

Rolando Park/Redwood Village Community Council Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2025

Board members present

Co-Presidents Lynn Edwards and Sonia Lang
Vice President Michelle Alexander
Member at Large Joyce Caudillo

Community representatives present

- Sam Gonzalez – District Representative, 39th Senate District, State Senator Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson
- Ashkon Jones – Field Representative, District 79, Assemblymember Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins
- Fatima Maciel – Community Representative, Mayor Todd Gloria's office
- Roberto Marin – Community Representative, City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera's office

Community representatives absent

- Officer Joshua Cummings – Community Relations Officer, SDPD
- Willow Lance – Senior Community Representative, Congresswoman Sara Jacobs' office

Video

The video for our March meeting is available on our YouTube channel, RPCC_RVCC:
<https://youtu.be/l9ck2R1Keh4>

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Co-President Sonia Lang.

Treasurer's report

Sonia reported that to date, 18 members have renewed their memberships with 9 new members for \$324 in membership dues and \$578.25 in donations for a total of \$902.25.

Community updates

- Bettina shared that a Streamview Drive Phase 2 final design presentation will be held at the Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting tomorrow evening. Lynn highlighted recent cleanups, including one with Congresswoman Sara Jacobs, and the successful 4th annual Movie in the Park event attended by about 150 people. Bettina also mentioned a water shutdown scheduled for September 11th on Rock Street, 60th, and Marin.
- The community was encouraged to participate in the PTA's aluminum can recycling program on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Upcoming volunteer opportunities were shared, including a cleanup on University Ave in Rolando Park on September 13th and a weeding project in the joint use park on September 27.
- Congrats to our two "Spin the Volunteer Wheel of Appreciation" winners, Allison and Michael.

Public comments on non-agenda items

- Principal Noriega of Rolando Park Elementary, announced their first farmers market this year on September 12th, inviting the community to participate.
- Janet G praised Officer Cummings for his efforts in addressing fireworks issues in the community
- Gerrie and Debbie introduced themselves as co-chairs of the new Rolando Park Fire Safe Council and discussed the Fire Safe Council's initiatives, including a new website, upcoming neighbor-to-neighbor cleanup, and a slideshow collaboration with local fire departments. She highlighted the availability of home ignition zone and defensible space assessments conducted by certified volunteers, using the same standards as the fire department.
- Audrey shared resources for political activism and encouraged community involvement in protests and meetings.

Representatives' reports

- Ashkon Jones – Field Representative, District 79, Assemblymember Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins
 - Provided an update on legislative progress, highlighting that three bills from their package had been passed, including Assembly Bill 927, which extends school facility inspection periods, Assembly Bill 829, which establishes the California Parkinson's Disease Research Fund, and Assembly Bill 987, which protects working families from predatory tow companies.
 - He also mentioned that Assembly Bill 847, which expands law enforcement oversight commission access to records, is expected to be voted on in the coming weeks.
 - The discussion concluded with concerns about Senate Bill 79, and the state's control over local planning and the impact of density in inappropriate areas, while acknowledging the need to balance state and local housing laws
- Sam Gonzalez – District Representative, 39th Senate District, State Senator Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson
 - Sam provided updates on legislative progress, including nine bills undergoing the legislative process, with two passing the Assembly and heading to the Senate.
 - He announced a webinar on sickle cell disease and a community town hall focused on state budget priorities, scheduled for October 16th.
 - Sam also discussed the Young Legislators Program and encouraged applications for high school students interested in legislative work, with a deadline at the end of the month.
 - Additionally, he invited submissions for bill ideas to be reviewed and presented to the Senator, with a deadline of October 1st.
- Fatima Maciel – Community Representative, Mayor Todd Gloria's office
 - Fatima provided updates on the community recreation needs assessment, which will be conducted in three phases over the next four months, and discussed a new Caltrans maintenance agreement that has already removed 74 tons of trash and conducted 95 abatements in its pilot phase.
 - Fatima also shared that the Development Services Department has moved to Mission Valley.
- Roberto Marin, City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera's office
 - Roberto announced two upcoming proposed ordinances: a \$25 minimum wage increase for hospitality workers in the tourism sector and an immigration ordinance aimed at ensuring due process and dignity, which will require businesses receiving city funds to display rights information.

Discussion:

- Rolando Park Gateway updates
 - Lynn reported that the landscape work, including new trees, decomposed granite landings and swales, and a monument sign, was nearly complete with a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for October 18th. The project, partially funded by an environmental foundation, includes environmental features that will filter stormwater before it enters the stormwater drain, estimated to process 40,000-55,000 gallons annually.
- Update on Infrastructure Priorities Survey
 - Results of the survey were shared and included the priorities that were submitted to city planning as well as suggested priorities that didn't advance and the reasons why; the survey results are attached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Infrastructure Priorities Survey Results – Redwood Village

- Infrastructure Priorities submitted to City Planning
 - o Repurpose city-owned vacant lot at 60th/University for mini skate park
 - o Sidewalk on Boren Street between GLADE and KERCH Streets
 - o Sidewalks on Dwight St
 - o Undergrounding utilities on Dwight St and surrounding area of Redwood Village.

Infrastructure Priorities Survey Results – Rolando Park

- Infrastructure Priorities submitted to City Planning
 - o Purchase Zena Canyon from SDUSD (14 acres)
 - o Permanent blue-green solution to keep Chollas Creek drain channel clear between Aragon Dr and College Ave
 - o Completion of sidewalk on east side of College from Meridian to University
 - o Sidewalk on northeast side of Rolando/Vista Grande
 - o Sidewalk on west side of 69th from Livingston to Waite

Purchase Zena Canyon from SDUSD (14 acres)





Permanent blue-green solution to keep Chollas Creek drain channel clear between Aragon Dr and College Ave



This morning,
Sept 8



Sep 8, 2025, 6:49 AM

Completion of sidewalk on east side of College from Meridian to University



Sidewalk on northeast side of Rolando/Vista Grande



Sidewalk on west side of 69th from Livingston to Waite



EACPC Infrastructure Priorities Submitted for all Eastern Area Communities

- Tree canopy on University Ave from 54th to Aragon Dr
- Provide 50 permanent exclusive parking spaces for the College - Rolando Library.
- Prioritize completion of undergrounding in EACPC communities
- Implement Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for the College Ave corridor

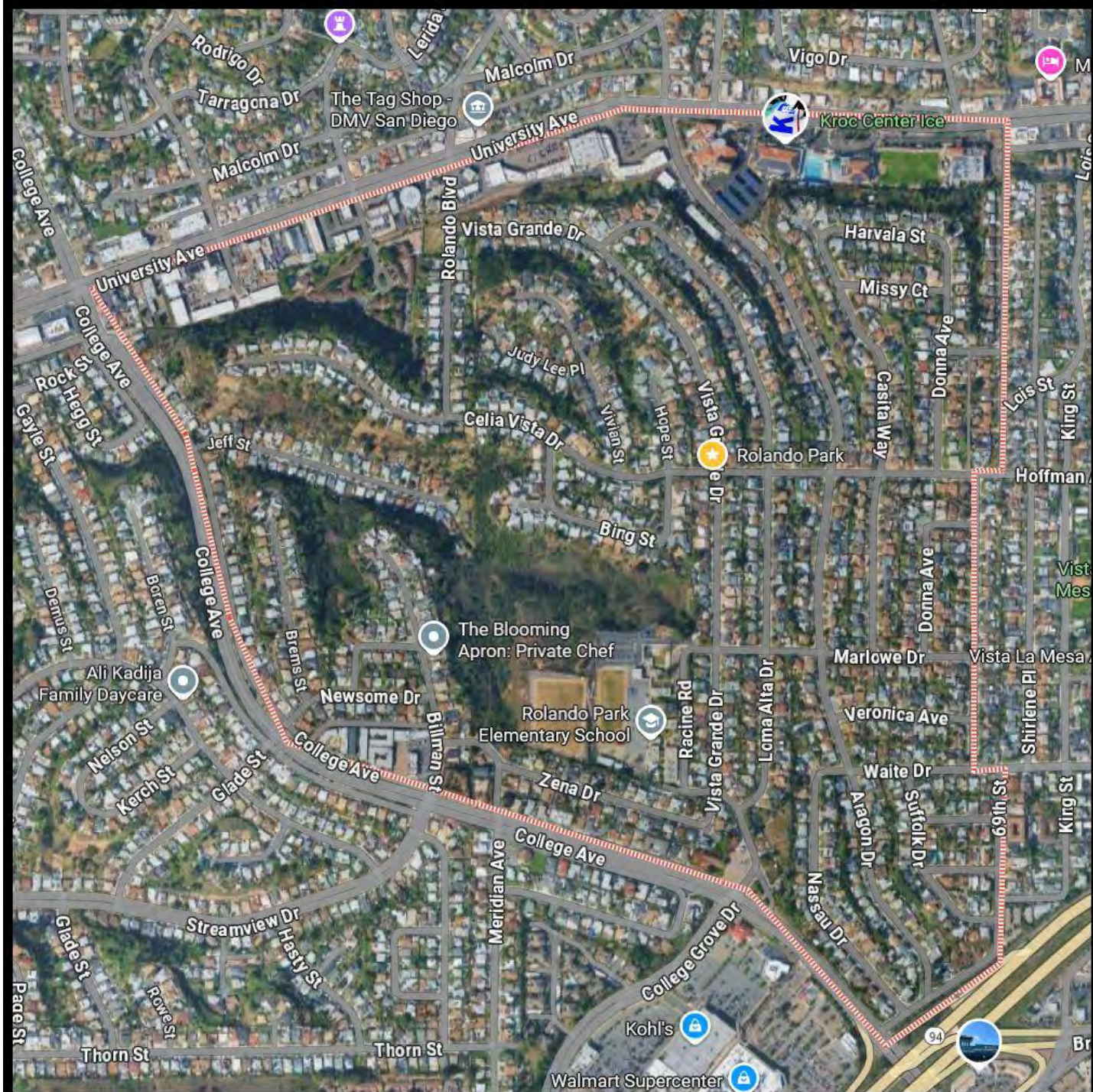
Suggestions not advancing

1. Sidewalk on Celia Vista/Hoffman to Massachusetts

- Complete sidewalk on Celia Vista to King St (so kids in Rolando can bike to the playground safely)
- Add sidewalk on Celia Vista/Hoffman between 69th and King
- Sidewalk along Celia Vista towards Massachusetts where families walk often to Vista La mesa park on King street. Further a crossing sign to get to across the busy street to the park

Response

- Not in Rolando Park, in La Mesa
- However, a contractor for the City of La Mesa was recently on Hoffman surveying the street for future sidewalks.



Suggestions not advancing

2. Street dividers clean up around Rolando park, University avenue, and by Target, weeds, breaking

Response

These are brush abatement and cleanup projects, not a CIP; also, Target is in Oak Park

3. Repave Celia Vista

- Repave Celia Vista Drive, specifically between Aragon and where it becomes Hoffman
- Celia Vista street renovation, it is torn up

Response

Submitted to our D9 community representative in April; unfortunately, due to budget cuts, not on the list for the next fiscal year

Suggestions not advancing

4. Misc

- Speed bumps
- Roundabouts
- University Avenue beautification

Response

No location given; no response for additional information

5. Street improvements, University Ave/Rolando Blvd

Response

University Ave will be repaved as part of the University Bikeway project

6. Street Lights Vista Grande/Loma Alta/Rolando Blvd

Response

- No location given; no response for additional information
- Streets north of Marlowe, including Vista Grande, Loma Alta, and Rolando received additional streetlights during the first phase of undergrounding in Rolando Park

Suggestions not advancing

7. Increase in businesses along University Ave. between Bonilla & Aragon. We need a small market that offers limited produce and other groceries.

Response

Agreed, but not an infrastructure project; that would be redevelopment, which unfortunately, we don't have any influence to make happen

8. Traffic signal control Bonillo and University

Response

This intersection will be upgraded to a pedestrian-enhanced crosswalk as part of the University Bikeway project

Suggestions not advancing

9. Public restrooms at Rolando Park Elementary joint use park

Response

Not a CIP project; this was ruled out during the community input phase for the design of the park in 2017 as public restrooms at parks frequently have homeless issues

10. If replacing or adding street lights, can we get light posts like they have in Talmadge & Rolando? I've seen them referred to as "Candlestick" style lighting. They really create a nice ambiance.

Response

Unfortunately, not likely. Those lights are quite old and the city replaced the ones in Talmadge/Kensington. The lights in Rolando are likely to be replaced in the future. However, the community could consider a solar streetlight project with the lights on residential property.

Suggestions not advancing

11. Some public art (like murals or sculptures) would help to create a sense of place. Playing up to the mid-century homes that are here, something in that vein, maybe mid-century modern style with neon lighting (like the Liquor sign outside Party House Liquor). Something to tie the area together with its history. Possibly located at Aragon & University or Rolando Blvd. & University, anywhere along University.

Response

Agreed! Our D9 community representative expressed interest in helping to create some public art/mural in our community. Let's talk about this.

12. Police storefront closer to the Rolando Park/Rolando Village area. Maybe at Rolando Plaza or University Square

Response

Already a multicultural storefront at 5348 University Ave; however, Officer Josh suggested that we might find a church or other location in our area that would be willing to provide a break room for officers: restroom, place to write reports, maybe coffee. This would provide more police visibility in the community.

Suggestions not advancing

13. I'll always be for more trees (even though the city thinks we have enough and are not a priority). It looks like the free tree program isn't going to be active in 2026 either, but if there's another way to create more tree lined streets here, I'm all for it. The shade they provide helps to escape the rising temps.

Response

- Our planning group, EACPC, again resubmitted a tree-lined canopy on University Ave as a priority. Neither the city nor SDG&E have a free tree program for 2025.
- However, our community partner, Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek does have a **free tree** program! You can complete the form at <https://www.jotform.com/241778522845062> to be contacted about the next tree planting.

Comments or complaints (not CIP or community priorities)

- Get rid of Jolar!
- Help Rolando Park be as nice as Rolando Village and La Mesa.
- Clean up University Ave, street repave, add plants, have businesses inspected, cleaned up, storefronts painted? From College to 70th looks awful.