

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

March 1, 2019



City Manager's Office

City Issues Emergency Declaration; Departments Prepared, Monitored and Are Now Cleaning Up After Winter Storm – The Fire, Police, Public Works and Utilities departments staffed up in preparation of flooding from heavy rainfall and high winds on Tuesday and Wednesday. The City also opened its emergency-operation center on Tuesday to coordinate the City's response to the flooding. Staff members monitored water levels overnight on Tuesday and set up set road barriers as needed in the downtown area as well as low-lying areas such as Almond Way and Presidential Circle. Staff is now cleaning up debris in areas that flooded, including the wastewater treatment plant, which sustained several feet of water, as well as Badger Park, Railroad Park, and the Fitch Mountain Park & Open Space Preserve. It's important to note that Staff cleared storm inlets and pipes well before this latest bad-weather event to help lower the risk of flooding.



Urgency Ordinance for Relocation Assistance – The City Council at its March 4th meeting will act on a proposed urgency ordinance to provide up to \$7,000 to qualified renters displaced by no-fault evictions. Under the proposed ordinance, landlords who issue evictions through no fault of their tenants shall pay the qualifying tenants three times the most current "fair market rents" (FMR) based on the number of bedrooms in the residential property. In addition, for lease terminations in which a landlord raises the rent by more than 10 percent, the landlord will be required to pay the qualifying tenants. Under the proposed ordinance, landlords may deduct past-due rent and any amount they paid to repair damage, replace keys and clean the tenant's apartment from the relocation assistance funding. For more information, go to the agenda packet for the March 4th meeting: <http://healdsburgca.igam2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1869&Inline=True>

Healdsburg Avenue Focus-Group Workshops – The City will hold a series of public focus-group meetings on March 15th at the Community Center. The aim: gather community feedback on what streetscape improvements – such as bike paths and street-crossing safety features -- should be installed on Healdsburg Avenue, from Powell Avenue to the City's northern limits. The first focus-group meeting starts at 9 a.m. and the last one starts at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please go to www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/874/8441/Healdsburg-Avenue-Improvement-study or contact Assistant City Manager Joe Irvin at jirvin@ci.healdsburg.ca.us.

Community Services

City's Parks and Open Space System Affected by Flooding – Badger Park, Railroad Park, and the Fitch Mountain Park & Open Space Preserve are closed until further notice due to this week's flooding. Here's an update:

Railroad Park – Flood waters covered most of the park, taking out sections of river fencing and retaining wall and eroding areas of the park. Flooding also left a 2-3" layer of muck throughout the park. Additional assessment of the retaining walls and stairways and repairs need to be made. Temporary fencing has been installed along Front Street to secure the site.



Badger Park – Water also covered this park during the weather event. Flooding took out most of the play structure's surfacing material, left the community garden in disarray, and covered the site with a 1" layer of muck. We anticipate that clean-up of the parking lot, play structure, and patio area will happen today, and the predicted rains this weekend should help clear some of the muck on the trails and turf area. The park could re-open as early as next week. However, the play structure will remain closed until new surfacing material can be delivered; we're waiting on a confirmation date from the supplier.



Fitch Mountain Park and Open Space Preserve – The open space preserve suffered the most damage. Two major slides completely block the trail/access road and three minor slides impact other areas. In addition, there is significant erosion throughout the trail/access road system. Additional assessment is needed to determine how to best to address these issues.



Healdsburg Community Center Opens Emergency Shelter – Community Services Staff opened a disaster evacuation shelter in response to the winter storm and the activation of the City's emergency operations center (EOC). The EOC directed Staff to open the shelter at 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday to help community members displaced by flooding. Staff prepared the shelter so people could stay warm, dry, and fed with donated hot coffee from Starbucks and an assortment of food. With water levels receding, the evacuation shelter was deactivated at 12 p.m. on Wednesday. We are proud of all our staff who worked at the shelter and served on standby through the night. All activities at the Community Center have returned to their regular schedule.



Tee Ball Underway – As spring approaches, our first outdoor program of 2019 is tee ball. Before the official season begins, Community Services worked with the National Academy of Athletics to offer a tee ball tune-up for children ages 3-5 years old. This program is designed to give families an introduction to baseball prior to the start of the regular season on March 25th. Tee ball tune-up began on February 14th and has reached maximum capacity. There is still space available in the tee ball league and families can register by visiting <http://bit.ly/COHTBall19>.

Planning & Building

North Entry Area Plan Update – The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 26th to receive comments on the draft North Area Entry Plan (NEAP) and proposed zoning ordinance overlay and continue discussion from the January 23rd workshop. Prior to the emergency adjournment of the meeting due to threat of flooding, there was direction to:

- Retain the 290-unit cap on residential uses and consider all future senior-housing community uses as residential, not commercial;
- Do not include a cap on the number of senior independent-living units;
- Do not include NEAP specific affordability requirements;
- Maintain the hotel as a permitted conditional use but further discussion is needed on whether the cap of 130 rooms should be eliminated or reduced;
- Continue the discussion at the next Planning Commission meeting at 6 p.m. on March 12th.

106 Matheson Appeal of Planning Commission Approval – On February 25th, Brigette Mansell and 14 other appellants filed an appeal on the 106 Matheson project. The primary issue raised by the appellants is scale. As a result, the City Council will hold a public hearing on March 18th at 6 p.m. to consider the appeal.

Mill District Special Meeting – The City Council will hold a special meeting on March 11th at 5 p.m. to consider approval of a tentative map application and a development agreement to allow for the future development of the Mill District mixed-use project.

Utilities

Water & Wastewater Facilities Damaged in Flood – Due to the record amount of rain this week, several of the City's water and wastewater facilities were inundated with flood water. The Magnolia pump station, the Gauntlett well field, and the City's wastewater treatment facility were all significantly impacted by flooding. Repairs are ongoing, and the City has restored operations to the Gauntlett well field and Magnolia pump station. As of mid-day today, the wastewater treatment facility was still being repaired, but we expect to start treating wastewater this afternoon. City Staff have been working around the clock since Tuesday, putting forth a herculean effort, and will continue to do so for the next few days.

