



Executive Board Meeting
February 19, 2020
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, Shelia Ellis, Janae Grant, Ericka Harden, and Howard Knudsen

Community Attendees:

Virginia Fair Amaitani, Marbella Sala, Daniel Savala, and Amie Tokuhama

Public Officials and Speakers:

- City Council District 3 - Councilmember Jeff Harris' Office Jocelyn Navarro, Constituent Issues (jonavarro@cityofsacramento.org)
- Natomas Unified Teachers' Association - Brenda Borge
- State Representative - Keven Marty's Office - Derek Matthews, derek.matthews@asm.ca.gov
- Sacramento Police Department - Officer Schneider and Officer Martinez

2. Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 PM

The Sacramento Police Department was moved to the top of the agenda since they were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Sacramento Police Department, Officer Schneider and Officer Martinez

Officer Schneider was at the meeting to answer any questions that attendees had. She has not been to an NCA meeting in a few months, but Lt. Eric Forback was in attendance last month.

Attendee Questions:

- Virginia Fair Amaitani - Have you been getting increased reports about mail theft?
 - Officer Schneider - Unfortunately, the police department doesn't handle mail theft reports, because it is a federal crime. All people calling in these

types of incidents would be directed to Federal Authorities and the Post Office.

- Dee Buck - She thought she saw a news story that police have new restrictions on wearing body cameras.
 - Officer Schneider - Not that she has heard of. The use of body cameras is currently department dependent, some departments haven't even been giving the cameras yet. They are still being rolled out.

- Dee Buck - Has there been an increase in other types of incidents in the Natomas Area?
Officer Schneider:
 - In Natomas as a whole there have been a lot of car break-ins. In South Natomas these types of incidents tend to take place at apartment buildings where thieves will hit 20 cars in a row breaking the windows and grabbing whatever is inside.

 - In North Natomas the break-ins are at shopping centers and parking lots. The police now have to respond to every call break-in call whereas in the past they didn't.

 - They believe that some of this is from organized groups. Normally there is an increase of car break ins over the summer, but this year it seems to be starting early.

 - The best thing that she can tell everyone is to not leave valuables in your car. Take everything out. Some people prefer to leave their cars unlocked without any valuables so their windows aren't broken.

 - You should always bring in your car registration and garage door opener everytime you leave your car. You can take a picture of your car registration on your phone instead of carrying the physical copy of it with you. You are required to have your driver's license with you. A picture will not suffice, if you are pulled over. Although, a picture is better than nothing.

- Dee Buck - Is the police department looking for volunteers?
 - Officer Schneider - We are probably always looking for volunteers. Check the Sacramento Police Department website to learn more. Volunteers help with special events, traffic calls, and some other administrative functions.

- Virginia Fair Amaitani - She appreciates the reports and updates that the officers have been giving on the Next Door Forum.
 - Yes, the PIOs try to inform the community, you can also be added to a distribution list to receive email updates about crime reports and updates. NCA also posts the Captain's Weekly report on their website that details

the calls that the police take in this area.

<https://natomascommunity.org/north-sacramento-crime-report/>

4. NCA Executive Board Elections

- At the January meeting the board held elections for two available board seats. At that meeting Sheila Ellis nominated herself for one of the general board seats. Unfortunately, a quorum was not present so Shelia could not be voted in so we will be taking the board vote this evening.
- Shelia Ellis has lived in Natomas since 2003. When she moved here there was nothing past ARCO Arena. She currently works part-time. For the last 10 years she served as a compliance manager for HUD, Section 8 Housing. In this position she ensured that units and building managers were in compliance with HUD regulations. Recently, she wanted to try to make a difference in her community and she started to look for organizations in Natomas and found NCA.
- Ericka Harden motioned for the board to vote on Shelia Ellis' nomination. Howard Knudsen seconded the motion. Final vote - 5 years and 2 members abstained.

5. Councilmember Jeff Harris' Office - District 3, Jocelyn Navarro

Upcoming District 3 Events:

- Natomas Youth Baseball Opening Day Parade
March 14th, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Parade will start at 9:00 AM at Smythe Academy and will end at Rio Tierro Jr. High School. Opening ceremonies will start at 10:00. There will be food trucks, bouncy houses, and booths. Councilmember Harris and other elected officials will be in attendance. They currently need volunteers to help at Rio Tierro Jr. High School, if anyone is interested.
The flyer and event details can be found at:
<https://natomascommunity.org/event/opening-day-parade/>
- Behind the Badge Program
February-May 3rd Friday of every month 3:30-4:30 PM
The spring program will start this month. There are currently 12-18 girls that have returned from the Fall program. This is a program designed to teach youth about careers in law enforcement. The program actively tries to recruit girls, but they do not discriminate against anybody. Any teen 13+ years old can attend. Sgt. Jim McGee will be at the first meeting providing information about the recruitment process. During the Fall Program the youth was able to participate in really cool activities, like inventorying crime scene evidence. The flyer can be found at:
<https://natomascommunity.org/event/behind-the-badge-2/>

2020 Census

Don't forget to complete the census forms. The census determines funding for virtually everything and it is critical for all of us to complete it.

Northgate Transitional Housing Proposal Update

- Last month Councilmember Harris held a community meeting at Rio Tierra Jr. High School. They appreciated the opportunity to discuss the project and the feedback that they received.

- As a reminder, there is no funding currently for this project. It is just an idea and is at the beginning stages. There are not any additional meetings scheduled at this time. However, Councilmember Harris' office will continue to keep the community updated about this idea and work with the community.
 - Howard Knudsen - If there is no funding, why is there so much discussion about this project at this time?
 - Jocelyn Navarro - This was always just an idea. It is part of the process to get community input early on and some of these steps need to be taken as part of the proposal process; however, there was a lot of early opposition to this idea before any information was really discussed. There was some misinformation shared with the community very early on, which caused more contention than usual.
 - Marbella Sala - A Twin Rivers School Board Member became very upset about the idea and put out a petition with lies and misinformation. She was successful in getting a group of people to oppose the idea. This was a lot of people reacting to lies. They even went to City Council several times to oppose the idea and it was never enough.
 - Each school district is taking on the homelessness issue whether it is transitional housing for women and children, youth, or kids that aged out foster care.

 - Dan Aderholt - He serves as a leader of one of the homeless crews that cleans the American River Banks. If you really want to solve the problem, the County Board of Supervisors has all of the money. The city is doing what they can with the funding, but the County has more money and resources that they are not using. Instead of using it to house the homeless or provide them with resources they have spent it on punitive enforcement. A group of community members needs to start attending the Board of Supervisor Meetings.
 - Virginia Fair Amaitani - The Board of Supervisors has two seats up for election. We can also vote in the election for change.

- What is the timeline for this project?
 - Jocelyn Navarro - There isn't a determined timeline since there they currently don't have funding for this particular site.

Park Improvements:

- Jefferson Park will be getting sheltered and unsheltered picnic tables and drought tolerant landscapes.
- South Natomas Park - The city will be constructing a full size asphalt court with four games and hoops. The Parks Department collaborated with community center staff on this project. It was originally designed as a half size court. Work will start early June and the project is expected to be complete in July.
- Art Installation - The art that was formerly featured at Fire Station 15 will be placed at the South Natomas Library and Community Center. The work is underway and is expected to be completed early March.. It will not be installed in the driveway circle where the christmas tree is placed every year.

Garden Highway Closure

- To our knowledge it is still slated to be closed through the end of February. The Army Corps of Engineers has not provided any updates and has been difficult to get a hold of. Jocelyn will continue to try to get information from them and will let us know as soon as she has it.
- Lizzie Edmondson - Will there be any proactive measures taken by the city to mitigate the construction/traffic impacts when Garden Highway closes for the next round of construction?
 - Jocelyn Navarro - I will ask Councilmember Harris about this.

Additional Questions:

- Virginia Fair Amati - Will there be anything changed for next year's Aftershock Festival since this year the traffic was so bad firetrucks couldn't get to a fire two blocks away?
 - Councilmember Harris has met with event organizers and the County and they talked about trying to mitigate some of the impacts reported by the community. She doesn't have any specifics at this time.
- Dee Buck - Is there anything that the city can do to address the reports of people climbing over the S. Natomas Park Fence and accessing their houses, like building a taller fence?
 - There already is a fence there, that is owned by the property owners. She can look into this.

6. State Representative Kevin McCarty's Office, Derek Matthews

derek.matthews@asm.ca.gov

Derek is a new member of Rep. McCarty's office and the field representative for this area.

Governor Newsom's State of the State Address:

- A huge focus will be homelessness and housing and how to leverage a variety of funding sources. Homelessness is an intersectional issue (mental health, housing crisis, not enough beds, etc). His address tells us that there will be a lot of legislative measures taken this year to address this issue.
- There are a number of housing bills (15) that got signed by the governor this year. They are looking at creating more transient oriented housing and renter subsidies. All of these bills came with one-time money. To really solve this issue the state needs to find a more sustainable funding source.
- Rep. McCarty is putting forward legislation for housing - the bill deadline is this Friday. Next month Derek will have an update on the bills that Rep. McCarty introduced.
 - Dan Aderholt - One of the biggest issues with housing the homeless is all of the issues surrounding Federal Vouchers. A lot of apartments/landlords do not accept the vouchers. Federal Vouchers also require for the tenant to have first and last month's rent and that is not feasible for many of the homeless.
 - Derek Matthews - With more state dollars and philanthropic partnerships they can find other solutions that are not Sec 8. There might be a legislative solution. Last year the state implemented a rent cap, limiting the amount that a tenant can increase rent (5% + inflation, totalling a 7% increase). There are some requirements that a tenant needs to have lived there for a certain amount of time.
- The following bills have been introduced by Rep. McCarty:
 - ACA 6 Amendment 6 - Free the Vote: This bill proposes that parolees should have the right to vote. Parole is different from probation in that it parole integrates people back in the society. Information can be found at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200ACA6
 - AB123 Universal PreSchool/Early Childhood Education - Expand access to early childhood education like preschool and day care. Information can be found at:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200ACA6

- AB2168 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - There is an increase in electric vehicle production and more are coming to market. One of the biggest barriers to adopting electric vehicles is the infrastructure and lack of charging stations. This bill aims to build an infrastructure for electric charging stations. Information can be found at:
<https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/1201229>
- Mothers Day Drive
 - They will be collecting donations for mothers that do not have resources for their children. They are currently looking for locations to put the barrels and partners to collaborate with to obtain donations. If you are interested please contact Derek.

7. Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect -

Amber McGarvey, Local Government Commission

Shelley Jiang, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

- This report is written as a guide for agencies and implementers. It contains the background, research, and recommendations. Click on the following link to download the handouts distributed at this meeting:
https://natomascommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/20200228_12-Tree-canopy-Degrees-of-cooling-at-6AM-Due-to-trans.pdf
- The tree canopy varies across the city and areas that don't have as many trees are hotter. One of the goals of the project was to determine if the UHI is evenly distributed and if not, what are some of the characteristics of areas that are hotter/cooler.
- They found that UHI is not evenly distributed. The heat island is focused in the North and East areas of the county, including Natomas. They worked with science to create a model to analyze which neighborhoods had the worst effects so they can create recommendations for state agencies for ways to mitigate the UHI Effect.
- Natomas is six degrees hotter than areas just West in Yolo County. Additional heat is created by running air conditioning and driving cars. It is a self perpetuating cycle because we increase air conditioning when it is hot, but that increases the UHI.

- Sacramento has a higher percentage of heat related deaths and it is expected to increase as global warming worsens.
- There are a number of strategies that can be employed to lower the UHI and cool areas.
 - Cool Roofs
 - Reflects the heat back into the atmosphere. A regular roof absorbs a lot of heat and makes your house and the environment hotter. Cool roofs are estimated to reduce the heat by 20% in the summer.
 - There are 3,000 types of cool roofs. At the meeting tile samples were shown. The samples that they distributed were the only ones that they were able to get from manufacturers.
 - The city of LA has mandated cool roofs so they will be a good testing ground to see what happens when more cool roofs are used.
 - Light Color Pavements/Reflective Pavements
 - These are used on some playgrounds and other areas where there are a lot of pedestrians or bike lanes.
 - Electric Vehicles
 - EVs do not release the extra heat in the environment that gas powered cars do.

Questions:

- Daniel Savala - Does your study show an impact based on impervious sprawl? In real time, the development code and engineering recommendations don't include many of the suggested materials.
 - They looked at what it would be in 2050 with more sprawl in the Eastern part of the county. They are predicting a number of new developments and the current developments don't have a lot of trees.
- Dee Buck - Is there an ordinance that new development needs to plant a certain amount of trees and the appropriate type of trees that provide shade?
 - The planning and zoning department requires that a certain number of trees be planted and it needs to be in accordance with their plans, but nobody regulates the types of trees.
 - There is an ordinance that requires a certain number of trees to be put in each parking lot, but it is not enforced.

- Dee Buck - Along with cool roofs, are there recommendations for cool walls?
 - They are looking at this now. They have found that if you paint the exterior of the house a light color it also reflects heat.
- Virginia Fair Amati - Should the state also be looking at expanding Mass Transit Options as opposed to building more roads?
 - Yes, Mass Transit will help reduce the UHI as well. There is an opportunity to advocate for this at your local transit agency.
- Dan Aderholt - There should be a law in Sacramento mandating that each house/building has a certain number of shade trees planted to combat UHI and Global Warming.

Resources:

- The Sacramento Tree Foundation and SMUD offer households free trees. SMUD will work with you to find the right tree for your space. Shade tree program for individuals: <https://www.smud.org/en/Going-Green/Free-Shade-Trees>
- The Sacramento Tree Foundation holds workshops for community members to become involved in planting trees in their neighborhoods. Shade tree program for communities: <https://www.sactree.com/communityshade>
- The city releases a list of cooling centers where people can go to escape the heat. Check the list when it comes out to make sure that there is one in your neighborhood and if there isn't advocate the city to put one in your area. It is also good to check-in on your neighbors.
- Cool Roof info on all types of varieties: <https://coolroofs.org/resources/home-building-owners>
- Clean Vehicle Rebate program: <https://cleanvehiclerebate.org/eng/eligible-vehicles>

8. Garden and Arts Club, Amie Tokuhama

- The Garden and Arts Club meets last Tuesday of every month at 6:15 PM. Going forward they will be changing the format of the meetings. During the meeting they will be doing mini workshops, activities, and lectures in addition to conducting regular business. The following activities will be offered at the upcoming meetings:

- February 25 - Art activity. The tree of me. She will give you the materials and instructions.
 - March - More involved art activity - decoupage eggs
 - April - Butterfly Pollinator Lecture - They will be preparing milkweed seedlings (or something similar)
 - May - Vermiculture, composting with worms
 - June - Stanford Settlement Discussion - Stanford Settlement will be talking about their activities
- They are planning a paint and sip at the end of April, beginning of May.
 - Their website will be live soon and will include all of these activities.
 - Marbella Sala - You should also consider having a table at the 3/14 Opening Day Parade where people can do activities.

9. Natomas Teachers Association, Brenda Borge

- The Teacher's Association represents 620 teachers from 14 schools in North and South Natomas.
- Natomas Unified made the news again this week, but not in a good way. A recent Sacramento Bee article came out that reported that Natomas Unified has the highest number of the least experienced teachers in all of Sacramento. The following is a link to the article, but it is a subscriber only article:
<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/sacramento-tipping-point/article239922318.html>
- The Natomas Natomas Unified had the least experienced teachers in all of Sacramento. The District loses a lot of teachers and one reason is because the Superintendent and Board are not willing to work with them and are inflexible.
- The Teachers Association is trying to find board members to support in the Fall Election. There are three seats that are up for election. They are looking to support a candidate(s) that are willing to listen to teachers. They are not asking for someone to always agree with them, but someone that is willing to listen. The current board rubber stamps anything that the Superintendent says.
- This last school board meeting was another example of this, when the Board Voted to make every South Natomas Elementary School IB schools. The teachers were advocating to make one elementary school IB and have American Lakes specialize in a science curriculum so a broader number of students could be served.

- IB certification is an international certification that allows students to go to universities abroad. It is a specific curriculum. Natomas Middle and Inderkum are currently IB schools.

10. Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 PM