



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

November 20, 2025

7:00pm

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/93656291344> It began at 7:00 PM and Spanish interpretation was available.

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety and shows each agenda item here: [YouTube Video](#)

1. ROLL CALL

Present:

Council members: Chair Prado, Parisi, Whitney, Rodriguez, Vice-chair Saman, and Aponte

Absent:

Esser, Daly, and Orozco

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

In-Person Comments:

Sheriff Kenneth Binder

Comments via Zoom:

0

3. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Council member Brooks Esser/ Second: Council member Rodriguez

Yes: 6 – Chair Prado, Parisi, Whitney, Aponte, Vice-Chair Saman, and Rodriguez

No: 0

Absent: Esser, Daly, and Orozco

Agenda is approved.

4. Motion: Off-Street Parking Exception for PLN2025-00319 at 630 12th Avenue, Menlo Park (in unincorporated area).

Speaker:

Jonathan Bruns, Planning and Building Department

- **What is it?**
 - Helping people improve their financial situation.
 - Economic mobility in Redwood City spans from meeting basic needs to stable employment and housing to wealth building.
 - Focus on helping individuals and families improve their economic circumstances over time.
 - Targeted areas are Redwood City and North Fair Oaks
 - Timeline: 7–10-year plan (ongoing adjustments, continuous community feedback)
- **Key Framework:**
 - Economic Success
 - Being valued in community
 - Power and authority
- **Main Goals:**
 - Reduce money stress, more job training, more affordable housing, and better financial education.
 - Use available resources, explain minimum wage rules, help people find jobs, connect people to support services.
 - Empower community, support small businesses owners, create leadership opportunities.
- **Key Findings:**
 - Many people struggle with basic needs.
 - Limited job opportunities
 - Challenges for immigrant communities
- **Who's Involved?**
 - Local organizations
 - Government agencies
 - Community members
 - Small businesses

Council member questions/comments:

- Is there a way to provide feedback with this specific request?
- Creating an internship program for high school students to provide pipeline opportunities to living wage jobs in the public sector.
- The importance of including diverse community voices in the feedback.
- How would this plan be benefited with different community groups, particularly working class and immigrant groups.

- How would the continuity be maintained between different jurisdictions along El Camino Real.

In-person Public Comments:

None

Public Comments via zoom:

None

Recommendation: That the North Fair Oaks Community Council provide a recommendation to the Director of Planning and Building on the proposed Off-Street Parking Exception to allow for the continued use of a one-car garage where two covered parking spaces are required.

Motion: First: Council member Whitney / Second: Council member Esser

Yes: 6 - Whitney, Vice-chair Saman, Rodriguez, Parisi, Aponte, Chair Prado

No: 0

Absent: Esser, Daly, and Orozco

Motion passes.

5. Presentation: Exploring Potential Community Art Spaces in underutilized spaces within NFO.

Speaker:

Aimee Shapiro, Director of Office of Arts and Culture of County of San Mateo

- **Main idea:**
 - The County is exploring creating a Community Arts Center in North Fair Oaks.
 - Goal: use underutilized space to bring arts and cultural experiences directly to North Fair Oaks.
- **Possible uses of space:**
 - Multi-use arts space, potentially including:
 - Exhibition/gallery space
 - Artist workshops
 - Community arts events
 - Space sharing for community organizations (meetings, workshops, presentations)
- **Core principles:**
 - The community are the experts of their own community
 - Reflect what's missing in NFO now
 - Be accessible and welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds
 - Support local artists and cultural activities that already exist but maybe less visible.
- **Community engagement**

- Plan to hold listening sessions with council members, residents, community organizations, and existing partners as well.
- Focus on youth and young adults
- Prioritizing programming for teens and young adults with workshops, open houses, music contests, and other engaging activities.
- The Economic and Employment Center a potential space for this.

Council member questions/comments:

- Will communities with higher need for pedestrian and transit accommodation be given more consideration in the planning and implementation?
- How will the agency and partners ensure that funding also supports long-term maintenance and not just construction?
- Is there an overall plan to get people out of their cars, considering the regional dependency on cars?
- How will the plan ensure there aren't abrupt transitions in road design, like losing bike lanes or having variable lane numbers, at jurisdiction boundaries?
- What are your plans to ensure bus stops and other new infrastructure are not only built but properly maintained, given current issues with broken bus shelters and lighting?
- How much weight is going to be given to working class communities that rely on walking, biking, and public transit compared to more affluent areas that use cars?

In- person Public Comments:

None

Public Comment via zoom:

None

6. Presentation: Introduction and update on the new Cancer Center from Stanford University.

Speaker:

Lucy Wicks and Christie Ochoa from Stanford Health Government Affairs

- **Project Overview:**
 - Stanford is exploring a new cancer center campus (outpatient clinics, research building, and cancer-specific hospital) on its existing Redwood City campus between Hwy 101 and Bay Road, adjacent to North Fair Oaks.
- **Goals of the Project:**
 - Expand capacity for cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship care, tightly integrate research and clinical care, and work to address health inequities in cancer outcomes.
- **Timeline & Process:**
 - Currently in early concept and outreach phase, aiming to submit planning applications and begin CEQA/EIR environmental review in 2025, with major approvals likely to around 2029-2030 and opening sometime after that.
- **Community Engagement & Key Concerns Raised:**

- Stanford plans repeated open houses, stakeholder meetings, and surveys, council and community emphasized:
- Ensuring local access for North Fair Oaks residents.
- Including community-usable spaces and protecting tree canopy.
- Preventing spillovers.
- Acknowledging and not repeating past displacement harms.

Council member questions/comments:

- Main concern: Local access – worried this “state of the art” cancer center will sit in North Fair Oaks backyard, but residents will not actually be able to use it.
- Are the spaces they’re looking at going to be indoors and outdoors? Are neighbors willing to go in?
- What about the tree canopy? The site has lots of trees and raises concerns about the trees being protected.
- Had feedback about the open house – need to be clearer with communication with the purpose of it.
- Still needs to be an ongoing engagement with North Fair Oaks even though the site is in Redwood City.

In-person public comments:

None

Public comment via zoom:

Gabriela Valencia

7. Presentation: San Mateo Libraries’ Annual Report 2024-2025 and program updates.

Speaker:

Gina Feil, San Mateo County Library Manager

- **New Strategic Plan:**
 - 5-year plan with focus on:
 - Listen
 - Connect
 - Discover
 - Engage
- **New Mission:**
 - “Together we build meaningful connections and inspire lifelong curiosity”
- **North Fair Oaks Library local stats (last fiscal year)**
 - 80,000 + visitors
 - 30,000 items circulated (books/other materials)
 - 5,000 digital downloads (e-books/others)
 - 5,000 Program attendees at local programs
 - Regular outreach off-site
- **Organized field trips with free bus transportation:**
 - Seniors to Filoli
 - Families to California Academy of Sciences and Monterey Bay Aquarium

- Provided free snacks, and on-board bathrooms/TVs.
- Goal: Give families and seniors quality time together and access to regional cultural institutions.
- Gina is interested in being in a larger building soon.

Council member questions/comments:

- Were the circulation numbers (especially digital downloads) up to the prior year?
- Asked if they heard anything of being in a larger building?
- Asked Gina how the staff are dealing with the small library with rooms crowding up and with ongoing unhoused people.
- Strong appreciation for the library's work, programs, and the staff for doing a lot of great work.
- Recognition that the library is over capacity and would benefit from a larger, better-equipped facility.

8. Report Out:

District 4: Joshua Caspillan and Supervisor Gauthier

County Attorney: Brian Petit

Council Members: Parisi, Aponte, Whitney, Vice-chair Saman, Rodriguez, and Chair Prado

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.