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## Civic News

### Moraga

## The Dog Days are Over

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Two members of the Committee recommended that a smaller area be dedicated to off-leash hours. One of them, John Chambers, noted, "The American Kennel Club says that you can have an ideal dog park if you have 1 acre."

Resident Bob Reynolds also supported a smaller dog park. "I like dogs, I want to have a dog park in Moraga, but I am not convinced that taking a large chunk of the only public flat land we have is the solution," he said.

The three Council members who voted to end off-leash hours also supported a plan for a smaller dog park (D2). "I have never been in favor of cutting this park in half and that is what C does," said Mendonca. "D1 and D2 are almost the same, D2 protects the picnic tables better and I like that." Harpham and Chew agreed. After trying to leave the door open for both C and D2 to be studied simultaneously, Metcalf joined the majority and Plan D2 passed on a 4-1 vote; Trotter opposed.

Committee chair Cherie Grant, who is not a dog owner, indicated that she was disappointed that the plan

recommended by the Committee was not approved by the Town. "The Committee's plan took the needs of all users into consideration," she said.

Lamorinda Dogs' Jeanne Moreau, who also served on the Committee, later described Plan D2 as "an incredibly more costly plan than C, because it will require the whole reconfiguration of the park." Moreau continued, "The majority plan was not approved by the Council, and now they want us to finance another, more expensive, configuration that shows less consideration for different types of park users."

The total cost of implementing Plan D2 has not been calculated. In addition to fencing, it entails adding pathways, doors, turf and irrigation, and moving picnic tables. The Town will pay up to \$25,000 to fund the required environmental reporting. As for the rest of the cost, Metcalf stated that the first priority in Moraga is the roads and that he didn't see the Town spending money for a dog park.

*A letter from several members of the Committee appears in Public Forum, page A9.*

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:  
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

## Moraga Citizen Corps Council Revived

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According to Rein, Orinda's has no direct affiliation with city government, reflecting FEMA's definition of a council. "They meet at somebody's house and talk about things they are involved with such as neighborhood watch, schools and group preparedness. They spread the word about what they do and get support."

Lafayette has an official city commission with a budget. It falls under the Brown Act, which creates some boundaries and formalities.

The plan is for the Moraga council to be similar to Orinda's, with the sharing of ideas among all people involved and interested in emergency

preparedness. The group will meet once a month. "This would create the connective tissue between the neighborhoods and the official people," said Goodwin, who has long held the belief that a town's official plan is not enough.

Linda and Gary Borelli talked about the difficulty they've found in recruiting volunteer neighborhood captains to help organize orderly response at the neighborhood level. "People need to know if they should check on an elderly neighbor; everyone should know where to turn off their neighbors' gas valves in case of an earthquake; and what to say to

kids who might be home alone with a baby sitter," said Borelli.

More than 100 Orinda neighborhoods are organized; in Moraga there are only about two dozen such neighborhood groups.

The next meeting of the Moraga Citizens Corps Council is at 7 p.m. on June 12, at the Hacienda de las Flores. One of the agenda items will be the October Lamorinda Shake-Out where the 3 communities will practice emergency response to a disaster scenario. Anyone interested in the Citizen Corps is invited. For more information, email Dennis Rein at drein@mofd.org.

## Old Bowling Alley Site Still a Challenging Piece of Dirt

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The first concern was the high density of the project that does not afford any common space for its residents. "The setting is too dense," said Planning Commission vice chair Dick Socolich. "The scenic corridor is the heart of our community."

During public comments, resident Dale Walwark summed up the questions raised by this piece of property. "This is challenging piece of dirt," he said. "It should be commercial but there is no need for more commercial development in Moraga. If you approve any housing there, don't do it without a solution for pedestrian crossing, including at night."

The documents prepared by Town staff included a report by traffic consultant Fehr and Peers that made proposals regarding pedestrian cross-

ing, which they consider to be the bigger challenge posed by this project, from a traffic point of view. The proposals ranged from pedestrian activated lights to beacons allowing safe passage from the development to the Rheem Center.

Among the elements that commissioners suggested the developer take into account were the quality of life for the people who will live in the development, the perspective of Moraga residents driving by, including keeping ridge lines visible, and pedestrian friendliness within the project itself.

The developer indicated that it would take the recommendations into account and was looking forward to continue to work with the Town.

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