Hello All,

Some of the best news for this Labor Day weekend!

We have all long awaited this remarkable news that on September 1, 2022 the City Of Napa’s Planning Commission voted 4-1 to recommend that the Gateway Parcels be designated GREENBELT!

This means that the current designation of the “Foster Road Mixed Use Corridor” be deleted from the Planning Divisions’ draft General Plan Napa 2040 and replaced with their recommendation of re-zoning these parcels to a designation of Greenbelt. A Greenbelt designation will preserve these invaluable “green” resources for the residents of Napa and not allow mixed-use residential and commercial development on these high-risk parcels. This is the same recommended designation as was accorded to Napa Oaks and Timberhill in 2021.

We have yet to see the printed language and maps associated with this new designation but understand that it will be in full accordance the motion of the Planning Commission. In the spirit of equity for all areas of the city and District two, we trust that it will mirror the language accorded to the designations of Greenbelt for Napa Oaks and Timberhill.

To say that we have now seen the power of community activism would be an understatement. We realize that it has been a long road - one often full of a series of deflections and Roundabouts. Nonetheless, here we are coming out of Round 1 with a hard-fought victory. I hope you take some time today to congratulate yourselves and raise a toast to the four Planning Commissioners who voted their conscious.

These four Planning Commissioners upheld the City’s mission to “preserve and promote the unique quality of life that is Napa”. We are more than heartened by these four Commissioner’s avowed change of heart, their integrity, their fairness, their admirable courage to question the Planning Division’s factual inaccuracies and to stand up against the City’s and privatized interests that had been exerting undue pressures.

During Commissioner Massaro’s questioning, the City of Napa finally admitted that the re-zoning / up-zoning of the Gateway Parcels was not necessary to accommodate the RHNA numbers. More on this later.

So very many of you attended these Planning Commission meetings ( in person and virtually ) and sent in emails of support. The Planning Commissioners could no longer dismiss KNGG’s objections to the factual inaccuracies and unilateral decisions/directives of the Planning Division and their paid consultants.

Personally, I can’t thank you enough!

So now we find ourselves preparing for simultaneously with:

Round TWO ( the City Council ) where the collective mantra for years has been this is a "done deal". It is not. As elected officials, the Council members have a duty to the people of Napa and 77% of the people of Napa want Open space at the periphery of the City. They should not know this.

Round THREE ( the impending County of Napa’s draft Housing Element) proposing 100 low-income, pre-fab units on the 24 acre parcel owned by the Ghislettas that aligns along the northwest stretch of Foster Road and is adjacent to Ken Wilcoxson’s property. Once again their proposed sits atop the West Napa Fault line. More on this later. They are accepting responses to this Draft Housing Element thru September.

And as a reminder, County Supervisor Diane Dillon first proposed this re-zoning, annexation, up-zoning and development project way back in 2007-08 ( remember the Snow School Meeting ? ) and still supports this project being built. And Supervisor Brad Wagenacht has been a
vocal proponent that this is a “done deal” for years and nothing can be done to change it. Reportedly, he literally then turned his back on his own neighbors and walked away, leaving them in disbelief.

In other words, we all have our work cut out for us as we are in the end stretch - which is always the most challenging. But if I have learned anything through the last 2-3 years, it is that we do not give up - we double down and we get it done!

As always, thank you and I trust that you will be able to enjoy yourselves despite the crushing heatwave

My Best,

C

Christiane Robbins

K E E P  N A P A ' s  G A T E W A Y S  G R E E N

( www.savefosterroad.org )

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