

RIVER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
2025 Fall General Meeting
October 18th, 2025
7:30 pm

1. Welcome and Board Introduction – Karla Mendoza, RPNA Board President

Karla welcomed the neighborhood and introduced the Board Members present, which included Rex Hescok, Colin Jones, and Elise Drakes.

2. City Update – David Augusto, Community Relations Coordinator, Office of Mayor Kevin McCarty

Mr. Augusto introduced himself as a representative from Mayor McCarty's office, noting that the Mayor welcomes invitations to these types of community events.

Mr. Augusto detailed that Mayor McCarty has been in office for 10 months; in these first 10 months, the Mayor has been conducting a listening tour to understand the City's services provided, and to gauge whether these services meet residents' needs. Through this tour, the Mayor has identified both successes and gaps in the effectiveness of these programs.

Mr. Augusto shared that the Mayor's office is aiming to create more innovative projects to support the homeless communities, noting that displaced homeless populations create issues for neighbors and the entire City. Many current shelter options have shortcomings and are not well-adopted by the homeless community. Emergency tent shelters, as an example, do not provide adequate privacy for inhabitants.

Through surveys, the City has determined that tiny homes are a favorable option for many of Sacramento's homeless population. These tiny homes cost on average \$20,000-30,000 per home, with included infrastructure such as community restrooms and kitchens. Mayor McCarty's office is rallying to obtain more support for this initiative, and is also creating other ways to support Sacramento's homeless.

Mr. Augusto also noted that the City is assessing safe parking sites for homeless individuals with trailers and is also talking with Community partners regarding behavioral health opportunities.

Other City priorities highlighted by the Mayor's office included improving the permitting and building process, improving riverside bike and walking paths, clean-up and trash removal, and making more connections throughout the City.

Mayor McCarty is hosting a state of the City on Monday, October 20th for key community members; if possible, a link to the broadcast will be shared with RPNA.

Before concluding, Mr. Augusto introduced Naya Jones, who will be a contact within the Mayor's office representing District 4.

Q&A with Mr. Augusto:

1. A neighbor asked what the City is doing to repair streets.

- a. Mr. Augusto responded that the City is working to obtain funding for infrastructure, which would include street repair. In response, the neighbor noted that a sales tax a few years ago was aimed to support street maintenance.

3. State and District Update – Daniel Washington, District Director, Senator Angelique V. Ashby

Mr. Washington introduced himself as a representative of Senator Ashby, who is approaching her 4th year in office. Senator Ashby is the Senate Assistant Majority Leader, and the Chairwoman of the Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee.

Senator Ashby and her office have been working to pass bills, including initiatives for economic development (SB 516), community mural art (SB 456), and street safety (SB 720). A significant meeting on October 28th will help drive a proposal for homelessness, SB 802. The Street Safety bill, SB 720, would enable local government to utilize systems such as red light cameras to monitor and enforce safe streets, thereby mitigating car and pedestrian accidents. SB 761, CalFresh for Students Act, increases Cal Fresh benefits (commonly known as food stamps), and allows college students to opt-in to receive notifications about their potential eligibility.

Senator Ashby's office is also working on initiatives around Education and Higher Education; one such effort aims to provide debt-free education for foster youth. Another initiative, SB 404, would have provided more oversight of California's charter schools, but was vetoed.

Mr. Washington shared that the District Office is also orchestrating many community events, including a Community Health Event in South Sacramento and a carseat distribution program in partnership with City Police and UC Davis Health. He concluded that he and Senator Ashby's office are here to serve as a resource to River Park.

4. City & District Update – Phil Pluckebaum, City of Sacramento District 4 Councilmember

Mr. Pluckebaum highlighted several new City developments, including improvements to the River Trail and the hiring of a new City Manager from Santa Rosa, Maraskeshia Smith.

He then shared current City challenges, including balancing the budget. While revenue is up year over year, expenses continue to outpace revenue, and a shortfall is being projected. The City's current strategy to mitigate this issue aims to reduce expenses and raise fees; the last resort would be to impact critical services, such as the Police and Fire Department.

Q&A with Mr. Pluckebaum:

1. A neighbor asked for an update on the businesses and street conditions on J Street in Downtown/Midtown, noting that the paving is inconsistent and there is still a lack of active business tenants.
 - a. Mr. Pluckebaum responded that the City is discussing strategies for vacant parcels and blighted buildings. The City will work with property owners to revitalize their buildings over time, within reason; however, when needed, the City has a process to levy fees and penalties, and is making an aggressive push for building owners to clean up their spaces. Future initiatives to support this area include bike and safety projects, which will be part of upcoming Measure A.

- b. The neighbor asked a follow-up question on whether Measure A will include any unrelated initiatives, thereby creating a “bloated” measure. Mr. Pluckebaum confirmed that this measure would not include other unrelated initiatives.
- 2. A neighbor asked whether key public servant roles, such as teachers, firefighters and police, are being lost due to attrition, observing that these roles seem stretched in terms of resourcing.
 - a. Mr. Pluckebaum highlighted the following City priorities, in order of urgency: (1) Infrastructure; (2) Public Safety; (3) Homelessness and Housing. He noted that Law Enforcement resourcing within the City is down by 50%; the force is actively hiring. He also acknowledged that the City’s projected \$50-60M budget shortfall next year will create difficult decisions to make, such as raising more revenue or cutting expenses. He noted that the City is still trying to return to the budget outlook from 20 years ago; more taxes and initiatives will be needed until the City can get back to the former state with adequate investment. Mr. Pluckebaum also acknowledged that the City knows where the problematic hot spots throughout the City are; the City requires the resources to effectively address these issues.
 - b. Mr. Pluckebaum concluded by encouraging the neighborhood to report crimes and issues when they happen; all initiatives are complaint-driven by residents.

5. City Projects Update – Adam Randolph, City of Sacramento

Mr. Randolph provided updates on the Carlson Drive initiatives and the Two Rivers Trail projects. The heavy truck traffic, which travels through River Park, is projected to finish in early December 2025. The trail regrading is scheduled to complete in Spring of 2026. According to CalTrans, nearly all of the trail work on the River Park side of the American River is nearly complete.

After the Two Rivers Trail project is complete, the Army Corps will address the needed cleanup of Paradise Beach. Afterward, the Army Corps will focus on the restoration of Glenn Hall Park, including improvements to the soccer field and levee trail entrances. Once these initiatives are completed, a maintenance project is planned for H Street at the entrance to River Park. If all projects remain on schedule, this work should be finished by Summer 2026. Mr. Randolph noted that pavement maintenance would be relatively quick, yet intensive, with some impact to street usage in the neighborhood.

Q&A with Mr. Randolph:

- 1. A neighbor asked whether the fences surrounding Glenn Hall Park would come down, and if so, when.
 - a. Mr. Randolph responded that the City is projecting this work to be completed in Spring of 2026. Construction and project teams will still remain in the area while heavy equipment travels through the neighborhood to complete the cleanup work at Paradise Beach.
- 2. A neighbor asked whether the City is addressing homelessness at and around Paradise Beach.
 - a. Mr. Randolph explained the distinction in management between City and County; Glenn Hall Park and the levee trails are managed by the City of Sacramento,

whereas Paradise Beach is managed by the County. Similar to the recommendation from Mr. Pluckebaum, Mr. Randolph encouraged residents to report complaints through 311 as needed, noting that the City responds to legitimate concerns and feedback.

3. A neighbor asked for further detail regarding the paving work to be completed along Carlson Drive.
 - a. Mr. Randolph illustrated the several tiers of sealant applications, speculating that Carlson Drive will likely receive the “grind and overlay” tier of maintenance typically performed by the City. The level of maintenance to be performed on the street is aimed to enhance longevity of street conditions.
4. A neighbor requested more detail on the roadway workarounds needed to complete the Carlson Drive paving work.
 - a. Mr. Randolph shared that a map of the Carlson Rehab Project will be provided to the neighborhood. As a preview, Carlson, Sandburg and Camellia will be impacted; however, only one street at a time should be affected. Some rerouting will be temporarily required.

6. Public Safety Update – Justin Boyd, Patrol Sergeant, Sacramento Police Department

Sgt. Boyd began by sharing recent crime statistics for River Park, noting that only four reports have been made over the past four weeks; three of the four reports were related to theft, and the fourth report was a narcotics stop at the edge of the neighborhood. Sgt. Boyd encouraged questions from the neighborhood as a way to actively engage in this meeting.

Q&A with Sgt. Boyd:

1. A neighbor asked if Sgt. Boyd could share some detail on the current morale within the Sacramento Police Department.
 - a. Sgt. Boyd shared that morale is challenging, noting that the police force is struggling with staffing issues; patrols are often understaffed. Minimum staffing should be at 34 officers daily; however, the team is now staffing at 31 officers daily, with many officers working overtime. Staffing and hiring requires a long ramp-up process, including Policy Academy and training time. Working in Sacramento as a police officer is challenging; it is also difficult to retain police officers in Sacramento, once their training is complete. Officers are often drawn to other regions of California which are not so busy with crime and are better staffed.
2. A neighbor asked whether lower-cost roles could be leveraged to address lower-level crime issues, thereby relieving Police Officers for more important work.
 - a. Sgt. Boyd confirmed that the Department is pursuing these ideas, but acknowledged that this work will take time. He also described the work that the Department is doing to return to proactive Police work, rather than reactive/responsive work. In response, several neighbors expressed gratitude for the work of the Sacramento Police Department.

3. RPNA Board Member, Colin Jones, shared that typical crime issues in River Park include minor events such as package thefts from front porches. He asked what normal citizens can do to help Police with these types of issues.
 - a. Sgt. Boyd responded that reporting any crime is important; the Police cannot help if the incident is not reported. For package theft, video proof (through door cameras, for example) is highly effective. Once reported, in an ideal state, a law enforcement officer will be assigned to the effort.
4. A neighbor expressed frustration that many drivers are not obeying stop signs in River Park, and asked what could be done to address this issue.
 - a. Sgt. Boyd noted that the Police Department has two motor units, city-wide; these units travel to different districts and proactively target moving violations, such as driving through stop signs. The effort is cyclical, as the unit roams from one district to another. Sgt. Boyd will make a recommendation for the City's motor unit to incorporate River Park into its rounds.

7. **Local Transportation Projects Update** – Sergio Ochoa and George Delano, CalTrans

Mr. Delano shared an update on the bridge restoration project, which is adjacent to Cal Expo. This project is nearing completion; current work includes returning a pedestrian path to this bridge which runs over the American River. The project also aims to reduce foot travel along the flood plain; the project team is regrading the area and repaving the bike path which runs along the plain. Mr. Delano also noted that the Project does not impact the River Park side of the levee trail.

Mr. Ochoa provided a status summary of the nearby projects impacting Interstate 80 and Highway 50. The work on US50, impacting lane closures and temporary walls, will be completed by Summer 2026. Remaining work to the highway shoulders will continue. Mr. Ochoa described the needed wildlife preservation efforts included in the highway work, including the maintenance of bat habitats.

8. **Adjourn** – Karla Mendoza

Karla concluded the Fall Meeting by thanking all of the speakers and neighbors who came to listen and participate.

RPNA Board members welcome all current, new, and prospective neighborhood association members to attend next month's RPNA Board meeting on Thursday, November 20th at 7:30 pm at the Fremont Presbyterian Church. River Park community members can reach out to the RPNA at sacramentorpna@gmail.com.

Sign up for RPNA's E-mails!

Go to www.riverparksacramento.org, scroll to the bottom, enter your e-mail address and hit "subscribe" Contact RPNA at sacramentorpna@gmail.com

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