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Business is Not Booming for Moraga's TSAC

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Traffic Safety Advisory Committee had its first meeting of the year on Oct. 21. The committee decided that John Valentine and Richard Sauv•will again serve as chair and vice chair, respectively, and agreed that Larry Rosenberg will be its representative on the Livable Moraga Road advisory committee.

The short agenda included a discussion about parking at Saint Mary's College during special events. College representatives presented their strategy to administer parking at special college events, ensure smooth visitor access, avoid excessive congestion on public streets and accommodate parking demands within campus boundaries. "The main strategy of the plan is to have designated college staff responsible for advance planning," according to the staff report. Committee members queried SMC representatives regarding the implementation of the plan and received reassurance from Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe who stated that the process has always gone smoothly and that SMC coordinates with his forces in advance of events. TSAC approved the college's plan.

The committee then asked the existential question, "Should TSAC continue to exist?" TSAC is chartered as a five-member body but has had difficulty recruiting new volunteers - it currently has only three sitting members.

In the wake of an ill-fated speed-bump project on Camino Pablo in 2008, TSAC was revived and wrote its new charter to be an advisory body that would study traffic issues in town, conduct public hearings and hear expert testimony before making recommendations to the Town Council.

Since its inception, TSAC has discussed many issues including the roundabout at the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard, additional stop signs on Campolindo Drive and Tharp Drive and safe pedestrian access to a local elementary school. But the number of requests by residents to improve circulation has fallen off - so the committee had no need to meet in 2013 before October.

During the meeting, committee members emphasized the need to recruit new volunteers and decided to conduct their meetings every three months, or more often if needed. TSAC members serve for two years; the terms of the current members end next March. Rosenberg confirmed he hopes to be reappointed, while Sauv•said he would not seek selection again and Valentine was undecided.

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