



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
Juan Carlos Prado
Niket Sirsi
Kathleen Daly
George Saman
Kelly Parisi
Mariela Peralta

February 22, 2024

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/94123545878>. It began at 7:00 PM and Spanish interpretation was available.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmember Brooks, Councilmember Blair Whitney, Councilmember Ever Rodriguez, Councilmember Niket Sirsi, Chair Kathleen Daly, Vice-chair George Saman, Councilmember Mariela Peralta, and Councilmember Kelly Parisi.

Staff Present: Timothy Fox, Community Affairs Office, Kenny Chu, Liset Gutierrez-Barraza, and Bo Unga

2. Public Comment

Kent Manske – Representing the Center for Creativity - a vision for a dedicated Art Center in San Mateo County. For the last 3 years he has kept the council informed with the activities and vision and the steering committee. There are two public upcoming events where the public will have the opportunity to learn about the feasibility study, the vision for an art center. And give us their input of what they'd like to see in an art center.

Margi Power – She is co-president and co-founder of Leadership Council San Mateo County. Notifying the council about her organization – which is a cross-sector countywide leadership professional non-profit. Their goal is to connect, inspire, and transform the County by connecting senior level leaders and emerging leaders from all three sectors for a two 10-month program, one day a month. She's encouraging the council to spread the word and to participate. They're pushing for diversity as well.

Keith Miller – He's an operations director for small non-profit in North Fair Oaks called, Generations United. Founded 20 years ago by his wife, Angie. Their organization serves the economically disadvantage through various programs. His concerns are one of this business lots, and seven other lots have been taken over by a contractor and will now be a part of Stanford. This causes issues because it will interfere with the people they serve in their non-profit.

AGENDA

3. North Fair Oaks Council Election. (Chair and Vice Chair)

<p>Led by North Fair Oaks Community Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for nominations, and election of North Fair Oaks Community Council Chair <p>Motion to elect Kathleen Daly as Chair of the North Fair Oaks Community Council. Nominated by Council Member Brooks Esser.</p> <p>Verbal roll call was taken: Yes: Esser, Saman, Peralta, Rodriguez (4) No: Parisi, Sirsi, Whitney (3) Abstain: 0 Absent: Prado (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for nominations, and election of North Fair Oaks Community Council Vice-Chair <p>Motion to elect George Saman as Vice-Chair of the North Fair Oaks Community Council. Nominated by Council Member Blair Whitney.</p> <p>Verbal roll call was taken: Yes: Esser, Daly, Rodriguez, Parisi, Peralta, Sirsi, Whitney (7) No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Prado (1)</p>
<p>Council Members Comments</p>	<p>No comments.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>No comment.</p>

4. North Fair Oaks Rail Crossing and Community Connection Study.

<p>Presentation by Joel Slavit, <i>Senior Sustainability Specialist from Office of Sustainability</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the study purpose? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build on prior County plans exploring the feasibility for a new bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Caltrain tracks with safety and access improvements in the adjacent neighborhoods. - To also recap of the past presentations but also to update on what we've learned since last June and to follow up on what we've learned.
<p>Council Members Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair Kathleen Daly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the purpose of 'council report out' – what are we reporting?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When is the best time to request an agenda item to make it on the agenda? ○ Is there a way to alert the entire council about something like an event – can we email that out or? ○ Council member Blair Whitney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a way to put something on the agenda, that may not be of interest to all the council members– with backing it up with facts to get the ball rolling. ○ Council member Brooks Esser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the likelihood of legislation that allows remote meetings in the future?
Public Comment	No public comment

5. Canopy Tree Program.

<p>Presentation by Maya Briones, <i>Advocacy Associate</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Canopy’s Mission? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our mission is to grow urban tree canopy in the Midpeninsula for the benefit of all. ● There are 3 interconnected programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trees ○ Education ○ Advocacy ● Trees Planted Update – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 107 Trees planted since 2020 ○ 33 trees across Hoover campus ○ 24 across Taft campus ○ 50 private trees across NFO ● Funding and next steps with NFO – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Previous tree planting funding (Cal fire) ended in 2023. ○ Currently applying for new funding sources to continue to plant trees that is more flexible with species selection. (Measure K) ○ We have secured funding for education programs, such as workforce development, promotor. ● Tree care - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If you have a tree planted by Canopy in your yard, Canopy offers the following for 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pruning and sucker removal - Root check-ups - Mulching - Stake adjustments and removals - Disease and pest assessments ○ You will start receiving texts from Canopy offering tree care
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visits in the coming months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call or text Aubrey (Tree Care Coordinator) 650-204-1369 for tree needs. ● Advocacy: The advocacy committee is looking for a representative from NFO (Spanish speakers welcome) ● Advocacy resources – one page for residents (Spanish and English) and one pager for policy makers. ● The Takeaway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Desire for prioritization of trees in public and maintenance to ensure they don't damage infrastructure in the future. ○ Many residents were interested in accepting trees, but renting or living in an apartment discourages them.
<p>Council Members Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council member Kelly Parisi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you for all that you do and for the great work your organization does. And it's wonderful that your organization is trying to plant trees but the part of the erosion of canopy is developers tearing down existing trees, especially with the new state housing laws. I think the issue is bigger than this council and the Board of Supervisors – Your adding trees but how do we prevent them from getting to that point. ○ Council member Niket Sirsi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you for your work you're doing. Are there plans to start working on people who have shown no interest in trees, but maybe promoting the benefits of having a tree in the area to help change their minds? ○ Given that people are interested in trees, but they maybe stay in apartments – do you have a program or outreach plan where you especially communicate to landlords or other facilities to tell them why its beneficial to have trees on their property? ○ Talking to the landlords directly instead of bringing in the residents would probably be the best way to go about it. ○ I'm all for planting trees, but one issue that we've run into given that it's unincorporated – anytime we plant trees in public space, there's an insurance mess with the County. Have you guys made any progress on that? ○ Council member Ever Rodriguez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I know you mentioned the CalFire grant has ran out already, but if someone from North Fair Oaks wanted to get a tree from canopy, can they still ask for it? ○ Council member Blair Whitney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We used to table at events – out of all the flyers we had, Canopy was one of the main one's people wanted to talk to us about. They didn't care for other things, but a tree they cared about. People were interested and was signing up for that.

Public Comment	No public comment
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6. Report Out

- County Executive’s Report
 - No report out.
 - Supervisors Report, presented by Connie Franco, Legislative Aide
 - Looking for those who are interested in the Independent Civilian Advisory Commission, this is the last call to fill out the application.
 - The newsletter for the month of February has been published and shared so everyone can check it out.
 - If you or anyone you know has social media, follow us so you can get the latest updates.
- Council Member’s Report, presented by North Fair Oaks Community Council
- Council member Blair Whitney
 - No report out
 - Council member Everardo Rodriguez
 - Attended a community meeting for emergency preparedness at the Pal center. Menlo Park fire station provided emergency kits to those there in attendance. Event turned out to be held in Spanish more than English. It was a good event to prepare people and teach them about emergency preparedness.
 - Council member Niket Sirsi
 - Really enjoying Middlefield Road and driving through there has been better now It also seems like people walking are enjoying it more.
 - Vice Chair George Saman
 - No report out
 - Council member Kelly Parisi
 - No report out
 - Council member Mariela Peralta
 - Middlefield road is looking beautiful, and people can get through Middlefield faster. My only concern is the cars parking in the middle lane and the turn lane, this makes it very dangerous for pedestrians. It would be great to study that and work to see if there’s anything we can do about it. This week I did notice the sheriff’s office patrolling and hopefully this can continue.
 - Council member Brooks Esser

- It's been a privilege and pleasure to lead this council in the last three years. Overall, we have accomplished a lot of work and I am looking forward to what we will do this coming year. We will be having a planning session, "Good City" will be presented. We will be able to discuss areas of improvement and see what we can work on.
- Chair Kathleen Daly
 - I know I have a big role ahead of me and I am looking forward to it. George and I will be doing this together. This is a very important year for North Fair Oaks. Very grateful to be working with a group who cares deeply for the North Fair Oaks community. Excited for North Fair Oaks this year 2024 and for the new role I have.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next Council Meeting:
Thursday March 21, 2024; 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>