



AGENDA

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING August 31, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

Members:

Mayor Paul Fadelli

Mayor Pro Tem Gabe Quinto • Councilmember Janet Abelson
Councilmember Lisa Motoyama • Councilmember Tessa Rudnick

Meeting Location:

(City Council and Staff only - no public attendance)

Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Join Via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/96241293798?pwd=Nm1tTWFYaHQ1bVI5SDI4cXdBdEh4UT09>

Meeting ID: 962 4129 3798 **Passcode:** 251933
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, teleconference restrictions of the Brown Act have been suspended, as well as the requirement to provide a physical location for members of the public to participate in the meeting.

This meeting will be conducted as a "hybrid" meeting, which will provide options for both in-person and remote participation. For the August 31, 2021 meeting, ONLY City Council and staff will be permitted to attend in-person. Members of the public will be able to participate remotely using any of the methods listed below. Beginning September 21, 2021 any interested individual will be able to attend City Council meetings in-person or participate via zoom, unless changes in public health conditions prompt a return to remote-only meetings.

Public Comments may be submitted one of two ways and are **limited to items on the special meeting agenda only:**

- Via Zoom using the "[Raise Hand](#)" icon to request to speak. If joining by phone, dial *9 to "raise your hand", and when prompted by the host, *6 to unmute/mute.
- Via email to cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Email must contain in the subject line **Public Comments – agenda item #.**

Members of the public can watch or listen to City Council meetings as follows:

1. Livestream Online at www.el-cerrito.org/CouncilMeetingMaterials
2. Via Zoom using the meeting information listed above.

To ensure City Council receives your written comments prior to taking action, they must be received by **1:00 p.m. the day of the meeting**. All written comments received by this deadline will be provided to the City Council and posted online in advance of the meeting.

Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the City Council and included with supplemental materials **after the meeting. No written comments will be read into the record.**

4:00 P.M. ROLL CALL - CONVENE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Remarks are typically limited to 3 minutes per person and to items on the special meeting agenda only.

2. STUDY SESSION - FISCAL RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Action Proposed: Conduct a study session on the Fiscal Recovery and Sustainability Plan.

Contact: Karen Pinkos, City Manager, City Management; Nancy Hetrick, Management Partners

3. ADJOURN SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The City of El Cerrito serves, leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

- Copies of the agenda bills and other written documentation relating to items of business referred to on the agenda are on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, at the El Cerrito Library and posted on the City's website at www.el-cerrito.org prior to the meeting.
- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk, 510-215-4305. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).
- ***The Deadline for agenda items and communications*** is eight days prior to the next meeting by 12 noon, City Clerk's Office, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA. Tel: 510-215-4305, email cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us
- IF YOU CHALLENGE A DECISION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN COURT, YOU MAY BE LIMITED TO RAISING ONLY THOSE ISSUES YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE RAISED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING. ACTIONS CHALLENGING CITY COUNCIL DECISIONS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE TIME LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTION 1094.6.

- The City Council believes that late night meetings deter public participation, can affect the Council's decision-making ability, and can be a burden to staff. City Council Meetings shall be adjourned by 11:00 p.m., unless extended to a specific time determined by a majority of the Council.

8/31/2021 Agenda Item No. 2

ATTACHMENT 1

Informational Item:

Visual Transcription of Community Budget
Workshop from May 8, 2021

Welcome! Community Budget Workshop

Ground Rules

- engage in **LONG-TERM** Financial Sustainability
- listen w/ **Open mind**
- focus on **future**
- be **respectful**
- Share **ideas**
- be **solutions-oriented**
- be on **mute** when not speaking

? **WHAT DOES a FISCALLY RESPONS. EL CERRITO LOOK LIKE?**

- NO RELEASE IN AN ANNUAL TRANSFER (short-term borrowing)
- IMPROVED BOND RATING
- MINIMUM 17% RESERVE



Balanced Budget... Rebuild Reserves... Menu of Budget Strats... Community Input... Further Opps. to weigh in...

Summary & What's Next

START

Today is just the beginning of our dialogue

COUNCIL'S THOUGHTS...

Thank you for your Participation!

- * Taking time out for this meeting
- * Appreciate all your opinions...

MEAN SO MUCH TO US!

Appreciate your time.

TRANSPARENCY is a key theme we hear from you: it will be a Cornerstone!

RIGHT SIZING Public Works

Lots of common themes

THANK YOU for your BIG IDEAS! e.g.

- * Revenue Focus
- * Volunteerism

We'll integrate discussion of these in our Budget Process.

Some of your ideas are really interesting e.g. ideas of using GoFundMe for the 4th of July!

Let's explore more ideas along this line... could be really HELPFUL.

Today was a very positive experience WORKING TOG. will make our City a Better Place!

Thank You everyone! Very positive.

- Loved hearing things "REPEATED" helps us!
- Like talking BOTH ABOUT Long Term and Short Term

Today = last day of Public Svc. Appreciation week! Our STAFF GOES way beyond "line of duty"...

our staff has to walk a lot of tightropes - will be tough going forward too...

- Making cuts, best way possible for our Residents!

* City of El Cerrito Comm. Budget Workshop
Graphic Recorder: Leslie Salmon-Zhu
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ENVISIONING A FISCALLY STRONG EL CERRITO

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY Community Workshop

BREAKOUT EXCERPTS

GROUP 1

- Transparency - ♥
- Participation - ♥

"Long-Term": look at other ways of [increasing] REVENUE.

Attract new business, HOW? Make it EASY to do biz here!

Compare us to Similar-Sized Cities:
- Services, Salaries -
- how we pay our fire, police + more
★ LET'S BENCHMARK ALL THESE COSTS

OUTSOURCE: Bldg. Inspections?
Street sweeping?
Where are developer fees going?
BARTLAND: getting the most out of the parking?
CITY CHILDCARE - how to know about more things out there?

Purpose and distribution of SURVEYS?



GROUP 2

- Re-envisioning Bldg/Planning permits

efficient streamlined?
More FLEXIBILITY in general.
PARKING vs High rises??

- Contact Admin. functions
- Require/mandate comparative compensation studies
- Residents who "could" pay more for services - "SHOULD" pay more?
- Work w/ CO-SPONSOR ORGS. → include in processes

- Optimize size/struct. of P. Dept.
- Reallocate these \$ to other areas.
- Options for retirement plans

TRANSPARENCY
Be clear @ what's being proposed.

GROUP 3

- * FUN IDEA: use "GoFundMe" for 4th of July

- Work w/ more businesses

* ↑ Volunteer opps. for/w the City

* TRANSPARENCY → Budget → positions → Depts

* Increase Revenue

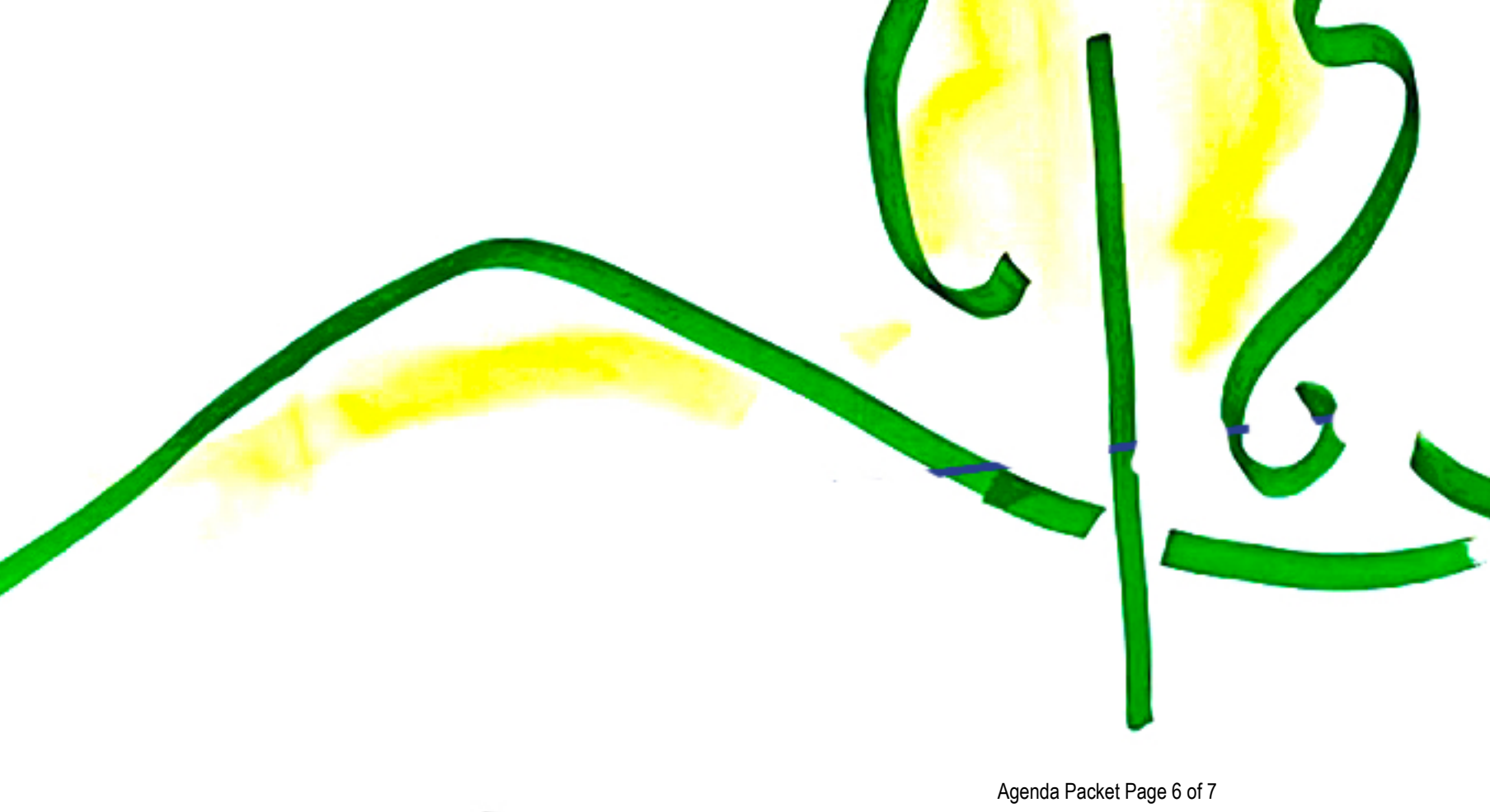
* Outsourcing? Plan'g/Build'g. Depts.

* More continuous community engagement

* Much more scrutinizing of Department budgets

* RIGHT-SIZE our Police Dept. Reimagine Policy Safety

* Use other models



GROUP 4

- Reduce Street cleaning
- Outsource who does our surveys
- Is our Fire Dept. too robust for our size?

Raise \$ = pay more to swim

Generate revenue via Recycling Ctr. → reduce its hours?

Examine/outsource tree-trimming

Right-size our P. Dept.

Mental Health issues: Need professionals / social workers to attend to these situations vs. PD.

Outsource HR.

Senior Svcs. ♥ Pub. Library = ♥ Lang. Acq. / learning ♥ More hours only \$50k!

EQUTY for internet for ALL.

Comm. members volunteering - maybe not sustainable

GROUP 5

- More TRANSPARENCY: re line items in budget eg. what goes into REC DEPT?

Fire Safety - reduce vegetation - evacuation plans SENIORS:

Gardening Sr. Svcs. > OUTSOURCE?

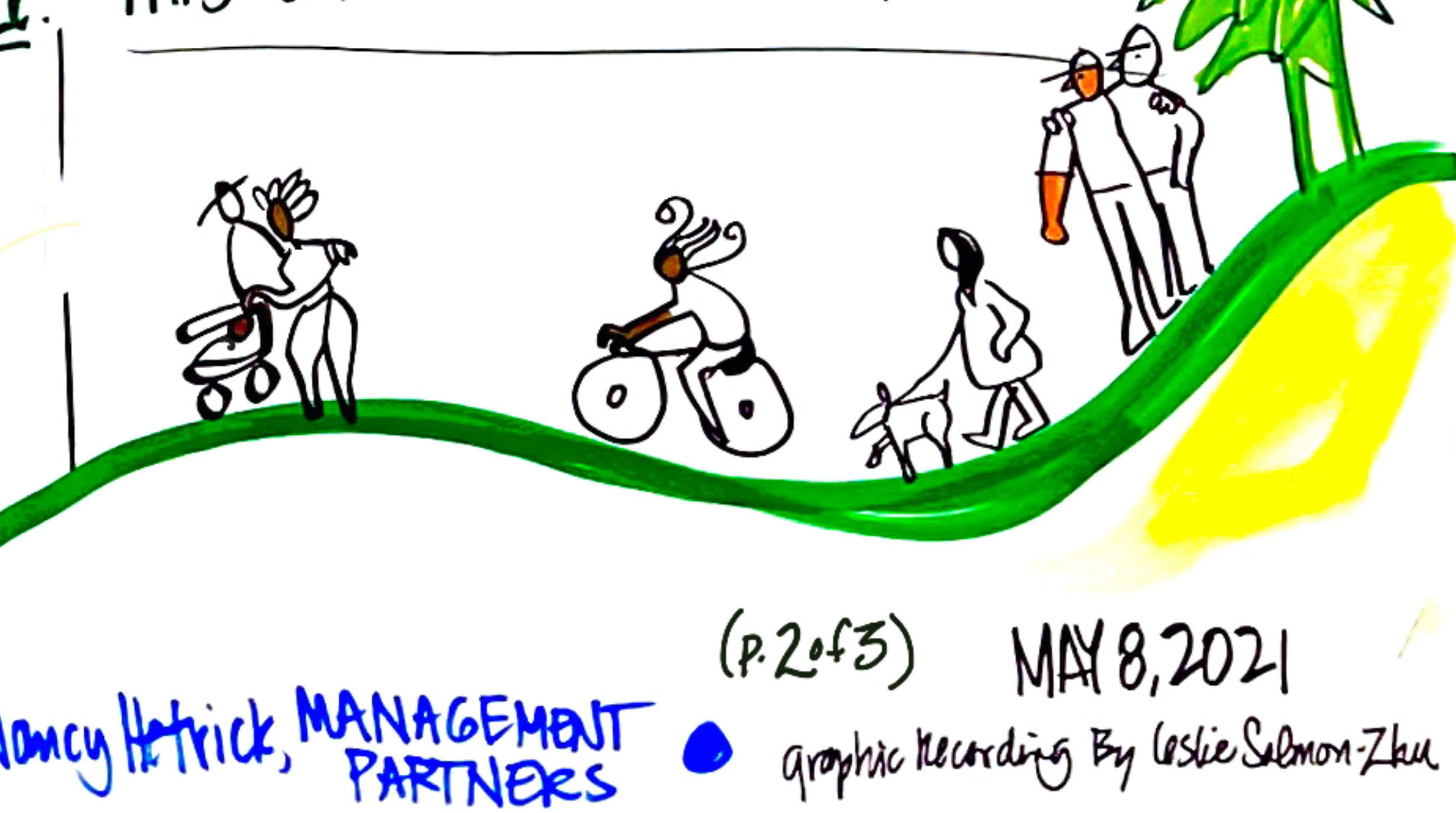
Blaise Permitting needs modification to generate MORE \$ for us.

Outsource childcare?

Policing - ticketing, traffic enforcement

Have/BUILD a Senior Ctr. & add more Sr. Services

Possible moratorium on trees being planted if cannot be maintained: this affects our Gen. Fund.



- GROUP 6** (FIRE CONTROL, FUNDRAISING & more!!)
- ⑥ Fire: How svcs funded? We don't know enough...
 - ⑥ Share expenses w/ Co. or other entities? Staffing agreements
 - Get more use of volunteers:
 - ↳ youth grps
 - ↳ other communities
 - ↳ "weed-pulling"
 - ↳ more rides for seniors (vols.)
 - ⑥ Fundraising for specific activities
 - ⑥ Recreational: our pool - loved so it's a treasure for many
 - ⑥ Some seniors ^{can} pay more for svcs. who are able to afford it. = Not exclude anyone lacking funds
 - ⑥ Set up a NON-PROFIT arm for ppl. to donate to the City!



- GROUP 7**
- Raise user fees
 - Raise taxes
 - Elim. Subsidies
 - Merge the City → Richmond? Kensington?
 - Outsource FD or consolidate w/ PD
 - ↳ eliminate mgt. + reg. rules
 - Freeze "defined benefit" - replace w/ defined "contribution" (3 yrs. pause)
 - Change retirement age from 50 → 60 or 65
 - Draw more on volunteers ^{eg. clean parks}
 - Use vols. to EXPAND deliv. of services ^{help w/ library}
 - More efficient services
 - Use goats to clean up hillsides
 - Work deal w/ EBRP to help FD to clean up Canyon
 - Privatize: two Rec. Ctr.
 - Library + Community Ctr.
 - Senior Ctr.
 - Sell City Hall / rent it back!



- GROUP 8**
- Use more Volunteers for:
 - (Litter Clean up)
 - (Vegetation Control)
 - DO INSPECTIONS: Bldg. permits/ Generate fees \$\$
 - Use permits for Peppermint Plaza for example.
 - Follow up PERMITS with enforcement.
 - F.D. - we have 3 ... City Hall, Arlington Park, Kensington.
 - Senior Center:
 - ↳ some progs. could be done away with.
 - ↳ collaborate → gardening, exercising etc.
 - Senior Rides - some srs. have limited \$
 - Look for SPONSORED PROGS. for seniors, especially the HOUSE-BOUND - they need transportation to get out more.



- GROUP 9**
- ⑥ Referendum Property tax = \$ for us.
 - ⑥ Street sweeping... needed? not? → find out more @ pkgs. rules re. sweeping
 - ⑥ "Cooperatives" re. Internet - take OWNERSHIP of this like other cities are doing = creates SIGNIFICANT SVCS
 - ⑥ Corp. Housing
 - ⑥ Corp. Sr. Facilities
 - ⑥ learn more about COOPERATIVE OPPS!
 - ⑥ There are a lot more aspects to the budget than presented today i.e. we need to address the Revenue Side, not just CUTS
 - ⑥ Look at what we can do in Longer Term Budget Vision
 - ⑥ Enhance the LIBRARY



- Additional Public Comments
 - * Increased Transparency needed in FD. especially ab. prevention
 - * Commending our transparency here today?

- "When you don't know what you don't know - that's a recipe for failure."
 - Robert McNamara
- Idea:
 - get a consult from a top notch law firm re. "bankruptcy, viability of our options, being more aware of other options etc."
- add this person to our Strat. Team.



...TRIMMING...
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MAY 8, 2021