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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

City Council Fields Task Force & Lafayette School Board Fields Task Force Special Joint Meeting

Thursday Oct. 10, 8 a.m.
Lafayette City Offices
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Conference Room 265

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us



Lafayette, Orinda Police Reports on Hold

By Cathy Dausman

Lost in translation: two Lamorinda police blotters. The reports you normally read in this space are currently unavailable, due to information transfer and record management system changes. "When the system was changed they lost a lot of information and are working on reconfiguring; I'm unable to run any type of stats at this time," said Lafayette Community Service Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato. Jeanette Irving, senior administrative assistant for Orinda, said the same thing: "Due to a changeover with the Sheriff's Office police software for upgrade, there are no stats at this time. We will begin posting as soon as they are available." Perhaps no news is good news...we'll keep you posted!

Testing the Waters for Possible Townhouse Project at Celia's Site

By Cathy Tyson



Illustrative plan

Provided

Lennar Homes, potential developer of 47 proposed townhouses, asked for feedback from the city of Lafayette at a joint pow-wow that included the Planning Commission, Design Review Commission and the City Council — and feedback they got, in bucketfuls; but it was less than enthusiastic.

A colorful Power Point presentation by Lennar's architect Chek Tang of Studio T-Sq outlined preliminary rough designs for the 2-acre site that now houses Celia's restaurant along with two adjoining parcels on the

western edge of the property. Rows of townhomes would face two interior motor courts with garages on the lowest level, compressed on the Mt. Diablo side of the site, to allow for non-developable easement over the massive EBMUD water pipe that runs roughly east to west bisecting the property. A tiny triangular sliver next to the freeway would be the future home of a pool and generous recreation center for residents. The plan included improvements for the EBMUD aqueduct portion of the property that would include public

space along a multi-use path.

Although this is clearly not Lennar's first rodeo, nor Tang's, who has worked on projects from China to Korea to Russia and has an extensive portfolio of designs in California, the first stab garnered lengthy comments from the various agencies in attendance. Calling the site a "wonderful opportunity" with convenient proximity to downtown, recreation and BART, Tang pointed out how it fits into a transitional area that moves from Lafayette's commercial downtown toward the more residential feel of the west end.

While no final decision was made, suggestions covered everything from guest parking to the motor court to the recreation center, and touched on height limit concerns.

Design Review Commissioner and professional architect Andre Ptasynski called the preliminary drawings, "anything but transitional" and noted that the designated live/work units proposed for half of the frontage along Mt. Diablo Boulevard thrive on pedestrian traffic and there isn't enough at that location. Many agreed that although the concept of live/work units is interesting, they never seem to pan out. Noise and truck traffic across the street at Diamond K was also a concern.

Suggestions were made to cluster the buildings to have a less linear look, and to consider having something besides a residential unit at the corner of Dolores and Mt. Diablo.

Hinting at the challenging experience with the KB Home project, in which there was a certain amount of tone-deafness on the part of the developer to design comments and suggestions, planning commissioner Tom Chastain was blunt, noting that it would be "incredibly troublesome to see it (architectural plans) come back in the same form." He opined that modest changes will not work.

Mayor Mike Anderson echoed that sentiment as the meeting wrapped up, "You need to break the mold on this," and "a lot more work needs to be done."

Complete Design Change Requested for Terraces Project

By Cathy Tyson

After much discussion, and negative public comment, Design Review commissioners expressed their serious concerns about the proposed design the Terraces of Lafayette project, asking

the architect and project manager to come back with some alternative plans.

Pointing out the benefits of the proposed 315-unit complex, Norm Dyer of LCA Architects kicked off

the meeting noting that the 22-acre site was a perfect location for a multi-family project due to the proximity to the freeway and its isolation from other neighborhoods. Three building types were

used that stabilized the existing degraded site and provided variety in what he described as simple elegant forms with bay windows, balconies and arched elements.

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