



Natomas Community Association
August 21, 2019
Meeting Minutes
6:30-8:00 PM
South Natomas Community Center
2921 Truxel Rd, Sacramento, CA 95833

1. Attendance:

Board Attendees

Dee Buck, Nikki Chand, Lizzie Edmondson, and Ericka Harden

Board Excused Absences

Dan Aderholt, Janae Grant, Sachiko Konastu, and Leslie Taylor

Community Attendees:

Trina Drotar, Annette Emery, Cynthia Ingram, Lori Kinsey, Jamie Knight, and Puneet Toor

Public Officials:

Brenda Borge - Natomas Teachers' Association President
Erica Naranjo - South Natomas Library Supervisor

2. Meeting Called To Order: 6:31 PM

3. Sacramento Police Department Discussion:

- Dee Buck and husband have seen the trash left behind from the late night visitors to the location on Rollingbrook adjacent to the green belt, bike way and Jefferson Elementary.
- Dee and her husband call the Police non-emergency phone number to report suspicious vehicles that park at the identified location and where they see the materials left behind.
- Dee provided a map identifying the location of the illicit activities to Police Officer Martinez.

- Police Officers can patrol this area at night to see what type of activities are taking place. They also encouraged Dee and her husband to continue reporting this type of activity by calling the Police Non-Emergency Number. While police officers may not always be able to respond, they might, and it is best to report the suspicious vehicles to the Police Non-Emergency Phone Number. They also encouraged Dee and her husband not to approach the vehicles or gather documentation of the events taking place that would put them in any potential danger.
- Annette Emery - There has been an increase in traffic due to the Garden Highway construction and she feels that there are more speeding vehicles and drivers that are running red lights. This is taking place near Morrell Street.
 - Police Officers noted this, and said they would pass this along to their traffic teams. They also encouraged her to report these events to 311 and to provide the time of day these events are occurring so they can try to better monitor traffic.
- Jamie Knight lives in a gated condo community in South Natomas where there have been a rash of car thefts over the summer. She is aware of 6-7 break-ins over the last couple of months. Residents have taken a number of steps to better secure the grounds including working with the condo board, discussions with on-staff security guards, individuals have installed security cameras, and the Sacramento Police Department has come to do a training. Whoever is responsible probably has access to the grounds. She is frustrated with the situation and it doesn't seem to be improving.
 - Police Officers: Unfortunately, this is a larger issue throughout Natomas and beyond. The POPS Teams are working on these cases and are trying to address it. They have been working with Bay Area Agencies and tracking suspects via GPS. Police have found that these criminals are coming from the Bay Area. This is such a big problem, that the Bay Area has launched a task force just for these types of crimes.

These criminals have become pretty sophisticated in terms of understanding the police policies and the limitations of what the Police Department can and cannot do so they can work around the system. A majority of these criminals drive expensive cars, like BMWs, and use false or stolen license plates so they are hard to track. Police have had some success in that they have caught

individuals and teams of people, but the break-ins continue.

Police Recommendations:

- Residents should make sure that nothing is left in their cars.
- Call the Non-Emergency Number every time an incident happens. While police may not respond to the call it is important for it to be documented.

Community Recommendations:

- Ericka Harden - Consider asking the Condo Board to change security companies.
- Dee Buck– Consider starting a Neighborhood Watch Program through the Police Department. Dee worked with the Police Department to start one in her neighborhood. Following the community meeting with police she distributed information to all of her neighbors about what they each can do to make the neighborhood safer and they keep an eye out for one another.
- Trina Drotar – She hasn't started a formal Neighborhood Watch, but she has built relationships with her neighbors so they look out for each other and they look for cars that don't belong in the neighborhood and call in any suspicious vehicle.

4. Relocation of Daniel Shazier, Sex Offender to Del Paso Neighborhood:

A sex offender from Santa Clara County is due to be released in the Del Paso Neighborhood. He has no ties to the Sacramento Community. As of last week there were only two people that officially voiced opposition. Ericka Harden reported that as of August 21st the DA has received 75-100 phone calls and letters voicing opposition. The Del Paso Neighborhood already has multiple sex offenders and officials tend to release them in this area because it is poor.

5. Jeff Harris District 3 Update, Ericka Harden (updates from Jocelyn Narvarro's email):

Garden Highway - The section between Truxel and Northgate will remain closed through the end of October. Construction is going well and individuals seem to be adjusting to the increased traffic on El Camino and other streets. They will continue to work with local community associations to distribute updates and further information.

Funding for the Garden and Arts Center Approved- Councilmember Harris secured funding to transform the old Fire Station 15 into a Garden and Arts Center. They are still in the planning process, but they have overcome the biggest challenge, yet which was securing funding. Funding will go to bringing the building up to code and making ADA improvements. They hope to get community input moving forward to ensure the Garden and Arts Center reflects the interests of the community.

Sacramento Metro Arts Commission Grants - The commission is now accepting applications for three new grants and one new artist in residence program totaling \$725,000. The grants available are the Creative Economy, Cultural Equity, Cultural Equity Investment. There is \$300,000 in total funds available for the Creative Economy Grant, which will be awarded in \$15,000 and \$25,000 increments. The Cultural Equity Investment grant allows a total of \$225,000 funds to be awarded in \$75,000 increments for projects focused to infuse support for capacity building and sustainability in inclusive culturally diverse organizations. The Cultural Equity Grants award a total of \$100,000 funds in \$5,000 and \$10,000 increments to support new and emerging organizations that promote inclusive, culturally diverse communities. The deadline to apply for these grants is **October 10, 2019**.

The Sacramento Artists-in-Residence (AIR) is a pilot program to give local artists and communities the opportunity to collaborate, explore, and reframe the ways in which we use and interact with public spaces. The AIR Program is available for up to eight artists who will be chosen for each council district by a panel to work with City Staff and collaborate with the community to create project proposals based on their interests and needs. Artists will co-design and create projects with HANDS-ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION. Residencies will take place in community-based sites in each council district. As the AIR is not a grant program, artists will be required to submit an RFQ. We encourage local Artists and Creatives from all disciplines to apply, the deadline to apply is **September 30, 2019**.

The Sacramento Metro Arts Commission is hosting several info workshops for each grant that will provide details about each program, it's alignment with the Creative Edge Cultural Plan and the Other Metro Arts Assessments, and the platforms for applying. These events have been added to the NCA Calendar and can be found online at: <http://www.sacmetroarts.org/Opportunities/Apply-for-a-SMAC-Grant>.

6. Natomas Teachers' Association – Brenda Borge, President:

The Teachers' Association represents 600 teachers in the district. They are planning for the 2020 Board of Trustees Election. There will be three board members up for election, they are; Micah Grant, Susan Heredia and Scott Dosick. The Teachers' Association would like to identify individuals that would like to run for school board. Many of the people that currently sit on the board have been there for more than 30 years. A number of teachers have left the District because of how they have been treated.

If you are interested in learning more or potentially running please write to newnca@gmail.com and we will forward your information to Brenda. Annette Emery is happy to work with any candidates on messaging.

7. Coat Drive - Ericka Harden

In collaboration with Joey's Food Locker they are collecting coats to prepare for winter and the upcoming cold weather. They are accepting all sizes for adults and children. Ericka is working with local schools to set-up bins so students and teachers can donate. Individuals can also donate at the South Natomas Library or they can contact her directly and she is happy to pick up or coordinate a drop off.

Coats can also be dropped off at Joey's Food Locker at Natomas High School on the 2nd and 4th Fridays.

**8. Future Forward Meeting, Ericka Harden
August 27th, 2019, 5:30-7:30 PM at Real Life Church**

This is an event for teens to learn about marijuana. Ericka attended this presentation at Kennedy High School and thought that it was great and would be beneficial for Natomas students. Currently there are only 12 people signed up and she would like to see a larger audience if possible.

Attendees suggested to try the following to increase attendance:

- Reach out to the local news media, including Channel 31 and Capital Public Radio.
- If you haven't already, ask councilmembers to promote it on websites, newsletters, and emails.
- Email the flyer to Ericka Naranjo and she will post it at the South Natomas Library.

9. Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association (GNNA) - Annette Emery

- POPS in the Park – Saturday, September 7th, 5:00-8:00, South Natomas Community Park. Music will start at 6:00 PM.

This is a free family-friendly outdoor concert series which raises money for our under-funded neighborhood parks. The food will be provided by the Kiwanis Club. Last year they had hotdogs and hamburgers. The band will be Latin Touch.

At this time, they are good on volunteers. The Natomas Arts and Garden Club Members will be helping with some of the tables. They are doing good on volunteers. Natomas Arts and Garden is helping with tables.

- The next GNNA Meeting will be September 12th. A representative from the Measure U Committee will be speaking.

10. Harwood Conversation - Erica Naranjo, South Natomas Library Supervisor

The Harwood Method for Conversation is based on four questions and is not a traditional focus group. The conversation should happen organically guided by the questions. Ericka will summarize our conversation and will be meeting with Harwood when he comes to work with the library next month. This information will be shared with Councilmember Harris' Office and Ericka is happy to send the summary to attendees or to keep attendees updated about this project.

1. What Kind of Community Do You Want To Live In?

- Friendly
- Peaceful
- Safe
- Access to public transit and community resources (library, parks, rose gardens)
- Grocery Stores
- Bikeable to Downtown
- Diversity in the types of people that live here
- Walkable
- Better Transportation
- Locally owned businesses
- Beautiful/pretty buildings and structures
- Extended hours of public transportation
- Unified (All of Natomas connected as one)
- More community events
- Clean/more trash cans in public areas and on the streets
- Accepting mindset
- Family gathering places
- Peaceful existence of socioeconomic groups
- Access to Downtown, Airport, and other amenities

2. Why is that important to you?

- It is our home
- We want people to feel that they are accepted into the community and belong there
- Positive environment

- Want feelings of acceptance and belonging.
- A positive impact in the community uplifts the community as a whole
- Knowing that there is a secure future for future generations
- Maintain reasons we came here
- Maintain multi-generational families
- State capital – should be great

3. How is that different from how you see things now?

- It's a place to live, there are not many things to do and it isn't a "destination"
- Outcast reputation
- Not a safe place to live
- Homeless encampments and associated issues
- Affordable housing options
- Perception and reality don't match
- Politicians allocate more funds to improve community

4. What are some of the things that need to happen to create that kind of change?

- Educate people about what the different communities are
- Better publicity
- More small/local businesses – not liquor, 99 cent stores,
- Walkable
- Open communication
- Tell the stories of the area throughout art installations and murals.
- Redistrict for one councilmember to represent all of Natomas
- Improved access to the airport
- Improved safety
- Youth Center or formal teen/children's activities
- Study Space that has table games, Arcade, TV, Video Games, and comfy seating.
- Pedestrian Bridge to cross into Discovery Park and into Downtown.

Additional Discussion During the Harwood Conversation Discussion:

- Dee Buck asked if there is a body/committee that assesses the impact that businesses will have when looking to move into the Natomas area. She would like to see businesses brought in that have a positive impact on the community.
 - There is no such body, but the city provides notice of businesses that submit permits and the public always has the ability to comment. In the past community associations and individuals have written letters in opposition to certain businesses. For example, Annette Emery opposed a 99 Cent Store on Northgate Blvd.
- Puneet Toor asked what, if anything, can be done if a business is looking to relocate into a large complex, but the owner of the complex is not open to that type of business being in the plaza.

- Unfortunately, if the complex is privately owned it is ultimately up to the property owner. However, community associations and others can play a role if they are engaged in the project and are asked to take a formal stance. If the board formally votes to support the project they can write letters and engage the community in the effort. It also may be helpful to engage city representatives.

11. South Natomas Library Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Storytime Hiatus in September - The library will not be holding their normally scheduled Storytime for the month of September. Librarians will be taking this time to work with local schools. In lieu of Storytime they will be having a number of family friendly events for Hispanic Heritage Month. Some of these events include:

- Hispanic Heritage Crafts, Saturday, September 14, 2019: 2:00-3:00 PM
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by creating your own crafts inspired by different cultures in Latin America. All supplies will be provided. Open to all ages.
- Lotería Family Game Night, Wednesday, September 18, 2019: 4:00-5:00 PM
Bring your family and friends to the South Natomas Library for a game of Lotería, a traditional Latin American game. Open to all ages.
- Bilingual Latin Grammy Award Winners will be playing a kid-friendly concert on October 1st. Details to be announced at a later date.

12. Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 PM