



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, March 9, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,
www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 18 to 31:

Alarms 37
Battery

- 10 block Theater Sq
- 10 block Lost Valley Dr

Barking Dog

- 10 block Bates Bl

Burglary, Auto

- Bear Creek Rd/San Pablo Dam Rd
- 100 block Scenic Dr
- 70 block Moraga Wy (2)

Burglary, Residential

- 400 block Camino Sobrante

911 calls

8

Disturbance

- 100 block Orchard Rd
- 50 block Muth Dr
- 20 block Don Gabriel Wy
- 10 block Totterdale Ct
- 10 block Knickerbocker Ln

Drunk in Public

- Library

Fire/Ambulance Call

- Orinda Intermediate School

Forgery

- 30 block E. Altarinda Dr

Hit & Run

- Moraga Wy/Meadowlands Ct
- Miramonte High School
- 40 block St Stephens Dr

Loud Party

- 20 block Lavina Ct

Missing Juvenile

- 10 block Honey Hill Ct
- 10 block St Stephen's Dr

Missing Adult

- 20 block Irwin Wy

Neighbor Dispute

- 10 block Crown Ct
- 80 block Oak Rd

Theft, Petty

- 70 block Van Ripper Ln
- Brookwood/Camino Pablo
- 300 block Village View Ct
- 10 block Los Amigos

Panhandling

- Safeway (3)

Public Nuisance

- 10 block Snowberry Ct
- 10 block Tara Rd
- 30 block Carisbrook Dr
- Carmen Ct/La Cresta Rd
- 20 block El Patio

Reckless Driving

- Miramonte High School
- Camino Pablo/Bear Cr Rd
- Moraga Wy/Altamount Dr

Restraining Order Violation

- 10 block Orinda Wy

Suspicious Circumstance

12

Suspicious Subject

17

Suspicious Vehicle

18

Traffic Stops

171

Trespass

- 50 block Zander Dr
- 100 block Amber Valley Dr

Uncontrollable Juvenile

- 10 block Totterdale Ct (2)

Vehicle Theft

- 20 block Muth Dr
- Los Venados/Lomas Cantada

Theft

- Safeway

Warrant Service

- 10 block Lavena Dr (2)
- 50 block Donna Maria Wy



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Orinda City Council Clarifies Policies and Procedures for Public Meetings

By Laurie Snyder

On Jan. 13, Orinda City Attorney Osa Wolff began a report to the Orinda City Council by stating, "The city takes very seriously its obligations to comply with state, federal and local open meeting laws and rules about transparency." That report was prepared jointly with City Manager Janet Keeter and City Clerk Michele Olsen, and guided council's annual review of its policies and procedures manual (P&P). The resulting public discussion clarified practices which have been termed nonsensical by some but that are, in fact, grounded in the Brown Act.

City policies dictate that all public remarks at council meetings be directed to the mayor and council as a whole, rather than to a specific council member. Per Section 4.1 of the P&P manual: anyone may address council during the public forum period about items "within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council and ... not otherwise on the agenda" unless he/she cannot be present for items scheduled to be addressed later. Per

Section 5.2, "as prescribed more fully in [the Brown Act]," council may not take action on items which are not on the agenda unless there is an immediate need for action, such as the Tarabrook sinkhole emergency, or when a matter is continued from a prior meeting.

Slightly more latitude may be allowed during policy discussions or quasi-judicial public hearings such as design reviews. Applicants, their attorneys and architects have 15 minutes to testify, as do appellants. Others are then each given three minutes – except when the mayor deems it necessary to "direct a like-minded group to appoint a spokesperson" to "preserve order and eliminate repetitious testimony."

Booing, clapping or similarly boisterous behavior is also prohibited. Per the California League of Cities, the Brown Act empowers council to "adopt reasonable regulations on public testimony and the conduct of public meetings, including measures to address disruptive

conduct and irrelevant speech," and permits police to remove disruptors.

Changes proposed Jan. 13 clarify that members of the public may, if they choose, speak anonymously during public comment periods. "That is already our policy, but this makes it clear," said Wolff. The changes also make clear that public forum dialogue between council and audience members is not permitted.

During council's deliberation, Council Member Eve Phillips requested further edits. "I know it says that completing this [speaker card] is optional," but reiterating this on the card might be helpful "since it's been ... not always so clear in the past that name and address, and telephone number, email, etc. is not required." Asked by Mayor Steve Glazer why this was necessary since the card already states that completion is optional, Phillips continued, "I don't believe that's been fully understood by the public."

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The Ralph M. Brown Act

Passed in 1953 by the California State Legislature as a simple, 686-word statute to guarantee the public's right to attend and participate in the meetings of California city and county public governing bodies, the Ralph M. Brown Act (aka "the Brown Act") now spells out everything from when meeting agenda must be released to what recourse officials have when meetings are so disrupted by agitators that average citizens are unable to exercise their own individual rights to engage with elected officials.

For more information, visit the California League of Cities' guide to the Brown Act at <http://www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Resources-Section/Open-Government/OpenPublic2010.aspx>.

New Orinda Study Hangout Dazzles and Draws Teens



From left: Emma Rust, Danny Campbell, Jason Rudianto, Melanie McCallum (Teen Services Librarian, Orinda Library), Yassamin Emadi, Jordan Hardwick, Leila Minowada, Lara Sanli, Jackie Decareau Photo Andy Schreck

What do you do when the Young Adult section of your library becomes more popular with parents than their own teenagers? If

you're the library staff in Orinda, you redesign the spot so spectacularly that young Orindans can't help being curious and captivated.

Thanks to Melanie McCallum and Adriana Nino that's exactly what happened when the library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG) received a sneak peak of the new YA corner on Feb. 4. It was an immediate hit with those in attendance.

The project came about in 2014 when Teen Services Librarian McCallum and Library Assistant Nino noticed, soon after their hiring, that local teens needed a more enticing place to study and hang out. "With help from a subcommittee of Friends of the Orinda Library, they investigated other area library teen spaces, conducted research on current thinking on library services for teens, attended workshops on design of library spaces and came up with a design, color scheme and new wall art to completely overhaul the YA corner

with the intention of having an actual space that teens would want to utilize," says head librarian, Beth Girshman. "The new furniture was purchased from a company committed to sustainable business practices, and the upholstery fabric is made from recycled materials."

And to be sure they were hitting the nail on the head, McCallum and Nino also sought input from teen volunteers during the final design phase. Funding was provided by the Hart family and Friends of the Orinda Library with additional support from the Contra Costa County Library system. The Library's Teen Advisory Group will advise on program planning and book selection and also help promote library use for all ages in the community. A formal ribbon cutting will be held in March. *L. Snyder*

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