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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

TBA
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 27, 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, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room at 1212
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Much Smaller Terraces Development Proposed

Plan includes deal with city for park facilities

By Cathy Tyson



Image provided

With great anticipation, a crowd at the Dec. 9 City Council meeting was eager to hear what city manager Steven Falk had to say about the ominously-titled agenda item "Option to Settle Potential Litigation Regarding the Proposed Terraces of Lafayette Development." There had been an avalanche of negative feedback about the proposed 315-unit multi-family project since it was introduced years ago. Litigation would have made it even less attractive.

Much to everyone's surprise, the proposal outlined a completely re-organized, massively smaller project that essentially divides the parcel into two sections, with the developer situating a maximum of 45 single family homes, representing an 85 percent reduction, clustered near the center of the property and the city purchasing land around the perimeter for a soccer and lacrosse field, much needed parking lot, a dog park, tot lot and

bike path.

"We think this is a great alternative," said attorney Allan Moore, who represents the landowner and developer. "We've been listening."

Longtime resident and parks, trails and recreation commissioner Carol Singer heartily thanked the City Council, noting she was "flabbergasted," and "completely amazed," describing all of the amenities the new proposal offers that are top priority

items for the parks and recreation commission. Another thank you came from Kendra Loveless who appreciated all the hard work and the developer being flexible, "this is so much better."

Not everyone was thrilled with the proposal. Resident Eliot Hudson pointed out how this represents a failure of the city, on land that should have been zoned LR-5, Low-Density Residential District, one house per five acres. Another person speculated whether the original controversial 315-unit version was simply a maneuver to make this iteration all the more attractive.

For roughly the last month the developer, O'Brien Land Company, and city leaders have had a series of meetings about the developer suing the city if the original project was denied. This new option-to-settle proposal seems like an elegant solution for the city, "given the risks to the city presented by that potential lawsuit, and particularly with California's Housing Accountability Act, which limits the ability of cities to deny an affordable housing proposal unless that proposal is inconsistent with both the General Plan land use designation and zoning ordinance that existed at the time the application was deemed complete," said Falk.

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Don Tatzin Voted in as Mayor



Mayor Don Tatzin and wife Ellen.

Photo C. Tyson

At the last City Council meeting of the year Lafayette's outgoing mayor, Mike Anderson, announced the new mayor for 2014, Don Tatzin, after a unanimous vote by fellow council members. This marks Tatzin's record breaking sixth time as mayor, and his 29th year on the City Council. The mayorship is rotated annually among the five elected residents who comprise the City Council.

Tatzin praised Anderson as "the right person at the right time," especially for his role during the crisis of the washed out storm drain that was coincidentally located near Anderson's home. He also shared that An-

derson will be celebrating a "double retirement," retiring from his day job as Assistant General Manager of the Planning/Stewardship and Development Division of the East Bay Regional Park District, along with his retirement as mayor.

"It's been a very challenging year," said Anderson referring to the fire service coverage situation, and dealing with traffic congestion. "Lafayette is a place people want to come to because of its schools and restaurants; that's going to continue to be the case." Brandt Andersson was unanimously voted to be vice mayor for 2014. C. Tyson

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letters@lamorinda weekly.com

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