



Executive Board Meeting
November 20, 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, Ericka Harden, and Howard Knudsen

Community Attendees:

Brandy Boyd, Jessica Caroantes, Tony Chand, Otilia Contrera, Natalie Curz, Simon Cruz, Annette Emery, Virginia Fair Amaitani, Kristin Dakter, Heather Fargo, Gia Gianvario, Flavio Huizar, Frances Huizar, Cynthia Ingram, Liz Johnson, Rich Kermickel, Jamie Knight, Barbara Lee, Esperanza Murig, Santos Reveles, Julie Rhoten, Marbella Sala, Leslie Taylor, Amie Tokuhama, Alicia Torres, Briza Trujillo, and Rosa Valdez

Public Officials and Speakers:

- City Council District 1 - Councilmember Angelique Ashby and Miesha Ross, Constituent Affairs (MKRoss@cityofsacramento.org)
- City Council District 3 - Councilmember Jeff Harris and Jocelyn Navarro, Constituent Issues (jonavarro@cityofsacramento.org)
- Natomas Unified Teachers' Association - Brenda Borge
- Sacramento Police Department - Captain Steven Oliveira and Lieutenant J. Dobson

2. Meeting Called to Order: 6:32 PM

The agenda was modified to allow for the public officials to speak as long as their schedule allowed. The agenda items, Gun Violence and School and NCA Updates were not discussed at the meeting.

Attendees were given forms to write down their questions/issues for each of the public officials and police department in case each speaker was not able to answer their questions due to time constraints. The questions that were turned in on the forms were passed onto whichever public official or department can help solve the issue. Citizens

were directly connected with whoever could best answer their question.

3. District 1 (North Natomas) - Angelique Ashby

Councilmember Ashby has lived in the Natomas area (North and South) for more than 20 years. While the Natomas Area is broken up into three city council districts she feels that it is still one large community and that all of the development, no matter what area they are located in, are a resource to the entire Natomas Community. Miesha Ross, is a new member of her team and will oversee constituent affairs. She also lives in Natomas. She will be attending some NCA meetings in the future and can always be contacted via email if there is anything that she can help with (her email is provided on page 1).

Updates and Announcements:

North Area Construction - There are a number of roadway closures and large construction sites throughout District 1. Some of the major projects that are underway include:

- Centene Corporation - This is a large insurance company that is headquartered in St. Louis. It is building its West Coast Headquarters in North Natomas at Arena and E. Commerce Way.
- North Natomas Community Center and Aquatic Center - Construction began in early September for this facility. It will include a community center as well as an olympic sized pool that will be used in conjunction with Natomas Unified. The center will be located adjacent to North Natomas Regional Park. Facilities will also include a splash pad. It will be under construction for at least another 17 months.
- Housing Developments - There are a number of housing developments, apartments and condos being built all around the Natomas Area.
- Stores and Restaurants - The following businesses will be opening shortly:
 - HomeGoods
 - Book Barn
 - Nice Restaurant - Ms. Ashby couldn't remember the name, but the owners have another restaurant in Midtown
- Pizza Press just opened and it has 24 local beers on tap.
- Kaiser Permanente will be building corporate offices on the land near Target.

Natomas Reuse Project (Former Kings)

The old Arena site used to be the home of the Kings prior to the Golden1 Center opening in Downtown Sacramento.

- When the Kings moved the owners made a promise and it was codified that old Arena site has to be replaced with something that is "place making" and would be of a similar use as the Arena; although the site cannot be used as a stadium.

- The owners have begun the EIR process and are asking for the city to change the zoning of the site. The zoning request is incredibly broad and includes virtually every type of development. Ms. Ashby has a fear that if the city grants them this broad zoning request that they will build more houses or put in businesses that the local community doesn't want or need. The zoning request can be found online at: <https://sacramento.civicsight.com/addresses/531241/1-sports-pkwy>
- There will be multiple opportunities for the public to provide comment. The PUD was published at the end of October and was open to comment until 11/8. The Draft EIR is expected to be released at the end of 2019 and the public will be able to provide comment at this time as well.
- All developments and reuse projects in the Natomas Area need to reserve a certain portion of land for conservation/mitigation per the Natomas Basin Conservatory (NBHCP) regulations. The Arena is the first reuse project in the Natomas Area. This means that the developers cannot develop the entire plot of land and some of it needs to be reserved as crucial habitat for local species.

Sacramento Zoo relocation as it relates to the Arena site:

- The zoo has known for a while that they were running out of space and needed to relocate. The zoo is searching for a space that is at least 70 Acres, which is less than the size of the Arena site.
- The zoo is a conservation organization and many of their activities focus on conducting research on how to conserve and rehabilitate the environment and animals.
- One of their largest projects in this area of study is called "One Health". This project is looking at how to preserve and rehabilitate the habitats of many local species like the Swanson's Haw and Egret.
- The zoo could potentially include the land that needs to be set aside for Natomas Basin Conservation purposes.

We Want A Zoo Effort:

- The "We Want A Zoo" movement is a grassroots effort led by Natomas citizens. The zoo is looking to find a space that is ~ 70 Acres.
- We Want A Zoo met with the land developers/owners on Monday 11/18.
- Mayor Darryl Steinberg and Councilmember Jeff Harris have been supportive of this idea. Brandy Boyd is helping to coordinate this effort.

Holiday Tree Lighting:

December 6th at 5:00 PM at the South Natomas Community Center. Sponsored by Councilmembers Ashby and Harris,

Community Questions For Councilmember Ashby:

- Rich Kermichal heard that there was a proposal to build a hospital on the Arena Site.
 - Councilmember Ashby - There was never an official proposal for a hospital. A few years ago, Kaiser was looking at the site now they are developing land near the North Natomas Target. This will most likely be corporate offices or medical offices.

- Virginia Fair Amaitani - What about the traffic congestion that is being caused by the rapid growth and that could be exacerbated by the zoo?
 - Councilmember Ashby - This is a complex issue that involves both the city and regional authorities like RT Mass Transit.

 - Ms Ashby feels that there needs to be some form of mass transit in this area. Public transportation options need to be expanded. Whether this means extended and more frequent bus service or building the Green Line Extension, These options could help alleviate traffic throughout Natomas into the Downtown Corridor as well as up to the airport.

 - Having one way to cross the river is inadequate and if people ride their bicycles or walk into the downtown area they are unable to use Discovery Park for most of the winter because the paths are closed from flooding.

 - There is also a need to have a dedicated carpool lane on I-5 and relieving the congestion on I-5 near the airport. It doesn't seem to matter what time of day you drive that way, it is backed up. She meets with the Caltrans team frequently advocating for these types of projects.

- Why does there seem to be so many nice things in North Natomas, but South Natomas doesn't get as many resources?
 - Councilmember Ashby - North Natomas is generally a newer and underdeveloped area. Much of the development that is taking place is on land that was formerly farmland. Whereas, South Natomas is an established neighborhood where there isn't a lot of empty land that is open for development and the infrastructure has been in place for quite some time. Councilmember Harris can address this further. Despite the way that the area is divided up by city district. It is all one area/neighborhood and everything that is in the North should be enjoyed by the people living in South Natomas and vice versa.

- Briza - What is your District doing for the Homeless Population?
 - Councilmember Ashby - The entire city council is working on this now. This is one of the top priorities for the Mayor and Councilmember Harris has been one of the leads in this area. Councilmember Harris and the Mayor opened the Railroad Shelter and it closed its doors last Spring. After this happened the

Mayor tasked each councilmember to develop a proposal for each District.

- So far they have put together a 5-Point Plan.
 - Jeff Harris has identified plans for his District.
 - Alan brought forward a site for a Tent City in his District that will later be turned into cabins.
 - She and Carr proposed a scatter site model. A scatter site model uses leases apartments or houses throughout the districts to house the Homeless.
 - The sites are not disclosed to the public to protect the anonymity of the homeless.
 - In between these two districts they could house 300 beds. In North Natomas they would serve victims of domestic violence.
- The Council will review all of the proposals at the 12/3 City Council Meeting.

4. District 1 Updates and Northgate/Patio Proposal - Councilmember Jeff Harris:

Everything that is in the Natomas Basin is considered Natomas, but is represented by three different council members. Because of this, the three councilmembers work together on many of the issues for the Natomas Area. Jeff Harris' district also includes areas across the river in East Sacramento and parts of Midtown. His district in Natomas runs East of I-5 up to the Canal and South of the I-80 Interstate.

Updates in District 3:

- The Railyard Development
 - This area is located on the other side of the River and will eventually include the Soccer Stadium and the new Kaiser Permanente Facility.
 - There is a lot of development that this going to happen in this area and when it is complete it will double the size of Downtown.
- Traffic and Bridge Connecting Downtown with Natomas
 - If you look at any major city there are multiple ways to get across a major river. There are currently two ways for North Sacramento to connect to downtown and there should be more. The city hasn't invested in connecting areas across the waterways.
 - A few years ago Proposition B was put up for a vote. That funding would have gone to roadway infrastructure and was going to facilitate the bridge and eventual light rail extension to go across the river. This funding did not pass.
 - On the 2020 ballot Measure A will be put forth to voters. This will be a county-wide ½ cent sales tax that would go to roadway and transportation

infrastructure. If passed, this tax would generate more than \$4 Billion in revenue.

- Northgate Blvd Improvements
 - \$2 Million in funding was approved for Northgate Blvd. Northgate Action Group (NAG) and other community organizations were instrumental in getting this funding and identifying specific projects.
 - The community wanted to get the \$2 Million of funding ASAP instead of trying to get more money from SACOG.
 - Funding has also been approved for beautification projects and other neighborhood improvements. There will be a year of community outreach to specifically identify these projects. More details on the Northgate Blvd Improvements can be found at:
<https://natomascommunity.org/2019/10/22/northgate-boulevard-traffic-safety-improvements/>
- Natomas Park Development
 - A new apartment business development are being constructed on Natomas Park Drive, near Garden Highway.
- Garden Highway Levee Construction and Traffic Impacts
 - He is aware of the congestion and stacking issues that are taking place on W. El Camino due to the Garden Highway Closure.
 - The current closure is expected to last until the end of the calendar year. It was extended from October to get more work done so there will be less work in the future.
 - Garden Highway will reopen at the end of 2019 (date to be announced) and construction will recommence in the summer during construction season. When construction begins in the summer Garden Highway will be closed from Truxel to Gateway Oaks.
 - The Army Corps of Engineers has been able to do the slurry wall faster than they had planned. Working with the Corps has been full of surprises.
 - The Army Corps put a Bath Plan on Asuza. This plant has been closed for the year, but they are intending on using it again next year starting April 2020. Part of it has already been taken down.

- While this project has caused a lot of inconvenience for the community, it will bring 500 year flood protection and when it is complete Sacramento will be one of the best protected cities from flooding.
- Riverway Project
 - There will be another project starting along the riverway that is aimed at mitigating flooding at Discovery Park. This project will allow for more water to pass through the river bank.
- Sign up for Councilmember Harris' Newsletter - To stay informed about what is happening in District 3 go to the city's website and sign up for the newsletter. Sign up for the newsletter and updates at:

http://res.updates.cityofsacramento.org/lp/landingPageCitySubscriptionEmail?service=%40-UXq1D1A_xAqdVh0jTfUER95e67r9Im3o00z50z8GLt1j6iXMO3I7vCRrf1VXkLucT1qpxRaYEsLy9zFz-i31WihjJKJ1ypqPaooezP9yrtPK9hK

General Homelessness Updates:

- Mr. Harris' District represents both sides of the American River totaling three miles. More than half of the city's total homeless population resides in his district.
- Tackling the Homelessness Problem is one of his top priorities. District 3 was the site of the only city-run shelter at the Railyards, which closed last Spring. This site had many successes and they learned a lot about how to run these types of programs. The city did some things well and did other things poorly. All of the lessons from this experience will be applied to future projects.
- While there have been some successes it has been hard for citizens to see them because the problem is so large and there are still so many people living on the streets. There are a number of existing programs that help with this issue, but they are at capacity.

Types of Shelters Proposed in the Current City Planning:

- The Railyard Shelter was a low-barrier shelter which meant that any homeless person could stay there despite their issues. To really solve this problem there needs to be a variety of different types of shelters, some that are aimed at different sectors of the Homeless Population.
- The Homeless Population is made up of a large variety of people that have different circumstances and the need for different services:
 - Mental Health and Drug Addiction - About half of the population. Those that have drug addiction, the primary problem is with methenphedomies.
 - In the city's experience, working with this population is very hard because they need addiction and mental health treatment to really

solve the issue.

- Unless the city is able to get a really robust drug treatment program going the likelihood of this population relapsing and becoming homeless again is very high. Many of the people that had addiction issues at the Railroad Shelters were not able to choose to go to detox.

- Youth - There are also a large number of youth on the streets, many of these youth have been emancipated from foster care or kicked out of their homes. Many youths are preyed upon physically and sexually. These experiences greatly diminish their life prospects and take away from having a productive future.

- Families/Single Parents - There are a number of families or single parents on the streets or living in cars with their families. Many of the single parents are victims of domestic violence.

- Each population has different needs. He thinks that these initial efforts need to focus on the 40% of the population that don't have addiction issues and can be helped with shelter, city services, and a path to permanent house.

- In the current city proposal there are two low barrier shelter sites currently slated for city. The first one is under the W-X freeway near Alhambra Boulevard and the second one is in Meadowview. Councilmember Ashby also briefly described these sites above in addition to the Scatter Site Model that she and Councilmember Carr are proposing for their districts.

Northgate/Patio Women and Children's Shelter Preliminary Proposal:

This is a preliminary proposal and doesn't currently have funding. It is based on the Modesto Outdoor Shelter. Over a year ago, Heather Fargo brought up a similar idea for this site. This site is located near Garden Valley Elementary School and is currently vacant.

Please note, following the meeting Heather Fargo noted that this proposal varies greatly from what she proposed, which was to put trailers on the site and develop a long-term neighborhood for women leaving the St. John's Program. More details on Heather Fargo's original proposal can be found at: <https://natomascommunity.org/hfargo-northgate-patio/>.

Councilmember Jeff Harris' Current Proposal:

- 50 sleeping cabins with a permanent structure built that would include commercial grade communal kitchens, bathrooms, meeting spaces, and resources. These cabins are the cabins that were constructed at City Hall this week. They will be up there for a week if you want to look at them or you can read about them at:
<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article237332039.html>.
- The cabins would be mobile so they could easily be constructed and moved.
- When there is no longer a need to house people on the site the permanent infrastructure would be turned into a community center for broad community use. Services would be available to the people staying there.
- The goal would be to create a community feeling and the children would have easy access to Garden Valley School.
- This site would also help the school, since the Twin Rivers School District is slated to close 11 schools.
- This type of site would increase enrollment at the school and prevent it from closing.
- Mr. Harris met with the Principal and other school officials to propose this idea and to see if it would work.
- If at anytime the school **doesn't** think that it would work or hinder the school they would not proceed.
- To make this work effectively, the school would need extra counseling, teachers, and services. He asked for them to develop a proposal of what it would take for the school to support these students.
- Currently this site is vacant and blighted. There are a number of street vendors and transient people that are currently using it. Additionally, there is a large amount of illegal dumping that takes place. This type of shelter would "clean up" the area and better serve the community.
- The operators of a shelter are the most important part. If we can't get a "good" operator we will not proceed.
- The first reaction is always we shouldn't have this in my neighborhood. He recently proposed a site in East Sacramento converting the Motel 6 into a shelter and once the community heard the details and how it was going to be ran they were supportive of it.

- This is just an idea and Mr. Harris is open to and will need input from the community. There is no funding for this at this time.
- Following the meeting on 12/2 Councilmember Harris' Office released written details about this proposal. It can be found at:
<https://natomascommunity.org/harris-revised-northgate-patio-proposal-12-2/>

Community Questions and Concerns:

- Flavio Huizar, Is it guaranteed that this will be a temporary shelter site and that only women and children will be served?
 - Yes, if this proceeds, it will be a high-barrier shelter that will only serve women and children. We can ensure this. To get into the shelter the individuals will need to go through our application process and city services. In terms of permanence, Yes, the sleeping cabins are movable and when it is no longer needed or if it doesn't work then the permanent infrastructure will be repurposed into a community center.
- Marbella Sala, in concept she is supportive of providing shelters for women and children. Our community needs to do something for the woman and children that are experiencing homelessness. This is a societal failure. She is concerned about having the bathrooms separate from the sleeping cabins. For the families, this would be impractical and could pose dangers when they have to walk to the bathroom in the middle of the night.
 - Councilmember Harris - It is a fiscal matter. If you put bathrooms in the cabins that would require individual plumbing to be set up and would make the cabins more of a permanent structure. This would also be quite expensive. If you do this, than it is more like building micro homes. If you want permanent housing that is a different matter. The way that this proposal is currently designed is to be temporary. With that being said he is currently getting a bid on what it would be to plumb each of the cabins.
 - Homeless experts have said that one way to create a community is to have communal bathrooms. Many people, including him, have conceptions about the homeless population and what is needed. Many of his conceptions were actually wrong and he feels it is important to rely on the homeless experts.
- Virginia Fair Amaitani, I am supportive of this proposal and feel that having a shelter near a school will help normalize the lives of these children.
- Briza Trujillo - In South Natomas there are a lot of businesses that sell alcohol. If we want to better the homeless community we need to limit their access to alcohol. How can we do this?
 - Councilmember Harris - It is hard to revoke a current business license unless you can tie it to specific crime or violence. What we do have control of is, new

applications. Other things that are in our control are limiting the type of alcohol that can be sold for example, not allowing businesses to sell singles. While alcohol may be a gateway to further drug use, it isn't the major issue with this population, which is methamphetamine.

- Briza Trujillo - Are there similar cabins being proposed in North Natomas?
 - Councilmember Harris - As Councilmember Ashby mentioned earlier, they are proposing a scattered site model which uses existing apartments and houses to shelter individual families.

5. Sacramento Police Department - Captain. Oliveira (includes all of North Sacramento) and J Dobson (Area Lieutenant)

Captain Oliveira is the new captain and serves the entire North Area which includes all of Natomas and goes into Del Paso Heights. Lieutenant Dobson is the area Lieutenant and works the night shift.

Updates on Ongoing/Current Issues:

W. El Camino Traffic -

- They are aware about the traffic issues in this area and the number of traffic violations that take place.
- When they are able to, they are monitoring this area.

Recent Homicides -

- There were two high profile homicides that took place in South Natomas over the last month.
- The most up to date information on these cases has been posted on the Next Door site.
- In both of these cases, citizen witnesses were huge in helping them. In one of the cases a witness filmed the event on their phone.
- These cases were unrelated and were not random.
 - The victims of the JimBoy's Northgate shooting were followed there and it was considered a crime of passion.
 - The victims of the Truxel and San Juan shooting were not from this area and were trying to make a gun purchase at the Wal-Mart in North Natomas. The deal went bad and they were followed to San Juan. Both of these victims were not from Natomas, one was from Los Angeles and the other from Citrus Heights.

Citizen Questions For the Police Department:

- There are a number of cars doing doughnuts in the large intersections along Northview and Fairweather. Is there a way to put in traffic circles to stop this activity?

- Sac PD - We can pass this issue along to the traffic engineering department. They are the ones that study intersections and how traffic needs to be changed.
- Rick Kermickel - Is there a shot spotter system in South Natomas?
 - Sac PD - There is not, it is very expensive to put in and these systems are only installed in areas that have a certain rate of gun violence. So not having one is a good thing. There is one in Del Paso Heights.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM