



North Fair Oaks Community Council
*A Municipal Advisory Council to the
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

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

Everardo Rodriguez, Chair
Juan Carlos Prado, Vice-Chair
Beatriz Cerrillo
Brooks Esser
Joanie Gillspie
Linda López
Jennifer Ruiz
Blair Whitney

November 19, 2020

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.

Pursuant to the Shelter in Place Orders issued by the San Mateo County Health Officer and the Governor, the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20, and the CDC’s social distancing guidelines which discourage large public gatherings, this meeting was held via videoconference. It began at 7:00 PM and was accessed online at <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/97895126825> or by calling 1 (877) 568-4106 for Spanish.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Everardo Rodriguez, Council Member Beatriz Cerrillo, Council Member Joanie Gillspie, Council Member Blair Whitney, and Council Member Brooks Esser.

Absent: Vice Chair Juan Carlos Prado, Council Member Linda Lopez, and Council Member Jennifer Ruiz.

Staff Present: Justin Mates, Deputy County Manager; Office of Community Affairs: Emma Gonzalez, Mitzy de la Peña Medina, and Sandra Becerra.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Emma Gonzalez, Office of Community Affairs: Acknowledged Mitzy de la Peña Medina’s contributions and support to the NFOCC and wishes her well on her new career path. Ms. Gonzalez also shared a video that features former Youth Council Member Francis Santos and promotes wearing a mask.
- Mitzy de la Peña Medina, Office of Community Affairs: Thanked the NFOCC for demonstrating what it takes to be a public servant and to serve the community.
- Rosario Gonzalez, NFO Resident: Request for the NFOCC to recommend approval of the Fair Oaks Public Library to be part of the San Mateo County Library System, for the library to be named “North Fair Oaks Library,” and additional services to be provided at this location.

AGENDA

3. Presentation: Proposed Changes to Fair Oaks Library Service Agreement Between Redwood City and San Mateo County Libraries

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| <p>Derek Wolfgram, Library Director, Redwood City Public Library</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derek Wolfgram provided update on discussions on the management of the Fair Oaks Library. Also available for questions: SMC Deputy County Manager Justin Mates and Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services. • Redwood City Library and the County of San Mateo have collaborated on providing library services for the North Fair Oaks community for over 40 years. Services have been provided to Redwood City and North Fair Oaks residents alike. • San Mateo County has requested Redwood City’s Public Library to investigate San Mateo library’s joint power authority (JPA) for future management of the library. If this moves forward, city will continue to fund the library, such as operation costs. • The advantage of changing the JPA: Expansion of hours, (i.e. minimum of 60 hours per week instead of 50 hours of service). • Staff changes to continue community programs and activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signature programs: Summer Learning Challenge & Bilingual story times. • Fair Oaks users can continue to request place items hold from Redwood City and other libraries in the Peninsula Library Systems. • Outreach efforts have been made to local schools, neighborhood associations, CARON, Police Activities League, Redwood City 2020, Redwood City Board, Latino Community Council of Redwood City, Familias Unidas, and others to get their feedback on this change. No significant concerns have been raised. The public is excited for expansion and access to the library. |
| <p>Questions from Council Members</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Member Beatriz Cerrillo asked: Since the Fair Oaks Library opened, has it always been a joint partnership? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wolfgram responded: Yes, it has been run by the City with collaboration with the County on funding and community engagement. • Chair Rodriguez asked whether there is a compelling and positive outlook for this change? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mates responded: This topic has been discussed for some time and it presents the opportunity to align services for residents in the unincorporated area with other library services that the JPA offers. The City is open to trying something new. • Mr. Wolfgram added: There has been discussion between individual County Supervisors, City Council Members in Redwood City over the years and the opportunity to move forward with it has presented itself. |

The change is not urgent but as the discussion continues things like the expansion of hours that would be great. Some members of the Board of Supervisors may feel that there is a great alignment between the Library System and the need of the North Fair Oaks community.

- Chair Rodriguez asked: Does the San Mateo Library System currently serve any communities somewhat similar to North Fair Oaks?
 - Ms. Despain responded: The Library System is a joint power authority formed in 1999, we serve 11 cities and is responsible for the unincorporated areas in the County. We do have a couple service agreements primarily Redwood City because of the location. We also have service agreement with Daly City because of the Broadmoor and Colma areas. The JPA was put in place many years ago, therefore, the funding structure is different from our city library partner and that is a resource where we draw most of our revenue from. We serve many communities throughout the County, both incorporated and unincorporated. The closest library is in the East Palo Alto community and Atherton. The largest unincorporated area is the coast and the Half Moon Bay Library is also a partnership between the City and County as well.

- Chair Rodriguez asked: Are there any specific plans in motion for the North Fair Oaks Branch?
 - Ms. Despain responded: We are working on a new agreement approval. We have a library operations committee (advisory group) who advises our board and is comprised of city managers. We also have a governing board (comprised of elected officials) and they approved pursuing a new agreement.

- Council Member Whitney commented that he supports the transition and is interested in the delivery books to seniors and providing the best services to all.
 - Mr. Wolfgram added: San Mateo County and Redwood City are aligned in terms of the resources and believes the collaboration can continue to provide services.

- Chair Rodriguez asked: How would you ensure that there is representation and easy communication with the community of North Fair Oaks?
 - Ms. Despain responded that she is available to answer questions. Branch managers attends community council meetings and listen to the public. We conduct surveys from our patrons. It's our job to serve the community and will be happy to continue attending this meeting the

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| | <p>provide updates and input. All libraries work together through the consortium to alleviate any barriers providing library cards to all students.</p> |
| Public Comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabriela Valencia shared that she is concerned about moving the management of the library as this might create a distance between management and residents. Mr. Wolfgram makes an effort to understand the community's needs. I am concerned that the representation is lacking for decision making. If this change is made, I would like for the North Fair Oaks Council to request that members directly impacted can serve on the committee and be part of the decision making. • Ms. Eulate shared that she agrees with Mrs. Valencia's comment. She is concerned about the representation when it comes to decision making and hopes that members of the community are part of the decision. It sounds like the county budget is very robust, I'm worried of the budget cuts. Which libraries would be cut? We have been underrepresented in North Fair Oaks and that's why I am making a comment about having a community member in the decision-making process. |

4. Presentation: Youth Related Crime Rates in NFO

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| Presented Captain Christina Corpus, San Mateo County Sherriff's Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sheriff's Office is committed to addressing juvenile crimes as proactively and effective as possible. • Crimes Involving Juveniles trends: January 1, 2016- October 31, 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016: 8 different types of crimes that involved juveniles. • 2017: 16 cases • 2018: 26 cases • 2019: 31 cases • 2020: 15 cases. This decrease could be linked to the Sheriff's Office proactive measures and programs or it could also be linked to the pandemic. • From 2016 to 2020, assault and battery cases remain the same but a slight decrease in 2019. • Burglary and larceny crimes: 1 case per year, low rate. • Alcohol and opioid crimes: 1 case since 2016, low rate. • The Sheriff's Office has programs to reduce vandalism crimes, diversion programs, and works with school administrators and probation department to keep cases low. • Truancy crimes: Sherriff's office wants to provide more diversion programs instead of incarcerating youth. • Diversion Programs: Free tattoo gang removal, Crises Interventional (i.e. Pert program for suicidal, depression cases), Community Alliance to |
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| | <p>Revitalized Our Neighborhood program (CARON) and Sherriff's Activity League Program.</p> |
| <p>Questions from Council Members</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Member Cerrillo asked: Do you have a group of professional counselors, for intervention scenarios? • Captain Corpus response: We use our Pert Program to referred individuals to agencies in San Mateo County. We use our in-house services through art therapy have and worked with the Silicon Valley Harvest Food Bank to provide families with food services through the pandemic. • Council Member Blair Whitney: I would like to applaud the Sherriff's office for the work they are doing. For reaching out and focusing on the mental health in the Latino community. I like the coordination in county health and other services. I would encourage the sheriff's deputies to cross train like the master's in social work and get extra pay for intervention team. • Captain Corpus response: Sherriff's are trained in crisis intervention to de-escalate crisis situations. • Council Member Brooks Esser: What is the recidivism rate? • Captain Corpus response: The rate is low unless it's an addiction problem and we see that in crimes of larceny. We have seen those who are not able to participate in our programs who end up incarcerated and over 18. Programs and support services are available to help them while in custody. Maple Street Correctional Center that will provide them to educational and other services and after as well • Chair Everardo Rodriguez: What types of cases have you seen more of during the pandemic, is domestic violence one of the highest? • Captain Corpus response: There are different types of domestic violence cases and we try to educate our kids to identify red flags. We have seen more depression cases and more participation in our programs because kids want to leave their home situation. • Chair Everardo Rodriguez: When you compare North Fair Oaks to other places that are similar, how do we rate? • Response: 17 to 18 years old are the same, North Fair Oaks kids are great, we have a small rate of gangs, which is why we provide programs and encourage higher education, college. We also have alumni that return to motive the younger generation to strive. |
| <p>Public Comment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None |

5. Presentation: Middlefield Road Project Update & Outreach

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| <p>Presentation by Ann Stillman, Deputy Director for Public Works and Jose Moreno, Business Liaison for the Office of Community Affairs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Limits and Key Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadway Improvements on Pacific Ave & 5th Ave. • Utility Undergrounding: MacArthur Ave to 5th Ave. • Sanitary Sewer Replacement: Douglas Ave to 6th Ave. • General layout and elements: new lanes, widened sidewalks, street lights, buffered bike lanes, visibility crosswalks, rectangular rapid flash beacon, traffic signals, street trees, bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, underground the overhead utilities, green infrastructure/ storm water treatment features. • Traffic signals and Clinic/ Redwood junction driveway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 new traffic lights, signals interconnecting the railroad crossing equipment, new railroad equipment at clinic/redwood junction driveway. • Modifications near railroad crossing: one-way road from Stanford Ave. to Middlefield Rd. and right turn exit only • Update construction bid and award schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project advertised for bid: The Board adopted the bid on October 23, 2020 • Anticipated bid opening: December 15, 2020 • Anticipated award contract: January or February 2021. • Project cost estimate: \$28.9 million <p>Presentation by Jose Moreno, Business Liaison for the Office of Community Affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify disruption and inconveniences, minimize frustration • Build community support, avoid misinformation, build trust with community • Serve as a bridge between construction and business owners and address any concerns. • Strategies: Provide information in English and Spanish and communicate accordingly; Keep all stakeholders informed; Provide a mechanism for complaints and be accessible to bring up concerns. • Key Audiences: Residents, businesses, employees, workers near construction activities, organizations who might be impacted by constructions. • Community Outreach: Refer to the Middlefield Road Improvement Project website (DPW); Middlefield Road project hotline (for those who do not have access to a computer); Text Application, to help reach business and keep updated; Signage, to keep site safe and informed; Continue presenting at the North Fair Oaks Council to keep members informed and for help to reaching the rest of the residents; Social Media updates. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing door hangers, flyers, poster, projects signs, banners to help shoppers reach businesses. • Updating DPW website. • Tentative Project Schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2021- DPW Contract Award • February/March 2021- Update Construction Project timeline. • February-April 2021-Anticipate start of construction (approximately 1.5 years duration) • Spring 2021- Announce Project Timeline to NFO Residents/Businesses. • Spring 2021- Locate and announce site for community questions/concerns. |
| <p>Questions from Council Members</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Member Brooks Esser asked: In 2013, the Board authorized 12-13 million dollars using Measure K funds, you mentioned the engineer’s project estimate is currently is \$28.9 million. I just want to confirm that the Board is aware of that and we are not waiting for bids to come in at that price or something perhaps or higher, and that the Board is not going to be surprised by that higher cost. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Stillman responded: Yes, that is something we have discussed with the County Manager’s Office. They are aware, we will just have to see how the bids to come in. Part of the number I provided includes \$5.5 million for undergrounding work (road work, trees). • Council Member Brooks Esser asked: In terms of outreach, is there design choices available to the business and contractors, to inform them about the details and preference of where trees, outdoor seating will be available? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Stillman responded: That information was nailed down on the plan specs; the plans clearly explain the layout (door openings, driveways). Modifications could be done if needed. • Council Member Blair Whitney commented: I’m concerned because a lot of small businesses could go under due COVID and construction, my suggestion is to put a “coming soon” billboard sign with information on the project. • Chair Everardo Rodriguez requested offering curbside pick-up spaces made available to the business. • Chair Everardo Rodriguez asked: What side is the construction supposed to be started on, Pacific side or 5th Ave? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Stillman responded: It is staged to start on the 5th Ave. side and work its way north. Per contractor we would have two blocks on one side to work at a time. However, contractors might suggest tackling the project differently. |

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| Public Comments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Eulate asked: Are there any plans to have public art along Middlefield Road? If yes, how is the public going to be involved in the decision making? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Stillman responded: There are project elements that were recommended and approved by the Board of Supervisors. One of the spaces to have a different type of bench is at the corner of second and Middlefield. But additional artwork that is not included in our particular project. The look and feel development helped us selected items based on community input. • Gabriela Valencia: I would like to ask for clarification, it was mentioned that there would be a divider in the middle of the street where they wouldn't be able to make a turn, is that where the clinic is? I would also like ask the council to establish a maintenance plan. The trees that were planted 10 years ago and streets look run down because there is no regular cleaning schedule. We need to have a maintenance schedule since the county is putting so much money and small business are making a huge sacrifice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Stillman replied: The median is placed on the north side of the railroad tracks. It does not prevent or deter any turns into the clinic or Redwood junction. The driveway at the clinic will have a traffic signal. Regarding maintenance, it is an important piece to maintain a green infrastructure. County Manager was very instrumental in ensuring that lights, trees, and sidewalks are kept clean. |
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6. Presentation: Planning & Building Department Compliance

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| Presentation by Lisa Aozasa, Deputy Director, Planning and Building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning and Building Department serves the County and its communities through the preparation and administration of land use plans and regulations and by ensuring development proposals conform with applicable zoning and building requirements. • Planning and Building Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning: figuring out where use lands use should be located. Conflicts are minimized. • Building: ensuring new construction is adopted building codes. (i.e. safe buildings) • Code compliance: properties are maintained safe and in clean conditions • Technical/Admin. Support • Planning Program Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New projects under review/construction (i.e. Fair Oaks Commons) • ADUs • Building Program Focus: |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing electronic online permits • Inspections limited in-person contact, inspections are being conducted by ipad, phones. • Code Compliance Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting Sr. Code compliance and 2 compliance offers designated to North Fair Oaks • Code Compliance Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing hazards • Grading/tree removal/property and environmental destruction • Nuisances/ dumping • Code Compliance Cases in NFO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently short staffed in code compliance • 115 open violation cases • 36 new complaints in 2020 • 32 cases closed in 2020 • 85-90% buildings without permits • 10-15% junk/trash/dumping |
| Public Comments | None |

7. Report out

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| <p>a. Supervisor's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madahi Cornejo, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Slocum: The Department of Public Works has installed two hand sanitizer stations at 5th Ave and Middlefield Rd. and at two County parking lots <p>b. County Manager's Report: None</p> <p>c. Council Member's Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Member Brooks Esser shared that the Neighborhood Response Team meeting has a Cal water project for water mains, connections to homes and fire hydrants. The street work is not done yet. • Micro surfacing will be done on 5th Ave. next year, and this will be managed by MTC. A bike lane will be added. • Home Key grants: State funding project to purchase interim housing: Two locations have been purchased to create affordable senior housing and a homeless shelter. • Chair Everardo Rodriguez shared: Trees were donated by Canopy to North Fair Oaks residents. Residents receive an incentive if a tree is planted in their homes. <p>d. Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm |
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