

From: [Robert Goss](#)
To: [Stephanie Hannum](#)
Cc: [Karen Sanabria](#)
Subject: River District Public Correspondence
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024 4:25:22 PM

Please file this one as "VFW6604 - July 7, 2023."

Thanks,
Robert

From: Robert Goss <rgoss@folsom.ca.us>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 4:12 PM
To: VFW6604 Folsom <vfw6604folsom@gmail.com>
Cc: YK Chalamcherla <ykchalamcherla@folsom.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Commander Lee,

I was preparing for the first Citizens Advisory Committee this Thursday ([River District](#)) when I realized I hadn't followed-up on your email of July 7th. My apologies. There was a statement in your email that concerned me, and if it were indeed true, I could understand the VFW's own concern and frustration. From your email:

"We were informed that most of the recommendations for the River District Master Plan would require us to move off of our current location and we find that totally unacceptable. We are centrally located in the city and the Hall's location makes it a great and convenient place for our Veterans to gather. Folsom's Veterans groups have been located on this property (give or take a few hundred yards) since the end of World War II and would like to remain here."

First of all, please understand and communicate to others that share your concern, there aren't any recommendations for anything yet in the River District. In fact, the retained planning consultant has only been collecting background information, and the Citizens Advisory Committee will meet for the first time this Thursday, 6:00 pm at the Georgia Murray Library. There are no recommendations yet. The only thing established so far are the goals included in the City's 2035 General Plan (adopted in 2018) that stated the River District should "increase recreational opportunities; increase access to the lake and river; and, increase economic development." Nothing in those goals implies that the VFW would need to move.

Second, in all my preliminary work on the project which involved numerous interviews and conversations within the community about hopes, vision, and ideas, not once has the notion of moving the VFW come up. I don't know who "informed" the VFW of such "recommendations," but I would question the source of that information. I am well-aware of the VFW's place in our community and the VFW Hall's importance to the organization, members and families. It is important, honorable, and obviously well-established.

Please contact me with any questions and I'll be sure to respond. My apologies again for the late reply to your last email.

Best regards,
Robert Goss

From: VFW6604 Folsom <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 11:18 AM
To: Robert Goss <rgoss@folsom.ca.us>
Cc: ykchlamcherla@folsom.ca.us <ykchlamcherla@folsom.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

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Robert,

Thank you very much for adding the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization to your River District planning project information distribution list.

As you know, the Folsom Veterans Hall sits right in the middle of the River District planning project so the 9 Veterans groups that use the Folsom Veterans Hall as home base have a rather vested interest in the outcome of the project. The VFW represents the best interests of over 1800 members of these groups and their families. We manage the Veterans Hall for their use and pay \$500 in rent to the city every month along with the normal utilities consumed by a small business. We also manage the Hall canteen which is a healthy and active community small business. Additionally, we are used by 15 Folsom small businesses as an authorized kitchen so they can conduct their business in the city. The Folsom Veterans Hall is used extensively by Veteran groups to conduct affordable memorial services, weddings, receptions, celebration of life events, and many other social events that provide support to the fabric of our community life. Our bottomline is the Folsom Veterans Hall is a dynamic and active part of the quality of life in this city for America's Veterans.

We were informed that most of the recommendations for the River District Master Plan would require us to move off of our current location and we find that totally unacceptable. We are centrally located in the city and the Hall's location makes it a great and convenient place for our Veterans to gather. Folsom's Veterans groups have been located on this property (give or take a few hundred yards) since the end of World War II and would like to remain here.

We are also very aware the only affordable property available (if we were forced to move) would be somewhere on the other side of Highway US 50 which we consider to be on the outer fringes of the city and not Folsom proper.

Needless to say, I was surprised and disappointed when Folsom's Veterans groups were not invited to join the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) as voting members when so much of our Veterans best interests are at stake. Nonetheless, we will do our best to provide positive

input and make our concerns known to the CAC.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Lee, Jr.
Commander
Folsom VFW Post 6604

