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New Year, New Goals

By Cathy Tyson

It's that time of year again: goal setting time. At the Jan. 26 city council meeting, the Lafayette City Council reviewed 2014's completed items, carried forward goals that are still in progress and added new ones for 2015.

One of the goals Mayor Brandt Andersson and City Manager Steven Falk discussed is a series of community conversations for citizens to chime in on potential future projects. Because downtown development is under control and the road repair situation is almost completely addressed, this is an opportunity to get a pulse of the town and gather feedback and suggestions. "This is a chance to start looking ahead to expand our horizons and see some new things that the city can do," said Andersson. Look for the conversations to start sometime in the spring.

More concretely, city council members were asked their goals and priorities for the fiscal year that will start on July 1. Falk called it the "kick off to the annual budget process." At the next meeting, the council can look at goals and staff prepares an estimated budget for those items, with a draft budget coming back to the council in late May or early June for final approval.

Other goals for fiscal year 2015-16 include organizing and hosting a Commissioners' Academy to introduce successful meeting models to ensure that city commission meetings are productive, and to help commissioners meet all legal requirements. Also on the list is to develop a strategy for downtown parking, and finally write and approve a master plan for downtown creeks.

Four of the five goals from last year are still in progress: consider a grand plan for downtown traffic circulation, process land use matters related to the Terraces of Lafayette, develop a plan to improve fire and emergency medical services, and develop a plan for financing downtown landscape maintenance. Finding the highest and best use of two city-owned parcels - the Old Library and 949 Moraga Road is complete.

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