

Natomas Community Association
Executive Board Minutes
February 20, 2019
South Natomas Community Center
2921 Truxel Rd, Sacramento, CA 95833
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

1. Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

2. Attendance:

Executive Board Members: Janae Grant, Ericka Harden, Leslie Taylor, and Lizzie Edmondson

Public Officials and Organization Representatives:

Councilman Harris's Representative: Jocelyn Navarro, South Natomas Library: Erica Naranjo, Sacramento Parks and Recreation: David Guerrero

Public Attendees: Heather Fargo, Elton Seagraves, Tony Chand, Nikki Chand, Sharon Jennings, Sandee Smith, Annette Emery, Cynthia Connell, Lisa Weaver, Sonke Mastrap, Kathryn Granolini, Dan Aderholt, Stella Chambers, Sachiko Konalisi, Terrell Grant, Anisa Abib, Marbella Sala, and Julius Lamas

3. Agenda Change

The Sacramento Police Department is running late on calls so we will change the agenda topics to accommodate this. If they are able to attend there will be 15-minutes allotted for their discussion and questions for the police department. The agenda will be changed to the following:

- I. Public Official Update (Councilman Harris' Update, Parks, and South Natomas Library)
- II. NCA Elections
- III. Northgate Action Plan Discussion (Heather Fargo)
- IV. Public Comment

4. District 3 Councilman Harris' Update - Jocelyn Navarro

Upcoming Events:

- Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) Board of Directors Meeting - 2/25 – 5:30 PM at the SacRT Auditorium (1400 29th St, Sacramento) The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) has posted updates to the proposal for the SacRT Forward project, which is a complete redesign of the SacRT bus network.

A draft plan was released for public review on December 10, 2018. Since then, major outreach efforts took place to let riders and stakeholders know about the proposed plan. Since December 10, SacRT has received more than 400 comments from the public. Staff has participated in more than 70 community, neighborhood association and stakeholders' meetings and has ridden almost every bus route in the system to hand out information to customers and bus operators. Based on comments that have been received, staff has spent the past two months making adjustments to the plan. The updated SacRT Forward plan is now available on the project web page:

SacRT.com/SacRTForward.

The SacRT Forward project web page has updated maps and a summary of all the proposed route changes. A new video is available on the web page, detailing all of the changes, route by route presented by SacRT Planning staff. Adjustments have been made to almost every route, some minor and some much more substantial. Some of the routes with the most significant changes from what was originally proposed include Routes 19, 23, 25, 26, 30, 33, 38, 56, 61, 62, 67, and 68. The next major milestone in the project will be Monday, February 25, 2019, when staff will present the revised plan to the SacRT Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meeting for potential approval.

- Taco Wednesday with Sacramento Police Department and Councilman Jeff Harris – February 27, 2019 6:30-8:00 PM at 524 Mexican Restaurant 3830 Northgate Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95834.
- East Lawn Children’s Grand Re-Opening – March 9, 2019 at 9:00 AM 1510 42nd Street, Sacramento, CA 95819.
- Behind the Badge Workshop Series – First Thursday of Each Month, Next meeting March 7th. Meetings take place at the Natomas High School Multi-Purpose Room (3301 Fong Ranch Rd Sacramento, CA 95834. This workshop is for young woman (13+) to meet and talk with female police officers and to learn about the police department. Food will be provided.
- Pops in the Park Vender and Booth Application – If you are interested in having a booth or being a vender for the 2019 Pops in the Parks events you need to complete a form by May 1st, 2019. The online form is available online at: <https://giftstoshareinc.ejoinme.org/donate> and select “Pops in the Park”

Traffic Updates:

- Garden Highway Slurry Project – Will commence in April 2019 and closures will start west of Northgate Blvd. Northgate will remain open for the duration of the work. The construction will move West towards Truxel. Closures will occur on Garden Highway starting mid-April and will run through the entire year.
- Garden Highway and I-5 interchange may have closures in the upcoming months because crews will replace an underground pipe that runs under the road. Councilman Harris’ office is working with Safeco and the Army Corps of Engineers to create a communication strategy. They will be working with a consultant in the near future to create communication materials and a timeline. Councilman Harris’ office will continue to send updates about this construction to the Natomas Community Association via email and at future meetings.

Garden Highway Homeless Encampments:

- A number of community members have asked Jeff Harris to the homeless encampments along Garden Highway be moved.
- The city is unable to move homeless camps. Over the summer a new Federal Law was passed based on a case from Idaho that states that police cannot relocate homeless people from the encampments in public spaces unless they have a shelter bed available for immediate stay. If there is no shelter bed available, the only way that the police can relocate a homeless person or pan handler is if they are endangering the public in some way. Homeless encampments can only be on public property and must follow the city laws. For example, they are not allowed to be in city parks that are closed past sunset.

- While the encampments cannot be moved, the public can and should still call their councilman with concerns about the trash and ask that the Board of Supervisors be notified that conditions are unsanitary and that they need to clean up the area along Garden Highway.

Issues with Code Enforcement:

- In October 2018 Ericka Harden and Sandee Smith worked with Sacramento Police Department to conduct a code enforcement day in South Natomas. To prepare for this day Ericka and Sandee canvassed the area and created a master list of more than 700 code enforcement violations in the area West of Truxel, North of El Camino and South of San Juan. Sacramento PD participated in the code enforcement day by citing violations and towing some abandoned vehicles. However, since then Sacramento Police Department has not continued with the work and have not been responsive.
- Ericka Harden resent the code enforcement list to Jocelyn at Councilman Harris' office and she is working with Jorge Hernandez.
- Ericka Harden and Sandee Smith are advocating to have one person dedicated to the Natomas area to deal with code enforcement issues.
- In comparison to other code enforcement days and ongoing efforts in other areas in Sacramento Natomas has not received the same attention. Del Paso Heights has had successful code enforcement days and Sacramento Police Department have continued their enforcement efforts.

5. Parks and Recreation Update: David Guerrero Director:

- March 9th at 9:00 AM – Parade for the Natomas Girls Softball League and Natomas Youth Baseball parade. This event is cosponsored by Jeff Harris' office. The parade is to celebrate the community. The parade route will begin at the Smyth Academy of Arts go down Northgate Blvd and will end at Rio Tierra Jr. High. At the end of the parade there will be food trucks, vendors, and activities for families.
- April 27, 2019 – Natomas School Foundation 5K Family Run – 8:30 AM race start time. This run has been rescheduled from this October to April 27, 2019. The course starts at Inderkum High School and will loop around the North Natomas Regional and duck pond before finishing at Inderkum High School. Proceeds will be used by the Natomas Schools Foundation for college scholarships or computer grants to help students within Natomas Unified School District boundaries. The NSF is a nonprofit group, run by volunteers and committed solely to the purpose of generating funds to advance students' education.

There will be vendors, raffles, food, and entertainment for all ages. The race will start at 8:30 AM for individuals that have a pace time of 10-minute mile or faster and individuals that have a slower pace time will start at 8:33 AM. The awards ceremony will begin at 9:30 am or when the last participant crosses the finish line. Race Day Packet Pick-Up and Registration: To be announced. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact: Monty Maxwell at (916) 769-2383. You can find more information on their website at: <https://www.natomasschoolsfoundation.org/natomas-5k/>

6. South Natomas Library Updates - Erica Naranjo

Teen Programs:

- In the past, teens have given feedback that they do not want to come to the South Natomas Library so the library has been working with teens to create programs and a more welcoming space for teen youth. They have marked off a space for teens and have dedicated some computers for teen use. They have also started Teen Fridays where teens get to use special equipment, like the magic light table/projector.

Prom Drive:

- You can donate your formal ware to any library for Prom Drive. Donations are accepted from February 28th-March 31st.
- Teens ages 13-19 can shop on designated giveaway dates. The giveaway dates will be announced soon. Please visit: <https://www.saclibrary.org/Events-Programs/Special-Events/Prom-Drive>

Library Bingo:

- This event is for adults and is being held in collaboration with the Library Association. Library Bingo for adults in conjunction with Library Association. They will be giving away prizes for people who win. No pre-registration required, just show up and grab a bingo card.

Bilingual Storytime:

- Held Wednesday mornings at 11:00 AM in the community center room. Books are read in Spanish and English. This program started in mid-January and has been very popular. In recent weeks there have been about 30 families in attendance, many of which are native Spanish speaking individuals. The library is closed during this time, so individuals need to go to the side entrance.

Music, Movement, and Storytime:

- This is a new program on Thursdays at 10:30 in lieu of pre-school story time. This new class will be offered through June. The teacher is a visiting librarian from the Citrus Heights library which is currently closed. This class is designed for all ages and levels. The teacher has an adult son with Autism and has designed the class in a way that can also benefit children with sensory issues.

7. Elections:

Openings:

At this meeting we will be electing new members of the board and officers. There are currently eight openings. In a "normal" year only half of the board would be up for election, but due to resignations, and seats that were never filled more individuals will be elected. Lizzie Edmondson will be staying on as a board member and will be serving one more year in her term. She currently acts as the secretary.

Officer Position Overviews:

President: The president is responsible for the overall management of association activities. A large portion of this role is being in the public by attending local and city meetings, talking to public officials on behalf of the community, and participating in local events like POPS in the park and the opening of the South Natomas Fire Station.

Vice President: The Vice President is primarily responsible for the internal organization of the

association. He/she manages the development and execution of the annual strategic plan. The vice president will also help mentor and aid in the development of new board members. Finally, the Vice President fills in for the President in his/her absence.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the finances of the association. Over the next year the association may want to become a 501 C3 so it can more easily accept financial donations. This has been in discussion for years and the association's non-for-profit status has been a hurdle to individuals and companies giving donations because they cannot get a tax deduction.

Election Process

- Prior to accepting nominations, the election and voting process needs to be agreed to. There are two ways to proceed:
 1. Meeting attendees nominate people for specific officer positions first and then nominations and votes will be taken for the five non-officer board seats. This is the way that previous elections for the past five or six years have been ran even though it is not specifically in the bylaws.
 2. Meeting attendees nominate individuals to serve on the board and then the newly elected board votes board members to serve as officers as stated in the bylaws.
- Ericka Harden advocates to proceed with having attendees vote specific individuals into officer positions because it is important for the public to nominate who will serve as their officers.
- Heather Fargo voiced that her preferred method is #2 because that is what is written in the bylaws.
- Ericka Harden asked attendees if anyone objected with proceeding with the voting process listed as #1 above and nobody stated any objections.

Officer Nominations:

President:

- Ericka Harden was nominated from the floor and she accepted the nomination.
- Sharon Jennings nominated herself for the position and Dan Aderholt seconded her nomination.

Vice President:

- Ericka Harden nominated Heather Fargo, but Heather Fargo did not accept the nomination.
- Nicki Chand nominated herself from the floor and individuals seconded the nomination.
- Leslie Taylor was nominated and the nomination was seconded.

Treasurer:

- Ericka Harden nominated Sandy Smith and Sandy accepted the nomination.

Candidate Statements:

Individuals were asked to tell attendees a little bit about themselves and why they would like to run for that particular position. The following are summaries of the statements made by candidates:

- Ericka Harden is the current President of the Natomas Community Association. She has lived in Natomas for more than 20 years. As the President she has advocated for the Natomas community with public officials. There have been a lot of advancements with the association since she took over; however, she is aware that some of them may not be visible to the public because they haven't talked about their successes. If she is elected again, she would like to continue many of the board initiatives and looks forward to having new members join the executive board so the association can do more.
- Sharon Jennings has been living in Sacramento for the last 28 years and moved to Natomas in the last year. She lives near Garden Highway and is passionate about making a difference in her local community. She feels that the board needs to be filled with individuals that have the skills and time to work on important projects. The association hasn't been operating at full capacity and needs a functional website.
- Nicki Chand lives and owns a business in South Natomas. She is passionate about being part of the community more and wants to help with the board. They are the new owners of the Grocery Outlet located on Truxel and El Camino Blvd.
- Leslie Taylor has lived in the Natomas area for more than 30 years. She has lived in both North and South. In her first year on the board she observed and found that the board was not really engaged with the community. Since then, she has made it her priority to have the board more engaged in the community and work with residents. Leslie currently lives in North Natomas and feels that there are common issues to both areas that could be improved upon. If she is elected again, she would like to continue engaging with the community. She is passionate about the scholarship program and would like to see it expanded, both in terms of money fundraised, but also, applicants. She would also like to hold events for youth to interact with the police force, particularly youth of color.
- Sandee Smith has lived in South Natomas for more than 40 years. She loves living in Sacramento and chose to stay in the community. She is good at running numbers. She used to work at Deloitte where she worked with finances and has served on more than 11 boards.

Voting:

- Attendees were provided with index cards to write in who they would like to serve for each of the available officer positions. Ballots were put into a bag. Some attendees completed and handed in their ballots before the candidate statements were finished. Attendees were given the opportunity to cast new ballots if anyone changed their mind after the candidates finished their statements. If any attendee wanted to change their vote all attendees would need to recast their ballots. No attendees wanted to change their votes.
- Lizzie Edmondson and Erica Naranjo left the room to count the ballots.

Officer Election Results:

- 24 ballots were submitted – One ballot was left blank for all positions.
- President:
 - Ericka Harden – 21 Votes
 - Sharon Jennings – 2 Votes
- Vice President:

- Nicki Chand – 13 Votes
- Leslie Taylor – 10 Votes

General Board Member Openings:

The following individuals expressed interest in joining the board. If an individual was nominated for an officer position, but lost they were eligible to be on the general Board:

- Dan Aderholdt
- Stella Chambers
- Janae Grant
- Leslie Taylor
- Sharon Jennings

Annette Emery motioned to accept the five names as board members and Lisa Weaver seconded the motion.

8. Northgate Action Plan – Joe Conteras and Heather Fargo

- The Northgate Advisory Group (NAG) is a committee dedicated to improving the safety of Northgate Blvd. The following action plan is based on recommendations from previously approved plans for Northgate Blvd and the City. The following requests are based on NAGs perspective of the most impactful city investments to an improved Northgate Blvd.
- Northgate Advisory Group (NAG)
 - Joe Contreras (chair of NAG and former Planning Commissioner)
 - Annette Emery (President of GNNA)
 - Liz Johnson (Vice-Chair of NAG)
 - Rebecca Sandoval (Twin Rivers USD Trustee)
 - George Azar (business owner)
 - Angela Rogers-Sanders (Natomas Girls Softball)
 - Francis Huizar (Treasurer of GNNA)
 - Heather Fargo (former Mayor)
 - Dennis Spear (publisher N Magazine)
 - Sally Andrade (GNNA member)
- Plans reviewed:
 - SN Community Plan 2016
 - Northgate Blvd Streetscape Action Plan 2006
 - Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) for Northgate Blvd
 - Project Prosper
 - Creative Edge 2018
 - Measure U Campaign material 2018
 - Vision Zero 2018
 - Transportation Programming Guide 2014
 - Bike and Pedestrian Master Plans
- ACTION Items listed by responsible person or department:
City Council member Jeff Harris:
 1. Arrange for meetings and notification
 2. Assign David or Jocelyn to be liaison between city and NAG

3. Provide names/ contact info for Northgate property owners (may be getting from Co)
4. Provide names and contact info for Northgate business owners
5. Assist with forming a Northgate Boulevard Business Association
6. Support Northgate Parade spring 2019 (THANK YOU)
7. Support funds for staff and events on Northgate Blvd.
8. Support the NAG Action Plan

City Manager Howard Chan:

1. support community meetings and get staff to attend; all requests of staff below

Traffic:

1. Hold a Community meeting on Garden Highway Closure and mitigation measures
2. Review and implement NAG suggested mitigation measures:
 - a. Time signals to help control speed and handle increased volume
 - b. Re-stripe Northgate, W. El Camino (San Juan and Truxel)
 - c. Widen designated bike lanes
 - d. Add pedestrian activated signal at Smythe Elementary
 - e. Install speed signs at Smythe and Patio (such as W. El Camino and Grasslands)
 - f. Replace "suicide lane" with designated left turn lanes on Northgate
 - g. Study traffic on Northgate for new signals/safety measures (before GH closes)

Economic Development:

1. Assign ED staff to position Northgate for "zones" (Promise, Prosper, Zero, etc.)
2. Support a Request funding for staff/programs for 2019-20 budget for Northgate (as Del Paso Blvd) to do the following with Measure U/Project Prosper funding:
 - a. Develop marketing and recruitment plan for Northgate (empty retail spaces)
 - b. Recruit senior housing, convalescent homes, etc.
 - c. Work with Cook co. to market Northgate and 80 for hospital or medical uses
 - d. Recruit brewery, coffee house, co-working spaces, and other COOL uses
 - e. Develop Mercado business incubator concept for Northgate with property owners
 - f. Establish plaza for Taco Trucks
 - g. Summer Concerts
 - h. Bring Art to Northgate - murals, music, etc
 - i. Organize Community cleanup
 - j. Purchase vacant lot on Northgate for Plaza like park (near Taco Trucks)
 - k. Commission a study to determine retail and service needs of community

Police:

1. Additional traffic enforcement by PD
2. Provide additional patrol and clean up per Triage agreement

Code Enforcement:

1. Remove damaged and dated banners and illegal signs
2. Replace garbage cans

Public Works, Utilities, Tree Services:

1. Apply ADA litigation funds to remove poles along Northgate to allow accessibility
2. Plant street trees in designated sites along Northgate; remove asphalt from trees
3. Prepare staff report to replace chain link and wood fence along west side of street (like Meadowview Road)
4. Plan for pedestrian lights along Northgate

Planning:

1. Revise RMX rules or change zoning to allow/support retail use of empty buildings

NAG and GNNA - community engagement, liaison, will help form Bus. Association

- To get more information about NAG please contact Heather Fargo through the NextDoor Application.
- These improvements will benefit the community as a whole. With the upcoming construction on Garden Highway and its closure traffic is likely just to get worse.
- NAG would like the NCA Board to pass a motion that they are fully in support of the work that NAG is doing and they will eventually need a letter from the board stating their support.
- Individual community members can help move this work forward by contacting their city officials and asking them to support the work that NAG is doing and attending upcoming city meetings

9. Executive Board Business:

- Sharon Jennings moved to hold an executive board meeting prior to the March 20th NCA Board Meeting.
 - Ericka Harden asked if we could table this motion to the next meeting . She would like to first hold a meeting with the new board to talk about the best way to work together and a meeting schedule. In the past, when there was a full board many board members would meet immediately before the board meetings due to their schedules.
- Sharon Jennings asked for clarification around how the agenda is approved for the monthly board meetings.
 - We have always followed Roberts Meeting Rules and approved the agenda at the monthly board meeting because there are usually last minute changes.

10. Public Comments:

- Dan Aderholt – He is the leader of the American River Homeless Crew and wanted to let everyone know that they are continuing their work of cleaning along Garden Highway and have been spending dedicated time cleaning the areas surrounding Natomas schools.
- Annette Emery – The Gardenland/Northgate Association Meeting will be held tomorrow, Thursday, February 21st at 6:30 PM at the Stanford Settlement. Their meeting is normally the second Thursday but was moved because of Valentine’s Day.
- Jean the Executive Director of the Stanford Settlement will be retiring. They will be holding a party for her on April 10th.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM

*****Special Note:** Following the 2/20/19 meeting and elections, Sharon Jennings notified the NCA Board President via email that she would like to resign from her position as one of the NCA Board Members.