



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meeting:
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 4 p.m.
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
TBD

OUSD Office, Vintage Building
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200

www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2



The Orinda police report is unavailable at this time. Please see information box on page A2.

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Light at end of Housing Element Tunnel?

By Laurie Snyder

“This is the seventh public meeting held on this issue,” observed Emmanuel Ursu, Orinda planning director, as he began his latest presentation about the city’s draft Housing Element before the Orinda City Council at a four-hour meeting Oct. 1. Ursu walked the City Council through draft four, incorporating edits made by council members at their Sept. 17 meeting, along with the latest changes requested by the advocacy group Orinda Watch (www.orindawatch.org).

According to the 175-page staff report, the changes recommended to

draft three by both sides were only included if they were required to obtain certification of Orinda’s housing element by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, were factual, and were advocacy neutral.

After creation of that report by staff, the city needed to produce a subsequent update after a follow-up meeting Sept. 30. The changes are contained in a separate document, “Supplement to the Fourth Draft Housing Element (October 2013) – Agenda Item I-2.” Both were thoroughly reviewed by council, and are

available on the city’s website – along with the audio recording of council’s meeting.

While a fair portion of the revisions made this time were substantive, others involved only minor phrasing edits, prompting visibly frustrated and weary council members to question whether or not all of the latest edits were really necessary in light of HCD’s looming review deadline.

Likely next steps, said Ursu, include the circulation of a draft Negative Declaration by Oct. 22 “if the council determines that [such a dec-

laration] is the appropriate level of environmental review.” This would then be followed by a Planning Commission analysis of that declaration, along with reviews of the latest draft of the housing element and draft ordinances. If approved by the commission, the City Council would then adopt the declaration and element on Nov. 19 and the ordinances Dec. 17, before finally submitting Orinda’s housing element to HCD Dec. 18. Failure to do so could cost the city critically needed state planning and transportation funding.

Orinda City Council Proclaims October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and members of the Orinda City Council declared October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Orinda, presenting a copy of their proclamation Oct. 1 to representatives from STAND For Families Free of Violence. From Left: Nadia Costa and Katie Owensby, board member and development associate from STAND, Orinda mayor Amy Worth and city council members Sue Severson, Steve Glazer, Victoria Smith, and Dean Orr. Photo Ohlen Alexander

“Whereas: the problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people but cross all economic, racial, affectional preference and societal barriers and are supported by societal indifference;

the crime of domestic violence violates an individual’s privacy, dignity, security and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse; the impact of

domestic violence is wide-ranging, directly affecting men, women, and children, and society as a whole.... Be it resolved, that the City of Orinda does hereby proclaim October 2013 as Domestic Violence Awareness

Month, and urges all citizens to actively participate in the efforts to end violence in our homes, in our schools, and in our communities.”

It was with the memories of homicide victims such as Evangeline Cumbe Devera, as well as of Orindans still living through emotional and physical abuse, that the Orinda City Council recently issued the inspiring call to action above and kicked off National Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Oct. 1.

The City Council also paid tribute to STAND For Families Free of Violence for providing abuse prevention and recovery programs for families and individuals in and beyond Lamorinda. Services include a 24-hour crisis line, batterer treatment, employment training, home-like emergency and transitional shelters, legal advocacy, and counseling for individuals, families, teens, and children.

As STAND representative Katie Owensby accepted the proclamation, she noted that one in four women will be affected by domestic violence during their lives.

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Clarification, issue date Sept. 16, 2013, Orinda's Housing Element Continues to Evolve:

This article stated: “Orinda Watch ... has been receiving guidance from Bay Area Citizens...” Lamorinda Weekly subsequently received an email from Peter Singleton, in his capacity as director of Bay Area Citizens, requesting a retraction of this statement. The email reads in part:

“While members of Bay Area Citizens may be active with Orinda Watch, they are doing so in their individual capacities, and not as representatives of Bay Area Citizens. Bay Area Citizens as an organization is not offering guidance to Orinda Watch.”

We would like to clarify our statement: Orinda Watch has been receiving advice, support and information from Peter Singleton, who is an active participant with Orinda Watch and the founder of Bay Area Citizens.

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