, open air dining, easy parking in the Gaslamp.

We worked with a video production company for about three or four days. You'll see the video where we filmed a bunch of different things showing what was important to us was to also show how fun the Gaslamp is during the day and how much fun things there is to do all the way into the nighttime.

We made sure we had diversity in our casting. We wanted things that looked more vibrant in the Gaslamp, so we've updated the bike. As well as at Mother's Day. If you came down to the Gaslamp and then you parked, we set up a flower cart stand that you could get free flowers, so that was our pop-up flower cart. We included press release, website page, social post, signage, custom T shirts. We got about three different TV spots on that and a variety of write ups as well.

We have a video release and we'll show you the video at the end. Parking garage signs and banners. We have a big plan almost working on. We've given Alma quite a big budget that we've never given in the past. I think it's close to \$10,000. Actually, we've done press releases. We've already written a bunch of giveaway drops because we have a lot of gift certificates afterwards, so we'll do a lot of that. And then our hashtag is Gaslamp story. So, our thing is we want people to tell us their story whether it's a business, whether it was a person coming down here with use hashtag, Gaslamp story. Our next pop up, we're working with a hot sauce company and it's a Father's Day, so if you come down here for Father's Day and park and dine in any of our restaurants or visit any of them you basically get our free hot sauce.

So, one of these things is to create a whole summer series of events, so one of it is on Saturday, July 3rd is a laser show. We also are working on having a variety of events, but one of them was also having a a giant Gaslamp silent disco as well on that day so you come down with your friends on that Saturday and party.

One of the things like we talked about was to keep activating the Gaslamp on a every every week through the summer. So, starting June 1st is Taco Tuesday. Wagyu Wednesdays, and we're working on getting everyone specials in. We're trying to get all the Gaslamp people to throw their specials into us.



And then starting on July 8th is Throwback Thursdays where the different bars and restaurants would do like an 80s special. We're working with a roller skater influence and that we would take island between 4th and 6th and have a DJ and every Thursday it would be roller skating down in the Gaslamp. And then starting on the weekends there would be Gaslamp sweat. So, every Saturday there would be workouts in the Gaslamp. And then what we want to do on the last Sunday of July and August and with families, invite them to come down for dinner and stay for a show that would be movie night under the arch. Then one thing we also did is we wrote itineraries. I think we wrote five different itineraries of what you could do if you came down to stay for the weekend. That was our kind of campaign. So open to people thoughts

Mikey G: it's Mike. I think it's great. Great job I. I love the I love.

Michael: I'll send out video after the meeting is over today so everyone can look at it.

Michael: Alright thanks guys. I just have one announcement to make. Sara sent her letter of resignation due to a conflict of interest, working with the Gaslamp Quarter website. So as of effective the beginning of this month she's no longer on the board. She will be working as a contractor, so just letting you guys know that's not.

Michael: And that's all I have. Are there any open items or any other additional topics before we wrap this up?

Dania: Yeah, Michael, I just want to go back to the hot dog vendors. I just think we've got to really do a full court press and we probably need to do a letter writing campaign from all the business owners. I mean it, it's just unacceptable and we've got to put pressure on the city, the county, everybody.

Michael: There is someone in so basically working on this project from District 3 who I've met with. I met with the mayor's office, I've, you know, I have been sending emails and they must start over on the ordinance. They're not going to be taking the language from the Faulkner administration, so PD is behind us, but really, we just got to keep on these guys to come up with some plan. The PD can't do anything and without it, without enforcement, we're basically dead in the water, so that's the most important thing is getting the Council to pass ordinance.

Dania: Yeah, I just think we've got to blow them up with letters of of disappointment and dissatisfaction and demands. And if go to the next City Council meeting, get a bunch of business owners together on the Council public comment. But if we don't make a lot of noise it's going to take forever. I mean look at us, we're sitting here and it's a year later and we've been dealing with.

Michael: Since Comic Con 2019, that's fun.

Dania: Well, yeah, that that's true. That's a fair. That's a fair statement because that's the first time they started showing up.

Michael: It's our time is now, Dania. We'll keep my foot on the gas on that one because it's not acceptable.

Dania: Yeah, I mean it's a huge problem. I know we can get downtown partnership behind us as well, but I would just ask like everybody. All the board members on the call right now would you be willing to draft a letter? Would you be willing to amend it to your liking? Your own comments, your own experience and send it into Councilman Whitburn, Chair Fletcher and to the mayor.

Bruce: I would be.

Dania: And I'd like to do that, and then you know, we could call the press. I mean I can get the press there at 11:00 o'clock on Friday or Saturday night. I can get cameras there and, you know, we can take that angle too.



Bruce: Hey Mike, this is Bruce. Can I jump in?

Michael: Sure, Bruce.

Bruce: Hey, regarding that DJ and stuff like that. Yeah, it's unfortunate, but somebody needs to call in a noise complaint on that and then the Police Department does have to respond minimally.

Speaker 3

Stephen: I believe the noise ordinance starts at 7, doesn't it?

Laurel: It's ten, yeah.

Bruce: Quite honestly, it's not a decibel thing or a time thing. It's when you're disturbed. There's no time frame on it.

Dania: I mean there there's several people that are on this board, in this meeting right now that all know of the struggle with the entertainment.

Michael: So, but yeah Bruce, maybe I'll call you.

Michael

All right, Dania, do you want to adjourn the meeting?

Dania: We'll adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM. Thank you, everyone. See you at our next meeting, June 23rd for the Executive Board meeting and our retreat on Wednesday, June 30th. Everybody has a great rest of the week. Thank you. Happy holidays.

Michael: Thank you, thanks everybody. Good to see all, bye.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT - Dania adjourned meeting
zoom meeting ended: 2 hour 6 minutes**