



**North Fair Oaks Community Council**

*A Municipal Advisory Council to the  
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

2600 Middlefield Rd,  
Redwood City, CA  
650-363-1800  
www.nfoforward.org

Brooks Esser, Chair  
Blair Whitney, Vice-Chair  
Everardo Rodriguez  
Jennifer Ruiz  
Juan Carlos Prado  
Niket Sirsi  
Kathleen Daly  
George Saman

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**June 22, 2023**

**7:00 pm**

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The North Fair Oaks Community Council provides recommendations on the issues of community health, safety, welfare, public works, and planning for the North Fair Oaks geographic area. It holds regular monthly meetings to address the needs of the community, act as a forum, and serve as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

**The North Fair Oaks Community Council was held in person at the Fair Oaks Community Center (2600 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City) and by teleconference using Zoom**

**<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/92682984329>. It began at 7:00 PM and Spanish interpretation was available.**

**1. ROLL CALL**

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**Present:** Council Members Blair Whitney, Everardo Rodriguez, Kathleen Daly, Chair Brooks Esser

**Staff Present:** Deputy County Executive Adam Ely, Community Affairs Office Emma Gonzalez, Kenny Chu, Jennifer Castro-Lara, Diana Hernandez

**2. Public Comment**

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**Wendy Vargas** – Employment Specialist at JobTrain announced the launch of the new career center North Fair Oaks Economic and Employment Center, which will provide comprehensive job readiness trainings and supportive services to clients. Will also have Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center alongside JobTrain, once a location is finalized, to give clients other options of employment through business planning. JobTrain has temporary satellite offices at the Sequoia Adult school and at the North Fair Oaks Community Center starting in July.

**Jose Alvarez-** Owner of Paleteria Los Manguitos, states that his sales have been declining since the pandemic, but due to the construction on Middlefield, sales have decreased by 70%. It has been difficult to pay the costs of his business and to pay his workers. With the current pace of the construction, Jose is uncertain if he will be able to maintain his business open. He is asking the council to consider offering any kind of support.

**Erika Hernandez** – The manger of 7 Mares restaurant states that the business has been impacted by 80%. The owners are currently negative \$22,000. Last week, the restaurant had to close for 2 days, Tuesday and Thursday. Erika is requesting an emergency check to help the business move forward. It was mentioned that support could be given in 2 months, however, Erika is concerned it will be too late for the restaurant as they will only be able to stay open for 3 days: Friday, Saturday, and

Sunday. Two current employees have been unable to cash in their checks due to lack of funds. Erika also stated she has physical evidence of the impacts the construction has had on the business.

**Dioselina Cruz-** Owner of Samantha’s Beauty Salon, is asking for support on rent because the construction has affected her business. She has had to change the hours of operation because her clients are unable to access her business. Access has been especially difficult due to the road closure on 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue where her business is located.

**AGENDA**

**3. North Fair Oaks Personal Safety Preparedness Day**

<p><b>Presentation by Kevin Foiles, Department of Emergency Management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priority of the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management’s is to create plans to ensure that the County is ready to respond to all types of disasters and emergencies. (I.e., Storms, fires, earthquakes, etc.)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Achieved through Community Outreach</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is hosting a Personal Safety Preparedness Day event in North Fair Oaks             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saturday July 15, from 10am to 2pm, at Casa Circulo Cultural at 3090 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Redwood City and Menlo Park Fire Department, American Red Cross, and local non-profits and agencies in North Fair Oaks will be present at the event.</li> <li>• The event is free, and all ages are welcomed.</li> <li>• Classes are offered in both English and Spanish. Topics covered are:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How to create a go-bag</li> <li>○ Search and Rescue techniques</li> <li>○ Components to CPR, head-to-toe assessment, and first aid</li> <li>○ Fire pans and fire extinguisher demonstration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Council Members Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Member Kathleen Daly             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will food be served, and can it be provided by a local business in North Fair Oaks?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Council Member Everardo Rodriguez</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>No public comment.</p>

**4. Recommendation for an Off-Street Parking Exception (OSPx) to allow one covered parking space where two covered spaces are required, in conjunction with a major remodel and 3rd bedroom addition to an existing single-family residence. 3273 Fair Oaks Avenue**

<p><b>Presented by Camille Leung, Planning and Building Department</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requesting an Off-Street Parking Exception to keep the single-car garage where two (2) covered spaces are required for a proposed three-bedroom house.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Major interior remodel and a 3rd bedroom addition to a nonconforming 956 sq. ft. house.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed project is consistent with the residential land use designation of the parcel and surrounding area.</li> <li>• The Zoning Regulations establishes two-car covered parking as the minimum parking requirement for a residence with two or more bedrooms.</li> </ul> <p>No action taken.</p>
<b>Council Members Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Member Kathleen Daly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There's a single car garage and the owners of the tenants would only have one space to park, so they want to be able to get more parking on the street, correct?</li> <li>○ Not in favor of the project. Parking should be a priority for all and the parking situation in North Fair Oaks needs to be addressed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Vice Chair Blair Whitney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is in favor of the project so long as there's a plan for off street parking due to a high need for housing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Council Member Everardo Rodriguez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Were the residents in the surrounding area notified? Was there any public comment?</li> <li>○ Is the lot narrower in comparison to regular lots?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chair Brooks Esser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is it possible to park a vehicle on the left side of the driveway and have the garage accessible?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

**5. North Fair Oaks Bicycle/Pedestrian Railroad Crossing and Community Connections Study Update**

<b>Presented by Joel Slavitt, Office of Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study's purpose: to identify a preferred location and concept design for a new bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Caltrain tracks with improved connections on local streets.</li> <li>• Goals: Improve access, community integration, minimal construction impacts, equity, and safety.</li> <li>• Actively working with Caltrain to obtain a use variance to determine compatibility with current and future needs of the railroad.</li> <li>• There are three (3) proposed rail crossings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Option A – Dumbarton Tunnel</li> <li>○ Option B – Dumbarton Bridge</li> <li>○ Option C – Middlefield Junction</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A technical evaluation was developed to compare the options using a series of 17 different evaluation criteria.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilized a variety of strategies for the second round of Community Outreach that took place over a 5-week period between mid-March and mid-April. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I.e., Tabling events, community presentations, canvassing, online and paper surveys, postcard mailers, social media, and listservs and newsletters</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Survey results showed that 85% voted for a bridge option as their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice</li> <li>• Common themes in community feedback include safety, maintenance, parking, visibility and accessibility.</li> <li>• Caltrain is performing a bridge constructability review to determine the feasibility of the bridge options. This review determines how this study moves forward.</li> <li>• Draft study will be prepared in early fall and released for public review in November.</li> </ul>
<b>Council Members Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Member Everardo Rodriguez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Where are you in terms of gathering the funding for these projects?</li> <li>○ Is there a possible construction calendar for this project once funding is acquired?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Council Member Blair Whitney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is there a reason why the height for the proposed rail crossings is higher compared to the Woodside overpass?</li> <li>○ It would be great if there was an opportunity to connect both North and South along the crossing with some park land and adjacent trails.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Council Member Kathleen Daly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What do we consider Middlefield junction to be, what is the long-term plan for that to be a destination for better public transportation?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chair Brooks Esser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Why wasn't a crossing considered at either the Dumbarton or Berkshire, and make those into through streets and establish a railroad crossing?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

**6. Report Out**

<p><b>County Executive's Report</b>, presented by Adam Ely, Deputy County Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in meetings with the North County and South County fire and law enforcement regarding fireworks and preparations for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. The County is putting out notices for firework buybacks and the enforcement of the new County ordinance.</li> </ul>
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- San Mateo County celebrated June as Immigrant Heritage Month. The Office of Community Affairs is asking people to share their immigrant stories at a Facebook live panel discussion on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Council Member's Report**, presented by North Fair Oaks Community Council

- Council Member Everardo Rodriguez
  - Continues to participate in the committee that provides advice to the North Fair Oaks Bicycle/Pedestrian Railroad Crossing and Community Connections Study.
  - Is involved in the discussions for the upcoming North Fair Oak Preparedness Day on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Chair Brooks Esser
  - Work on the Healthy Community Mural Project has begun by the mural artist Emily Fromm on the 5<sup>th</sup> Ave underpass.
  - Working with the Office of Community Affairs on a flyer to raise awareness of the North Fair Oaks Community Council.
  - Vacant seats open for three positions, one council member and two youth council members, to apply online visit [www.smcgov.org/bnc/vacancies](http://www.smcgov.org/bnc/vacancies).

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Next Council Meeting:**

Thursday July 27, 2023; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information on future meetings, agendas, minutes, and presentations/presentation materials, please visit: <https://www.smcgov.org/ceo/north-fair-oaks-community-council>