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Lamorinda Teen Center Makes Progress

by Beth Eliason

A meeting was held at the Orinda Community Center on a recent Tuesday night to update the community on the proposed Lamorinda Teen Center. Teens and adults on the Planning and Implementing Committees spoke to the attendees on a number of subjects starting with the announcement that the Center's non-profit status has been completed and 501(c)3 status is in progress.

The site originally proposed for the Center, the basement under Europa Restaurant, is still under negotiation with the building's owner. Concerns have been raised regarding parking and the loading dock behind the building. The Committee has proposed a front entrance. They are also looking into alternative sites for the center and would like to keep the center in downtown Orinda because of its central location, access to Bart and to bus routes.

The site decision will be finalized by April and may require alterations to the plans for the renovation. Residents who have suggestions for a site are encouraged to contact Steve Controulis at scontroulis@triu.com.

Once the site is finalized, fundraising will begin in earnest. The Committee would like to raise enough money for the renovation and for the first one to two years of operation, approximately \$500,000. The first fundraiser will be a Battle of the Bands being planned by teen volunteers on the Event Planning Committee. The tentative date for this event is May 30th.

For more information on the Teen Center or to donate raffle prizes to the fundraiser, please go to www.lamorindateencenter.org.

The next community meeting will be held May 12th at 7:00 PM at the Orinda Community Center. The fundraising committee's next meeting is March 24th at 7:00 PM in a private home. Please contact Beth Eliason at eliason4@pacbell.net if you are interested in attending.

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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