



North Fair Oaks Community Council

*A Municipal Advisory Council to the
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

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Everardo Rodriguez, Chair
Juan Carlos Prado, Vice-Chair
Beatriz Cerrillo
Brooks Esser
Joanie Gillspie
Linda López
Jennifer Ruiz
Blair Whitney

October 20, 2020

7:00pm

The North Fair Oaks Community Council provides recommendations on the issues of community health, safety, welfare, public works and planning for the North Fair Oaks geographic area. It holds regular monthly meetings to address the needs of the community, act as a forum, and serve as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

Pursuant to the Shelter in Place Orders issued by the San Mateo County Health Officer and the Governor, the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20, and the CDC’s social distancing guidelines which discourage large public gatherings, this meeting was held via videoconference. It began at 7:00 PM and was accessed online at <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/97895126825> or by calling 1 (877) 568-4106 for Spanish.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Everardo Rodriguez, Vice Chair Juan Carlos Prado, Council Member Beatriz Cerrillo, Council Member Linda Lopez, Council Member Jennifer Ruiz, Council Member Joanie Gillspie, Council Member Blair Whitney, and Council Member Brooks Esser.

Staff Present: Justin Mates, Deputy County Manager; Office of Community Affairs: Emma Gonzalez and Mitzy De La Peña Medina.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Gabriela Valencia, North Fair Oaks resident: North Fair Oaks community members used to receive the meeting agenda via email and would like to know why that is. This community needs more engagement with the community council and I respectfully request that the council looks into this issue.
- Derek Wolfe, Director of Redwood City Public Library: As you all may be aware, the libraries have been closed since March 16th but have continued to provide a wide variety of online events and activities in English and Spanish during this closure. You can learn more about these events at redwoodcity.org
 - Upcoming changes: While the library will not be open, it will serve as a voting center from October 31st to November 3rd and individuals can drop off their ballots or vote in person.
 - Curbside pick-up of library materials, currently available at the Downtown library, is now being expanded to include the Fair Oaks library starting November 30th. This will be available Mondays from 2-6pm and Wednesdays from 12-4pm. The book drop will be open to accept returns on Mondays and Wednesdays. Materials that need to be dropped off at any other time can be returned to the Downtown library.
 - County wi-fi is available and it covers the parking lot of the Fair Oaks library. At the Downtown library, the wi-fi now has a strong signal that reaches the large parking lot at Middlefield and Jefferson.
 - Beginning November 30th, the Downtown library will have computer and printer access by appointment only.
- Graciela, North Fair Oaks resident: Echoes Ms. Valencia's comments and added that she struggles with knowing what is happening in the County and would like to see more community involvement in the future.
- Rebecca Keeler, North Fair Oaks resident: She was not aware that this Council existed until a couple of months ago. She would like to see more community involvement and offered to provide assistance with this effort.

AGENDA

3. Presentation: Voting and Elections

<p>Presentati on Diane Leeds, San Francisco Peninsula People Power</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Francisco Peninsula People Power is a non-partisan grassroots civil rights organization that has been around since 2017. Ms. Leeds also serves as the co-chair of the San Mateo County Voter Education Outreach Advisory. • Individuals in San Mateo County can start voting on October 5th. Many efforts have been made to ensure that every registered voter has different ways to vote: by mail, dropping off your ballot at a ballot drop box, at a voting center, remote accessible vote by mail (for individuals with visual impairments), or in person at a voting center. • Ballots must be dropped off before 8:00pm on election day otherwise your ballot will not get counted. Ballots must be postmarked in time, and ballots received up through November 20th will still be counted. • Closest voting centers to North Fair Oaks, open 10/31-11/2 from 9:00am to 5:00pm; Election Day 11/3: 7am-8pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 555 County Center ○ Fair Oaks Branch Library ○ American Legion Post 105 ○ Redwood City-City Hall • One important reminder is to sign the back side of the return envelope if voting by paper (either mailed or dropped off). Every vote is important and local elections have a big direct impact on our community. • Final results will not be available on election night. • Additional resources, information, and ways to track your ballot are available at: www.smcvote.org
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.

4. Presentation: Pandemic affecting Latinx community disproportionately

<p>Presented by Srija Srinivasan, Deputy Health Chief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of COVID-19 spread has not been equal. The Latino population represents 24% of the County’s population but accounts for 52% of the COVID positive cases in the County as of 10/20/2020. The distribution of cases mirrors more closely the distribution of low-income population in San Mateo County. • Low-income residents and populations of color have had the most exposure and have been less protected from COVID-19.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Health dashboard is updated daily, and it provides other insights on the disproportionalities. The largest population affected is the 20-29 age group. • The risk factors that underlie those demographic impacts closely align with income and wealth factors, such as: low wages, lack of paid leave, front line essential work, and overcrowded housing. • The County’s local work to mitigate the virus is under the umbrella of the State’s Blueprint for Recovery Framework, in which every one of the 58 counties in California is assessed based on 3 metrics for how well the virus propagation is mitigated. • Within these tiers (Widespread/purple; Substantial/red; Moderate/orange; Minimal/yellow), a health equity metric is also applied, and this specifically looks at the positivity rates for the parts of the County that have had the lowest resources or lowest opportunities. A tier’s metrics need to be met for two consecutive weeks to be able to move into that tier. • Immediate drivers we can impact include: adopting protective behaviors that prevent the spread, increasing the people’s trust in government and their engagement with public health protection efforts, increase the amount of testing in communities with high positivity rates, and removing the barriers for self-isolation for frontline or low wage earners. • Key efforts in communication and outreach involve culturally competent messaging and through trusted messengers as well as ensuring access to testing through the expansion of neighborhood test sites. • The Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of a Public Health Equity Officer, who will be appointed mid-November. This Public Health Equity Officer will convene a special advisory committee of Latino residents to help the County better understand the needs. • Wrap-around services for individuals who are COVID+ include: housing, food security, economic support (rent, dependent care, bills) and health coverage. • Free flu shots are available throughout the County, please visit smchealth.org for more information.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabriela Valencia: As a Nurse Practitioner at the Fair Oaks Community Clinic, I agree with Ms. Srinivasan that increasing COVID testing is important. One way to increase testing among the Latinx community is to remove all the barriers to testing, such as requiring an email or web application for registration or considering whether the patient has symptoms. Also, the lack of accuracy on the County’s dashboard is concerning as this might somehow correlate to disproportionate services and attention paid to our community.

5. Presentation: Covid-19 SMC Recovery Plan Update

<p>Presentation by Peggy Jensen, Deputy County Manager;</p> <p>Danielle Lee, Assistant Director of Office of Sustainability; and Jessica Stanfill Mullin, Resource Conservation Program Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The San Mateo County Recovery initiative is comprised of 168 members which include: County Staff, private sector partners, city representatives, and community-based organizations and nonprofits. • The plan focuses in four main areas: public health, equity, fiscal responsibility, and community collaboration. • During the development of this implementation plan, identifying where the needs are has been key. The needs have been exemplified by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10,156 immigrants have received \$1,000 in financial assistance through the Immigrant Fund ○ 250% increase in food distribution by Second Harvest ○ 600+ small businesses have applied for financial assistance ○ 4,411 school children lack Wi-Fi or tools for distance learning ○ 20,000 low-income workers have lost their jobs • The path to recovery must address these critical needs and also create community capacity to respond to these changing conditions, build back consumer confidence, and build a better future. • Over \$66 million has been allocated to fund the recovery programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two-thirds of that funding has been dedicated to serve our vulnerable communities by providing services related to food, housing, and immigrant assistance ○ One-third has been used to fund small businesses, non-profits, and community-based organizations through programs like the SMCStrong fund and grants for child care providers. • To meet the additional need for food support, the County has provided \$1 million funding match for school lunch program, \$2 million for Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Great Plates Program has been continued through November 9th. • The County is partnering with the San Mateo County Office of Education to launch a \$6.3 million community-wide pilot program which will provide free public Wi-Fi and technology hardware which will benefit 2,700 students • The SMCRecovery.org website launched October 9, 2020. This site includes information on the nine focus areas and strategies for each. It also includes a data dashboard which highlights the programs that provide services in each area. The public can also sign up for updates or submit comments for this effort.
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>None</p>

6. Presentation: NFO Tree Planting Project

<p>Presentation by Maya Briones, Canopy Community Forestry Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With funding from CalFire, Canopy plants and cares for trees for free on private property for residents in the Peninsula, particularly for those who live in communities that will be heavily impacted by climate change. • Canopy had its first tree planting in North Fair Oaks in September and 11 trees were planted. • In partnership with Siena Youth Center and Climate Ready, another tree planting is scheduled for December. Anyone within walking distance to the Siena Youth Center could be eligible to receive a tree for free.
<p>Public Comments</p>	<p>None</p>

7. Report out

<p>a. Supervisor’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>b. County Manager’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an increase in illegal dumping in North Fair Oaks and it is not clear if it is limited to this area or if it is a countywide issue. Outreach will be conducted to inform the public that bulky-item pick up is available. • Regarding the earlier comments about the meeting agenda, the public can sign up for updates on the North Fair Oaks Community Council site on the Boards and Commissions page. The agenda can also be downloaded from this website. https://cmo.smcgov.org/north-fair-oaks-community-council-meeting-agendasminutes • There are many options for COVID-19 testing countywide and now children ages 5 and up can also receive a test. Neighborhood pop-up sites are also now available. For more information on test sites, visit www.smcgov.org/testing <p>c. Council Member’s Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Member Esser provided an update from his participation on the Neighborhood Response Team. <p>d. Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm
