

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, March 12	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, March 17	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, March 10	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, March 18	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, March 14	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	



Jewelry gone at J.M., 2/25/08 A concerned mom called in to report her daughter's brand new Tiffany bracelet and necklace were stolen out of her P.E. locker. Daughter had just received the items for her birthday the week before.

Danger to self, 2/24/08 Officers responded to Ascot Drive to contact a 19-year old female who ingested an overdose of over the counter medication due to depression. It was determined that she was a danger to herself. She was taken to Contra Costa Regional Medical Center where she was placed on a mental health hold.

Nearly naked jogger, 2/23/08 At approximately 5:15 in the morning a motorist observed a 25-year-old male running on St. Mary's Road just north of Moraga Road wearing only boxer shorts. He appeared to wave at cars as he ran by. On this particular day the temperature was 37 at that hour in the morning. Subject ran away before officers could locate him.

Paintball attack, 2/23/08 A Warfield Drive resident called police to complain about an unknown suspect driving a dark colored sedan who peppered his driveway with paint balls. The newly painted homeowner has no idea who would do this.

Disposition of Evidence
Moraga Police Dept. no longer needs property related to case 07-1203 for evidentiary purposes. All evidence is going to be disposed of. If you are involved in the case and have ownership of items involved please contact the Moraga Police Dept. Property Officer Heather Pomeroy at 925-888-7055 Ext. 7173. All Evidence will be destroyed after March 30, 2008.

Developer's Initiative Will Wait For November Ballot

By Sophie Braccini

On February 27th, the Moraga Town Council decided in a 4 to 1 vote not to put the initiative known as MOSPRO on the June ballot, postponing it until the General Election in November. The decision was based on the Councils' intent to deliver a clear, accurate and meaningful summary of the initiative to the Moraga electorate. Supporters of the initiative said the deferral was driven purely by political reasons.

The initiative, commonly known as MOSPRO or the Bruzzone Initiative, was re-titled by Town of Moraga staff as the "Moraga Initiative Expanding Open Space and Residential Land Use Designations and Adopting a Development Agreement." The County Clerk certified the signatures that make the initiative eligible. The Council had the choice to either order the Initiative to a June ballot by the March 7th deadline, or wait the 30 days allowed by the Election Code to receive an impact report from staff.

The first option wouldn't have prevented the Council from ordering a full report, however staff brought up other deadlines that caused concerns. The ballot documents that will be mailed to all voters will include an impartial 500 words analysis from the Town's attorney. The deadline for submitting that study for a June ballot is March 14th. Doubts were raised as to whether twelve working days would be sufficient time for staff to develop a full report on all of the requested items.

Supporters of the initiative didn't share that concern, arguing that one quarter of the Town's electorate had signed to have it on the June ballot. Councilmember Bird supported that view point, "Staff can provide a factual study that would be ready in time to be included in the voter pamphlet," urged Bird. "The people of Moraga are highly educated. We need to trust them to think for themselves and make an informed decision," she continued.

About two-thirds of the forty or so citizens who spoke that night had a different perspective. "I've never seen such a complex initiative," said Leland Nelson, who sat on Moraga's first Planning Commission.

"The initiative contains a contract that will freeze many things for twenty five years," stated another resident, "there is

no rush putting it on the ballot right now without due consideration."

The complexity of the matter was illustrated by the battle between the lawyers for the opposing sides. As the Town's Legal Council summarized it, "I have a lot of respect for both parties, but when one tells me there is no problem and the other one says the document is illegal, I suspect it will take a very serious study to form an impartial opinion."

Some supporters of the Initiative resorted to a personal attack against Mayor Deschambault. She was challenged about a declaration she made in December supporting the MOSO 2008 initiative.

"Yes, I supported that measure last year," responded Deschambault, "it was at a time when there was no indication that another initiative would be submitted to voters." She supported postponing the inclusion of the initiative to November in order to make sure that voters would get an accurate and complete set of information, "with a full and meaningful report, the electorate will be better informed. It's unfortunate that this initiative was not submitted in time for the complete process to take place before the deadline."

Vice-Mayor Dave Trotter had made his position very clear since the beginning of the debate: "We need to provide leadership," stated Trotter, "which means to act in the best interest of the Town as a whole. There is no need to rush, true democracy happens when people make informed decisions."

Councilmember Ken Chew saw no compelling reason to put this initiative on the fast track. "Council needs to make sure that the voters are thoroughly informed," he said. "Voters should be given the opportunity to contrast the two initiatives and decide which one to vote for on Election Day," added Chew, referring to the other potential initiative, MOSO 2008.

That was something Councilmember Bird couldn't agree with, insisting, "It is not our job to level the playing field for some other potential initiative that has yet to be submitted."

The Future of the Hacienda Still Uncertain

By Sophie Braccini



The Hacienda De Las Flores is Moraga's most picturesque public building. A popular place for weddings, it also houses classes organized by the Parks and Recreation Department and group meetings. Until recently, most of Town's staff had their offices there. But the building is old, it needs repair

and refurbishing, and carries an operational deficit of a quarter of a million dollars per year. The task at hand is dual: raise revenue for better balancing the budget and find capital for repairs and restoration.

The Town Council appointed a Hacienda Committee in 2005 to propose solutions. On

February 27th, that Committee presented its report to the Council, along with a consultant who worked on a business plan to develop the Hacienda's revenue. During its operations, the Committee had recommended the creation of a Foundation to raise some of the \$1.2 million that is needed to repair the Hacienda.

The Foundation is now incorporated and has begun its fundraising efforts. Margaret DePriester, who is a member of the Committee and the Foundation, addressed the Council: "We need more guidance from the Town," she said. "We recommend a general survey of the population to understand what the people want from this building. Some of our residents don't even know it exists."

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