



Historic Folsom Residents Association

Volume 1, Issue 4

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Historic Folsom Residents Association

Historic Folsom Residents Association  
 P.O. Box 955  
 Folsom, CA 95763-0955  
[www.thehfra.org](http://www.thehfra.org)  
[thehfra@gmail.com](mailto:thehfra@gmail.com)

**Presidents Message**

It's October and I'm struggling to come to grips with the fact summer is already over and that the holiday season is a month away (ice skating rink material is already staged in the parking lot across from Karen's Bakery).

The biggest news of the past 3 months is the continued progress towards a resident parking solution. In the previous newsletter, HFRA had shared that a request for a pilot was presented to City Council (July 27th). Fast forward, at the Sept 28th Council meeting, the pilot proposal presented by city engineering was unanimously approved by the council (latest details in a separate section of the newsletter). This is a tremendous win for both HFRA and the Historic District residents as it addresses a resident problem that has lingered for many years and highlights the growing influence the residents have with the City and other HD stakeholders. The final proposal details will be completed sometime in November and a second community meeting will be held prior to the pilot start date which is estimated for early December.

Development in the Historic District has been relatively quiet. I believe that is due to a couple factors: 1) There aren't many underdeveloped locations and 2) the recognition by Historic District stakeholders and the Historic District Commission that parking is a problem and without a credible solution, new development runs into that headwind. The one significant development project that did come before HDC was The Folsom Prison Brews project for the 608.5 Sutter St building (red barn Artfully Rooted Market). The concept had enough pushback from historic district stakeholders for its architecture, lack of parking to support the increase use (night time bar vs. day

time market) and the increased concentration of nightlife that would impact adjacent businesses that it was ultimately withdrawn. A new version of the project is set to come before the commission this quarter (more beer focused). The Board position remains that new projects with poor parking solutions will not receive support. The Board has also pushed back on the increased concentration of alcohol in the 600 block. It would be great to hear from the residents to ensure our position aligns with those of the community.

The one other substantial area of focus for the Board is the city development process and we continue to engage with the Director of City Planning to encourage her and her staff to follow a more systematic process and ensure transparency in that process. Progress has been slow, but the board will continue to push and escalate where necessary.

As always, we value the feedback from the HFRA community and are available by email or phone anytime.

Happy holidays and we'll talk again in January.

Michael J. Reynolds, President  
 Historic Folsom Residents Association



## Residential Permit Parking (Pilot) Program (2021/22)

- The Residential Permit Parking Program (Pilot) was unanimously approved by the City Council at the Sept 28th City Council Meeting.
- Pilot area will be Figueroa St from Scott - Decatur and the feeder blocks from Sutter Street at Scott, Wool, Reading, and Decatur.
- The pilot will restrict parking to residents only from the hours of 6pm-2am on Friday and Saturday nights. Residents will be issued parking permits and guest passes to enable the enforcement of the parking restrictions.
- City has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to outside parking firms to manage the administration and enforcement.

The City would like the pilot to begin prior to the December Holiday season. A community meeting with the pilot residents will be the week of Nov 29. All affected residents will be notified by mail regarding the meeting.

- Engaging the membership - When strong voice from the community is required.

### Barley Barn Tap House:

- The project requires a parking variance which remains unacceptable to the residents until a permanent resident parking solution is in place. The 600 block is the most congested so the addition of new entertainment options more than likely drives visitor parking into the residential areas.
- Use change drives change in parking density. For greater than 20 years, the barn building at 608 1/2 Sutter St. has been a retail business with 10-6pm working hours which does not conflict with any of the neighboring 600 block establishments. The proposed change to an entertainment venue serving alcohol will shift the primary usage to the 5pm-12am time window which will now overlap with the majority of adjacent businesses in the 600 block. In addition, the capacity of the Brewery will shift the density from light retail to entertainment with a proposed operating capacity of 166 patrons with additional outdoor seating. This added congestion only serves to create more parking and usage imbalance in the East end of the Historic District. This is subjective for sure, but the Historic District buildout is at a state where the balance of the entire district needs to be considered when granting changes in use conditions.

### Crematorium:

The crematorium project has yet to be slated for Historic District Commission review. The Preserve and Lake Natoma Shores residents have been very organized and vocal in their opposition to the project. In terms of the HFRA Board position, we believe, in addition to the technical issues of the application, that the proposed Industrial usage in a defined Open Space is out of balance with the Historic District and not the right project for this area.

## Historic District Development Activity

Quick update on development in the Historic District. To respond better to any projects submitted for consideration to the Historic District Commission, the Board put together a process that will enable us to be more systematic in our approach. As always, HFRA is not anti-development, but pro smart development (to preserve and protect). Concerns highlighted by the Board on any project reflect that philosophy.

### HFRA Board Development Project Review Process

- Reach out to fellow Historic District stakeholders to understand their positions on the development and whether we have fellow travelers with similar views on a project. Those groups include the Historic Preservation League, Folsom Merchants Association, and Folsom Historical Society.
- Reach out to the Historic District Commissioners - The HFRA Board is working to build our relationships with the commissioners. Understanding their position helps form the HFRA Board's response.
- Community meetings - unusual, but the proposed crematorium is an example where a community meeting was held. Note: The Historic District Commission is pushing proposed developers to show proof of reaching out to the community.

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Halloween is a day in which some people choose to wear a mask, while others finally feel safe to take theirs off.

STEVE MARABOLI



### HFRA Website Update:



The HFRA website: [www.theHFRA.org](http://www.theHFRA.org) has been updated! You can now find our Quarterly Newsletter on the website as well as links to the City of Folsom's Website. We will continue to update the website on a quarterly basis and look forward to even more changes in the future!

### Calendar of Events

**Saturday, October 23, 2021:**  
**HFRA Meet and Greet with the Preserve Neighborhood,** Sutter Street Mini Park, 1115 Sutter Street, Folsom 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Stop by and meet the HFRA Board and your neighbors!

**HFRA Board Meetings** are held the 1st Monday of every month (via Zoom for now). (Meetings may be rescheduled due to holidays or conflicting schedules).

**HFRA General Meetings** are held three times a year (dates and location TBD).

**Historic District Commission Meetings** are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Folsom City Council Chambers, City Hall, 50 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA. at 5:00 p.m.

**Folsom City Council Meetings** are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Folsom City Council Chambers, City Hall, 50 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA at 6:30 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

