



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

May 25, 2023

7:00 pm

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/92345551991>. It began at 7:00 PM and Spanish interpretation was available.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Blair Whitney, Juan Carlos Prado, George Saman, Chair Brooks Esser

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

2. Public Comment

Mariela Peralta- Owner of Cuco’s Burrito states her business has not been successful due to the prolonged construction on Middlefield Rd. The construction has made visiting her business inaccessible and less attractive due to the construction taking up a huge section of Middlefield Rd. Although the improvements on Middlefield Rd may be beautiful at the end of the project, the owner fears many businesses will not survive to see the benefits of the road improvement. Mariela has spoken to neighboring businesses who have also stated being negatively impacted by the construction, including a business that has been open for over 30 years. Mariela has had to reduce her business hours of operation, has cut back hours from her employees, and has had to cover shifts to keep her business open. Asking the council if they could consider offering any kind of support to the small businesses.

AGENDA

3. Update on the San Mateo County Firework Ordinance

Presentation by Acting Captain, Mark Myers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Guardian is a voluntary program where individuals, families, and caregivers could register with the Sheriff’s Office those who are vulnerable, at risk, or those with special needs. Participants may register online and will receive stickers to place on their residences or cars.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fireworks are illegal in San Mateo County. • New County Ordinance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Imposes spectator liability ○ Clarifies parent/guardian’s liability regarding minor’s violation of ordinance ○ Makes violators responsible for County response costs with first violation ○ Provides for increased penalties where violation is close to certain businesses/facilities ○ Provides for increased penalties for related alcohol consumption/underage drinking ○ Clarifies judicial review procedure • Working with RWCPD and RWCFD on a joint community response to help enforce the County Ordinance as well as the Health and Safety Code Violations. • Supervisor Slocum granted \$6,000 to the Sheriff’s Department to initiate a Firework Buyback Program. This program would give cash in exchange for buying back fireworks. A community engagement barbeque will be planned for 2 weeks before the Fourth of July to host this program. • Statistics from 2021 to 2022 report a decrease in the number of firework related calls for North Fair Oaks as well as a decrease in gunfire reports. • License Plate Reader cameras have been installed in North Fair Oaks as a testing basis. Sheriff’s Department partnered with FLOCK to provide the public with an accessible database portal. 20 new cameras will be installed with Raven Technology systems in North Fair Oaks to detect location of gunshots and stolen vehicle locations. • Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) is a partnership with the Sheriff’s Office and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services that reviews mental health cases. In 2022, there were 79 referrals to PERT in North Fair Oaks.
Council Members Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Member Juan Carlos Prado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a new increase to the fine amount from last year? • Chair Brooks Esser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the age limit for the fines? ○ Provide an update report after the 4th of July • Vice Chair Blair Whitney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An increase in the fine amount could be devastating for some people, an option could be to assign a class or an educational alternative.
Public Comment	No public comment.

4. Status updates on the North Fair Oaks Community Plan Outreach

Presented by Good City Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluate the progress made towards implementing the North Fair Oaks Community Plan
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommend implementation actions that address the highest priorities of North Fair Oaks residents and businesses ○ Include performance measurements and dashboards to gauge future progress ● Outreach Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss the community plan with residents ○ Discuss examples of completed or ongoing projects from the Plan ○ Provide opportunities for feedback to help prioritize the Plan’s remaining work ● Outreach Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Combine outreach events ○ Meet people directly where they already are ○ Acknowledge the previous significant public engagement in NFO ○ Multilingual with a focus on Spanish speakers ○ Outreach strategies surveys, postcard mailings and website
Council Members Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vice Chair Blair Whitney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will the Community Plan be updated chapter by chapter including all sections? ○ NFO is deficit in community parks, parking, and continues to hold a digital divide. Free accessible Wi-Fi would be a huge benefit to the community. ○ Previously council members used to table at outreach events related to the NFO Community Plan, council members should again support with the outreach efforts. ○ Outreach strategies for survey collection should include in-person canvassing around the community. For example, visiting the trailer parks. ● Council Member George Saman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a rough estimate when the data for outreach will be completed and collected by? ● Chair Brooks Esser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does the survey include a question about public Wi-Fi? Is there a target goal for the survey collection? ○ Are there calendar dates for the outreach events? ○ Could OCA develop a flyer with an overview of NFOCC that could also be shared during the Good City outreach events? ○ Will there be a Spanish speaking representative at each outreach event? ● Council Member Juan Carlos Prado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is the survey in Spanish? Public Wi-Fi will be installed along the Middlefield Rd corridor.
Public Comment	No public comment.

5. Update on SB 411

<p>Presented by Lead Deputy County Attorney, Tim Fox</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brown Act Open Meeting Law in which the North Fair Oaks Community Council complies with to allow public participation and transparency has long included a provision for teleconferencing. • During the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor implemented a series of executive orders that allowed agencies to meet remotely under modified teleconference rules and not require to post an agenda at a remote location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AB361 Resolution extended the executive order to allow hybrid participation during the continued state of emergency. When the state of emergency was lifted in February 2023, AB361 was no longer an option. • Legislature adopted AB2449 for agency hybrid participation with the following requirements and circumstances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Childcare need or need to care for a dependent adult at home ○ Travel for agency’s own business or if traveling through working for other public agencies business ○ Contagious illness ○ Provision for accommodation of disability with a limited frequency ○ Physical or family medical emergencies • Pending Bill SB 411 introduced by Senator Portantino which would allow a local agency to make a finding that remote participation by members was to greater benefit of the public than requiring in-person attendance. In April, this bill was amended to apply only to neighborhood councils within charter cities with a population greater than 3 million.
<p>Council Members Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair Blair Whitney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hybrid public participation is beneficial to the community, increases ability to reach the community that may work or have family obligations.
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>No public comment.</p>

6. Report Out

<p>County Executive’s Report, presented by Adam Ely, Deputy County Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the Healthy Community Mural Project has begun by the mural artist Emily Fromm on the 5th Ave underpass • The Middlefield Road Improvement Project achieved to complete the west side of Middlefield Road from Douglas to 5th Ave • The first 100 residents have moved into the new Navigation Center that opened on May 8th, and the next 150-170 residents will begin moving in soon. Entry into the Navigation Center comes through the coordinated entry system, residents register before moving in.
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Council Member's Report, presented by North Fair Oaks Community Council

- Vice Chair Blair Whitney
 - The NFO Bike/Pedestrian Railroad Crossing & Community Connections Study has three options for community members to vote from.
 - Sr. Christina from the St. Francis Center will be departing her role as Executive Director. With private donations the St. Francis Center was able to create more affordable housing than all the public programs combined. It is important the council recognizes Sr. Christina's impact in the community and aim to recreate her efforts.
- Council Member Juan Carlos Prado
 - Outreach to be conducted for the two youth vacancies.
- Chair Brooks Esser
 - Vacant seats open for three positions, one council member and two youth council members, to apply online visit www.smcgov.org/bnc/vacancies.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Council Meeting:

Thursday June 22, 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>