



Executive Board Meeting
October 16, 2019
South Natomas Community Center
2921 Truxel Rd, Sacramento, CA 95833
6:30-8:00 PM
www.natomascommunity.org

1. Attendance:

Executive Board Attendees:

Dan Aderholt, Dee Buck, Nikki Chand, Lizzie Edmondson, Janae Grant (via phone), Ericka Harden, and Howard Knudsen

Community Attendees:

Alberta Baral, Ron Buck, Annette Emery, Virginia Fair Amaitani, Cynthia Ingram, Rich Kermickel, Gretchen Lange, Janet Sager, and Amie Tokuhama

Public Officials and Speakers:

Sacramento Police Department - Officer Schneider
City Councilmember Jeff Harris' (District 3) Office - Jocelyn Navarro
Natomas Unified Teachers' Association - Brenda Borge

2. Meeting Called to Order: 6:35 PM

3. Sacramento Police Department - Officer Schneider

It has been a few months since Officer Schneider has been able to attend one of NCA's meetings and officers were on calls during last month's meeting. The summer has been crazy for the Police Department. The police Department is actively recruiting individuals to join the police force, but there are not a lot of qualified applicants. There will be three more recruits graduating motor school soon so there will be a few more traffic teams on the roads.

Community Concerns and Updates:

- Bel Air Shopping Center - Dee Buck has noticed that over the last few months the issues at Bel Air seem to be getting better. Police proactively patrol this area when they can and Popeye's Chicken has seemed to improve the ambience.
- A few months ago, Ron and Dee Buck reported issues with drug use and explicit behavior taking place in cars around Rollingbrook Circle in South Natomas. The police increased patrols in this area. Ron and Dee have reported that since the patrols increased the activity has moved down the street a few blocks.

- Officer Schneider will do her best to communicate this to other officers and patrol the area. She asked attendees to also report these types of issues to the Police Non-Emergency Phone Number (916) 808-5471 so they can have official reports and written records of these issues.
- Gretchen Lange asked if the Police Department has received any updates or has current information about the Boise vs Martin appeal that the city of Sacramento has filed.
 - Officer Schneider does not have any information.

4. Neighborhood Watch Programs

- Community attendee, Janet Sager, met with a Neighborhood Watch Liason a few months ago to get a program started in their neighborhood. The liaison came and met with the neighbors, took down everyone's email addresses, but never got back to them.
- Officer Schneider knows who she is talking about. Unfortunately she was a volunteer and retired recently.
- Jocelyn Navarro from Councilmember Harris' Office offered to try to put together a training with Councilmember Harris, who started a Neighborhood Watch Program that has been successful. If anyone is interested please contact Jocelyn (jonavarro@cityofsacramento.org) or NCA so we can organize a training with everyone.

5. Garden Highway Levee Repair Work, Road Closure, and Traffic Issues:

- 3-4 community attendees reported traffic concerns and issues that are due in part to the Garden Highway Closure. Officer Schneider and Councilmember Harris' Office were already aware of many of the issues.
- The Army Corps of Engineers has extended and expanded the road closure. As of 10/14 Garden Highway was closed at N. Park Drive through Northgate Blvd. All traffic will be diverted to West El Camino Blvd and this closure is expected to last through the end of December. More details about the closure can be found in the update that was distributed from Councilmember Harris' Office (Appendix A). Councilmeber Harris wants to thank everyone for their patience. They know that it is a major inconvenience, but this work is necessary for the long-term safety and longevity of the Natomas Community.
- Sacramento Police Department will and is doing their best to patrol the area. There are only two traffic patrol officers for this area currently. She will reiterate everyone's concerns and issues with her Lieutenant to ensure that this is on everyone's radar.
- Alberta Baral expressed concerns with the traffic on Azevedo. The traffic on Azevedo has been worse since Garden Highway Construction began. Individuals are driving in the bike and turn lanes. She asked Officer Schnieder if someone is driving their car in a bike lane and hits another car, who would be held accountable for the accident?

- Officer Schneider: Most likely it would be the person driving illegally in the bike lane; however, the police would need to conduct a full investigation.
- Are there proactive measures that can be taken to further communicate with the public and to try to reduce traffic issues? Some of the following were suggestions from community attendees:
 - Amie Tokuhama - Is it possible to communicate more frequently with the public about the construction? She suspects that a number of commuters are from outside of South Natomas and may not receive regular updates.
 - Janet Sager made the following suggestion:
 - More signage in the neighborhoods and on the side roads would be helpful. She works for CalTrans and when they do construction they post many more signs about construction, speed limits, and detours. She feels that with this construction signage is quite lacking.
 - The Army Corps of Engineers could also put down rumble strips to slow people down. These can be placed temporarily.
- Jocelyn will connect with the Army Corps of Engineers to see if there are additional traffic safety improvements that they can make. Councilmember Harris has been advocating for increased traffic patrol in this area, but it has not become a reality since there are only four traffic teams for the entire city. If you can, continue to call in traffic issues and unsafe driving conditions into the non-emergency police number or 311.

6. Councilmember Harris' Office Update: Jocelyn Navaro

Funding for Traffic and Safety Improvements:

- Vision Zero Traffic Safety Campaign

This campaign is citywide and aims to improve traffic safety around schools. 10 Corridors throughout the city have been identified for safety improvements. Northgate Blvd has been identified as needing improvements and is number 6 on the list. Their focus will be to reduce speed limits around the schools located on Northgate Blvd. These include Smythe Academy and Garden Valley Elementary.

Schools were chosen based on the number of collisions within a .25 mile radius. Traffic Investigation Staff worked together with school administration to assess traffic and pedestrian safety. Some of the specific improvements include the following:

 - Improved cross walks
 - Red curbs
 - Reduced Speed Limits to 15 MPH
- An additional \$2 Million in Funding was secured by Councilmember Harris for neighborhood improvements in South Natomas and Northgate. Some of this funding will be dedicated to installing/improving traffic signals at Rio Tierra and Haggin Avenue. These projects are designed to compliment the work that will be

taken under the Vision Zero Campaign. The Rio Tierra work will be coupled together with the Vision Zero money to reduce costs. More information can be found in Appendix B.

- Annette Emery - Did Jocelyn get the note for Jefferson for the left turn lane?
 - Yes, she received it.
- Annette Emery - Something that we need to keep in mind for the future, is that Twin Rivers School District is talking about closing some of their schools. If this happens, the school traffic will most likely increase on Haggin Drive.
- Cynthia Ingram - Does part of this work include installing a concrete median like what is on San Juan Blvd. on Northgate?
 - Jocelyn is not aware of that being part of the scope of the work.
- Dee Buck - A lot of the traffic around schools is exacerbated by the fact that the school districts don't offer busses to the bulk of students. Can Councilmember Harris work with school districts to encourage the districts to bring back buses?
 - Ericka Harden - Brenda Borge will discuss this issue more later in the meeting and share what the root causes reduced bus service. It would be great for the districts to bring back buses for students, but it is unlikely that Councilmember Harris can have an impact.

October 22nd City Council Meeting, 5:00 PM

- At this meeting, the City Council will be discussing Homelessness Issues including shelter options and policies. Additionally, funding for the El Ninos Parkway Improvements will be discussed. Information about this meeting can be found at:
http://sacramento.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=21&event_id=3558.

Code Violations/Neighborhood Clean-Up

- Rich Kermickel has noticed a number of code violations in his neighborhood. Cars that aren't driven, expired registrations, etc. Would it be possible to conduct a neighborhood blitz where all city agencies could concentrate on South Natomas for one day to give citations, tow cars, etc?
 - Jocelyn will discuss with Councilmember Harris, but having all of the departments coordinate for one day is probably not feasible. Code Enforcement and 311 are complaint driven so they do not operate by patrolling a given area, but they respond to submitted complaints instead.

If you call or use the 311 app to put in a complaint the teams will address it in some fashion, but there is a backlog so action may not happen immediately. There is also a process that 311 and Code Enforcement

must go through. For example, they do not tow a car immediately, they need to issue warnings and citations first.

- Lizzie Edmondson suggested that an alternative could be to try to coordinate all of the citizens to put in complaints to 311 over a given set of time so citizens are making a concerted effort to report things.
 - Virginia Fair Amaitani doesn't feel comfortable filing complaints against her neighbor and feels like it is "snitching" she would much prefer for the city to just conduct patrols.
 - When you file a 311 complaint you can remain anonymous and if you feel uncomfortable you can always forward your complaint to NCA and we can place it for you. If you are going to submit a complaint through NCA we will need as much of a detailed description of the issue as possible. It is helpful to submit pictures as well.
- Virginia Fair Amaitani- One of the issues is that many of the people that live in the houses with violations are renters.
 - Dee Buck - The landlords will be contacted if there is an issue, particularly for issues that violate the California Health and Safety Code. More information can be found at:
<https://code-enforcement.saccounty.net/Programs/Pages/HousingEnforcement.aspx>
- Ericka Harden - Perhaps NCA should do another code enforcement day where we walk around noticing code violations and submit them to the city. We did this last Spring and submitted over 800 issues; however, the majority of them were not addressed.

Aftershock Musical Festival Issues

- Councilmember Harris received a number of complaints about issues caused by the Aftershock Festival, including increased traffic, attendees parking in front of people's driveways blocking them in.
- The County Board of Supervisors approves the festival every year since it is on County Land. Citizens should also voice their issues with them so they are on file and can be taken into account for the planning for next year's festival. The festival generates a lot of revenue for the county and the city. This year they attempted to mitigate traffic issues by giving concert attendees RT passes, shuttle services, and by asking them to park in garages downtown. Councilmember Harris is attempting to collaborate with them on next year's planning in the hopes that they can further mitigate issues for South Natomas residents.

- If a car is actively blocking your driveway call 311 and they will treat this as an immediate issue for the car to be towed.

Other Topics:

- Councilmember Harris’ office received the emails and complaints from people living on Bridgecreek Drive about the recent burglaries. Councilmember Harris worked with police to increase patrols in this area. Since the increased patrols, these issues have stopped.
- Councilmember Harris and Jocelyn recently walked El Ninos Parkway together so they could document safety and other issues. One of the issues that they identified was the number of street vendors. Currently there is a discrepancy between the city’s street vender/permitting laws and the state’s so they are not able to enforce street permitting laws.

7. POPS in the Park Survey Results - Lizzie Edmondson

At the POPS in the Park Festival last month NCA distributed surveys to Natomas residents to get feedback about the Natomas Community Association and what topics and issues residents would like to see discussed or addressed by NCA. More than half of the individuals that visited the table did not reside or work in the Natomas Area. 25 individuals responded to the survey. The following items are the major takeaways:

- The majority of people don’t know what NCA is. Only five respondents had ever attended an NCA Meeting.
- Most people prefer to get information via email. Followed by website and Facebook.
- Most people can generally attend meetings at the time that we currently hold them.
- Crime and Safety is the topic that most people would like discussed at NCA Meetings with local policy issues, school/education, and homelessness following.
- 85% of respondents would like NCA to coordinate beautification/clean-up projects with social activities coming in second, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt coming in third in popularity.

We would like to hear from anybody that didn’t take the survey about what types of topics they would like to be discussed at this meeting or what types of projects are important to them. NCA’s mission is to serve all of Natomas (North and South). If you have feedback, please send us an email to: newnca.secretary@gmail.com.

8. President’s Report - Ericka Harden

Canned Food Drive for Joey’s Food Locker

Joey’s Food Locker is a food pantry located at Natomas High School that is open to anyone in need of food. They are open every 3rd Thursday and 4th Friday of the month.

More information can be found on their website:

<https://natomasunified.org/joeys-food-locker/>.

- For the next month NCA is collecting non perishable food items. We had bins at the community center, but they were left outside and stolen so if anyone has food that they would like to donate they can donate them in the following ways:
 - Natomas High School or any Natomas School - Every school office has bins where individuals can drop off food.
 - The cafe at the South Natomas Community Center - Amie Tokuhama is happy to collect the donations and she will connect with Ericka so they can be delivered to Joey's Food Locker.
 - Grocery Outlet - Nikki Chand is happy to collect donations at Grocery Outlet.
 - Contact Ericka Harden directly and she will pick them up from you. Her phone number is: (916) 535-3501 or email at newnca@gmail.com.

Website Domain Renewal

- It is time to renew the website domain. It costs \$30/year. Howard motioned for the board to vote to approve this funding. Annette Emery seconded the motion.
- The motion was passed (7 yeas, 0 nays).

December NCA Board Meeting

- In December, there will not be a public board meeting, but Ericka would like for the Executive Board to have a closed session to plan for the January elections. She will be in touch with everyone to set a date for the closed session and was thinking that it could be potluck style.

Sachiko Konastu Resignation

- Ericka received an email from Sachiko resigning from the board, effective immediately. She had to step down so she can spend more time with her daughter.

501 c4 Tax Status

- NCA was recently notified that we lost our tax exempt status. After further review Ericka was able to determine that it was nobody's fault and that the last three years had been filed under the old tax ID that was passed onto the board. All of the paperwork has been filed to rectify this and to reinstate our tax status.
- Alberta Baral - Used to work for the state tax board and was curious if NCA was exempt in California.
 - Ericka confirmed that NCA is tax exempt in CA and asked Alberta if we can reach out to her if we have any questions.

Natomas Tree Lighting Event - December 6, 2019

- This is an annual event put on by the Natomas Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with NCA, and GNNA. Every year the tree is placed in the circle in front of the South Natomas Community Center and they have crafts, cookies, and beverages inside the community center.
- NCA is responsible for the beverages and manning the beverage table. In the past more than 600 people have attended this event and it is normally quite busy. Santa will also be there to meet and talk to kids.
- The exact time has not been determined, but in the past it has started around 5:00 PM.

8. Public Comment:

New Development on San Juan Road behind Natomas High School - Amie Tokuhama and Gretchen Lange

- Where will all of the cars park? It doesn't look like they are building enough garages for individuals to park their cars since many of the units are multi-family.
- There is limited roadway access to this area and traffic is going to be further congested.
 - Ericka Harden will try to find more information about their plans and will report back what she finds out.

Natomas Teachers Association - Brenda Borge

Brenda is the President of the Teacher's Association. This association includes more than 600 employees and 14 schools.

2020 School Board Elections:

- Three seats will be up for election in 2020. The Teacher's Association is trying to find potential candidates that they can support.
- They would like to see people elected to the school board that are open to hearing and working from the Teacher's Association. They have found that some of the current board members are not willing to work with them and have shut teacher's out of the process.

Bussing Issue:

- The District says that the County doesn't give them enough money for bussing. One of the former school board members thought that they should get rid of busses altogether. Currently there are very few children that are able to take the school busses and they are mainly offered to children with special needs.

- Changes to the bussing policy and funds won't happen until there are more newly elected board members.
- This issue also needs to be taken up with Phil Serna at the County Board of Supervisors.
- There are a number of issues that the community would like seen changed with the Natomas School District. NCA will give Brenda dedicated time on the agenda at an upcoming meeting so we can further discuss the bussing and other issues.

Annette Emery - Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association

- Census Education - Annette just learned that the South Natomas Library is planning on conducting a dedicated meeting to discussing the upcoming census so NCA and GNNA can help spread the word for that event instead of putting on their own educational session in the Spring.
- The next GNNA meeting will be 11/14 at the Stanford Settlement.

Amie Tokuhama - Natomas Garden and Arts Club

- The Garden and Arts Club meets the last Tuesday of every month at 6:15 pm at the South Natomas Community Center. Their next meeting will be 10/29. They have a lot of exciting projects going on, including transforming the Old Firestation into a Garden and Arts Center.

9. Homelessness Update - Dan Aderholt

- Dan works with homeless crews that clean up the American River Parkway and other areas in Natomas. He recently had a clean-up day where more than 100 people came to help with the effort. Many of these individuals were Natomas residents and realtors. Dan felt that this was a major breakthrough because residents were able to work with the homeless population and understand them better. If there are areas that need to be cleaned up, please feel free to contact Dan on the NextDoor website/app.
- Dan is working with a number of churches and not for profits to provide holiday gifts to homeless families. There are a lot of homeless children, typically in grades 3,4, and 5. If you would like to donate to these efforts contact Dan.
 - Annette Emery - Stanford Settlement provides Christmas baskets for families in need. Families need to sign up with them to receive them. Information should be posted shortly on the GNNA website.
- There are a lot of homeless people that don't fit the stereotype, like families with small children and there are a number of college students living on the streets because they cannot afford to pay rent. Many of these people simply can't afford

housing. The city has been distributing vouchers, but there is not enough affordable housing. The city started to build affordable housing near the Railyards, but it will be a while before it is available and the need is much greater than that one building.

- The Capitol Park Hotel ran by the Sacramento Self-Help Housing (SSH) has also opened its doors. The condition of this building was horrible, but the city did make some changes prior to it being opened to the homeless population.

10. Meeting Adjourned 7:59 PM

Garden Highway Construction Update From Councilmember Jeff Harris' Office

Beginning Monday, October 14, 2019 the Garden Highway road closure will be extended westward to include up to Natomas Park Drive, meaning drivers will now be detoured here instead of at Truxel Rd. Bicycle Access with detours remain the same as it has been throughout the construction process.

In an effort to complete as much of the construction this year as we can, we're pushing through to the next intersection beginning next week after the completion of the Aftershock Music Festival in Discovery Park. Garden Highway will be closed from east of Natomas Park Drive all the way to the intersection of Northgate Blvd.

Detour signage will be put in place alerting drivers to the new route. Drivers who have been using Truxel Rd to access Garden Highway and Interstate 5 should now use Natomas Park Dr.

By moving forward with this next phase of work, we anticipate Garden Highway detours will remain in place into December. While it's not ideal, the good news is by completing the work here this year there will be less required work in the roadway east of Interstate 5 next construction season.

Additionally, you may have recently noticed that the white construction barriers on Garden Highway under Interstate 5 have moved from the westbound lanes to the eastbound lanes. This is because we've wrapped up work to relocate the waterline that runs through the roadway and have now begun work on the levee improvement work on the south side of the roadway. Work here is expected to continue through December 2019. Overnight full closures in this area have concluded.

We thank you for your continued patience as we complete this important flood risk reduction work. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to our public affairs office at spk-pao@usace.army.mil or 916-557-5100.



Rio Tierra Avenue

- New Signal
- Improve safety and accessibility for all modes of transportation
- Improve traffic operations



\$500,000

Sotano Drive/Wisconsin Avenue

- New Signal
- New pedestrian crossing of Northgate Boulevard
- High rate of automobile collisions



\$600,000

Haggin Avenue

- Existing Signal
- Identified in Vision Zero School Safety Study
- NB/SB Signals will be brought to standard improving traffic operations



\$300,000

