

From: Strive San Mateo <email@strivesanmateo.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023 5:57 PM
To: General Plan <generalplan@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: New message on Strive San Mateo

Name: Lynette Huth

Email: [REDACTED]

Message: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the city plan. I already sent a comment regarding balance growth and change, but have thoughts I'd like to share about some of the other topics.

1) Preserve Nature

This should be a given. Having only been a resident for 2 years, I'm only aware of Central Park, a park near Laurelwood, Coyote Point and the trail around Seal Point, besides some playgrounds. Another reason to spread out building as some of the areas around public transportation need more green space. I also feel, that being along the bay and having a lot of waterways (lagoons?) similar to Foster City, the access needs to be improved. Most of the waterways I've seen have either a very short public path are connected to private access properties. Single family homes that allow no access, Condos and town houses with signs everywhere saying private property with warnings. If these waters are part of our lagoon system and our property taxes maintain them, we should have clear access to those areas. A map could be provided to all entry points with clear signage, as well. Also, I know of no other access to the Bayfront, besides what I mentioned. There should be paths, places to sit and possibly a few restaurants here and there where people can enjoy a meal and a view.

2) Supporting local businesses

Others than Laurelwood and Crystal Springs, it does seem that most businesses are in the heavily consolidated areas. Perhaps slightly taller buildings (2-3 stories) could be put on 25th and where other 1-2 block blocks of commercial are (37th???, 41st, 42nd, etc) as well as in areas that already have strip mall settings (Walgreens on ElCamino, paint store, etc and Molly Stone's as you mentioned). My one concern is the downtown. I don't understand why B St has been singled out as a gathering place, which benefits commercial places there and completely ignores the entire rest of downtown. This downtown has a lot of nice restaurants, although not that diverse, but other Peninsula cities have nicely decorated outdoor seating, many covered from rain and some kind of wind blocks that aren't tents. They are permanent fixtures and it's very pleasing and draws bigger crowds. We need more retail there, also, and it would be nice to try to bring in some music venues for both teens and adults and whatever kids like to do these days (arcades? paint ball?).

3) Communications

I'm still not completely sure the lines of communication within the city departments and the public, as well as between the city and the county. Even online I feel like I'm missing info, like being able to make comments here which I only found out about at the District Town Hall Meeting a few nights ago. There was also an occasion where there was a hazardous spill and I got the county alert, which not everyone knows about and some elderly, homeless or lower income families who can't afford a cell phone, don't have access to. The alert said there the spill was and for the surrounding area to shelter in place. I live relatively close to that area and the street by my home was mentioned in the alert. Some of us stayed indoors. Hours passed and no further word. They had never mentioned a radius! We weren't even sure if it effected us or not. Finally, towards the end of the day I decided to call around. Everywhere I called referred me to somewhere else. I went through city hall, fire dept, county emergency, etc. and no one knew if my area was part of the shelter in place ... city hall didn't even know there was a shelter in place and no one knew if it was still in place or ever. I finally saw on Nextdoor that they heard on the evening news it was over. I won't even go into the communication during the flooding, as I believe you've heard

a lot about that already. That was just utter chaos, including with 911. It was very disconcerting and makes me fearful of further issues. I am stunned there seems to be no cut and dry way for each department to clearly stay in touch with one another and disperse clear information to the public. I hope that is being worked on. I also wonder if returning to a siren system would be helpful, accompanied by alerts for those who have ability to receive them and an emergency line to call for a recorded message of what has happened and what to do or not do for those who have no other means of finding out. That should also have updates. it would also alert others to look at their phones for info.

4) Full conversion to electricity vs gas. I've heard the city wants to speed this up. For lower income families and many retirees, this is an expensive and almost overwhelming endeavor. It would be nice if, like the updating of sewer laterals, it could be done at time of sale of the property, to be done by seller or buyer and negotiated by them.

5) Finally Sea Level Rising & Flooding

I know you've heard the voices of the community in regards to the flooding. I know there is a plan to repair and update the flood control system. I hear you say it was a 100 year flood, but the city has clearly not maintained the flood prevention system even though those before me have paid tax money to do that. You are a newer group and I appreciate your intent to get things working again. I'm concerned that the west side of 101 is still in danger of flooding due to "the fix" being cleaning out storm drains, creeks, culverts and widening culverts. I know this is work that involves working with CalTrans, Dept of Fish & Game, and private land owners along the creeks, which means way more red tape, time and money. At a City Council meeting, I heard the Public Works Dept say no matter how much money they get, they don't have enough help. I would like to know why. Can the budget for them be increased for purpose of hiring more staff? I know they are now trying their best to clean the storm drains by this years rains, while the rest will take much longer. We are hearing of El Nino and heavy rains ahead for us again this year and this is very worrisome. I would hope that:

- a) the storm drains citywide are not only cleaned in time, but monitored and maintained
- b) that from here on in there are emergency on-call crews in place at all times
- c) when we know storms are on the way, the pumps are being used to the correct level and creeks, culverts and storm drains are being monitored and, to the best of the department's ability, cared for where necessary.

Thank you very much for your time, the efforts you've put in so far and for your willingness to listen to the input of the public and, hopefully take it into consideration and make changes where it seems workable.

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