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**Future Foundation**

Roberts credits the Lafayette Community Foundation for the existence of the Orinda Community Foundation. Orinda's nonprofit public benefit organization began with the economic downturn of 2008-09 when the City of Orinda stopped discretionary spending. Now the Orinda Community Foundation helps sponsor the Fourth of July events, Lamorinda Idol, the senior transportation service, the Spirit Van, Opera in the Park and more.

Although some said it was reassuring to hear what it takes to get a community foundation off the ground, when the question and answer portion of the evening rolled around, concerns centered on dollars and cents.

Pointing out that the theater has opened and closed several times in history, Scheck believes there needs to be both a short-term solution and a long-term solution. Estimating that it will cost between \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month to keep the doors open in the near term, Scheck would like to

get a committee of volunteers together to look into specifics, perhaps increasing membership numbers or hosting fundraising events. The landlord has reduced the rent from \$18,000 to \$5,000, but can't afford to keep the rent artificially low.

One major concern was the potential sale of the property – the owner may get a better offer before the Moraga Community Foundation is able to take action. "When it goes, it goes," said Scheck, encouraging attendees that the time to get started is now.

Moraga councilmember Dave Trotter commented on the short-term need – pointing out that \$5,000 was raised in 36 hours over the Internet via crowdfunding to keep the theater's doors open. He added that the town, along with other members of the town council, are supportive of the project.

Regarding long-term needs, Leonard Pirkle, co-operator with Zemrak of both the Rheem and the Orinda theaters, spoke up to help clarify the complicated situation. "The landlord has reached his limit," he

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said, noting there are not enough admissions to keep it open, and in July the rent went up 60 percent. "We don't make money there."

Moving forward, it was suggested to come back with plans that spell out specific costs and a timeline to the community to further gauge support. It appeared that there was a substantial amount of community interest in keeping the theater open, but it will take real effort to make it happen.

For information about the Moraga Community Foundation and how to get involved, visit moragacommunityfoundation.org. A video recording of the June 24 kickoff meeting is available on the website.

**Meet the Newly Appointed Moraga Community Foundation Board**

The Moraga Community Foundation appointed the following members to its board: Edy Schwartz, Sam Sperry, Bob Fritzky, Bob Moore, Maridel Moulton, Rob Luchacher and Andy Scheck.

**Sidewalk Construction**

Approximately 15 residents attended a TSAC walking and informational meeting June 15. Residents reiterated concerns about the size of the sidewalks, the 12-foot right of way over their properties, and the potential impacts on landscaping and other items in their yards. At the March 3 council meeting, Senior Civil Engineer Larry Theis explained that they tried to conform around some landscaping features, but some homeowners will need to relocate some items back, such as mailboxes, due to the sidewalk construction.

Another concern was the slope of driveways, where steep grades can

create challenges when adding new sidewalks, but according to Associate Civil Engineer Daniel Chavarria, BKF Engineers, the designer for the project, resolved the issue of bottoming-out (or bumper scraping) by reconstructing and re-grading part of the driveways to minimize the grade break impacts of the project.

One Ivy Drive resident who attended the TSAC walking meeting expressed concern about the process. "I would like to see the opportunity for meaningful public comment, and intelligent design and land use," he said. "Personally, I have nothing against sidewalks per se, but they must be consistent with Orinda's General Plan mandate to maintain the semi-rural character of the community. What city staff is contemplating – and actually implementing on a short segment this summer – will make Corliss Drive in Moraga look like a country lane."

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Chavarria said the OIS-SMP is still a work in progress and considered a long-term plan. "The OIS-SMP is a critical plan prior to the city applying for more state and federal funds regarding sidewalk construction," he said in an email. "Currently, if the city would like to apply for more Safe Routes to School Funds for design/build sidewalks, it would have to apply to the Active Transportation Program (ATP). The ATP has a 'competition' process statewide and Bay Area-wide. Orinda would have to compete for state and federal funds. The OIS-SMP is trying to have an approved neighborhood sidewalk plan and is committed to the plan before we apply for funds."

No formal recommendation from TSAC was provided at the June 15 meeting. Another TSAC meeting will be held in September and more discussions will follow regarding OIS-SMP.

**Gas Pipeline**

"We understand that some property owners may not be aware of the importance of first responders having immediate access to gas pipelines in the event of an emergency, agreements with PG&E, or the presence of the natural gas transmission pipeline on their property," said Smith. "As part of this program, we will work closely with property owners to ensure they understand the importance of keeping the area around the pipeline safe and clear. A map of our natural gas transmission pipelines is also available at www.pge.com/pipelinelocations."

Several Contra Costa County cities including Lafayette banded together last year to complain about the utility's plan to unilaterally chop down trees over pipelines without permits. The utility put the Pipeline Pathways project on hold, ultimately substantially changing it into the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative.

In Walnut Creek an estimated 735 trees on public and private property were slated to be removed according to the original plan. Steven Falk, city manager of Lafayette, said the utility has not yet met with city representatives to work on the new and improved initiative. The pipeline runs down Mt. Diablo Boulevard near the reservoir where large mature shade trees and a nearby riparian habitat are located. City leaders obviously support public safety, but pointed out that the utility should have been maintain-

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ing its pipelines all along.

"They have really revamped the program," said Orinda's city manager Janet Keeter. She explained that the city was originally advised there were 305 suspicious trees on public property, but after taking a closer look, only 11 were deemed unmanageable. Calling it "a more thoughtful approach" and "quite a relief," Keeter said that the utility would be looking at vegetation on a case-by-case basis. When asked if PG&E will get a permit for tree removal, she said it depends on the type of tree; the utility agreed to follow the city's rules and will get a permit for protected trees – for example, oaks. For those who receive a letter, the utility will make an appointment to send a representative out to assess the situation, and work with homeowners on a "shared solution" if the process unfolds as anticipated.

There are 5.3 miles of gas transmission pipelines in Orinda, one in the northern part of town along Lombardy Lane and Dalewood Drive, cutting through Briones Regional Park, and a southern section along Glorietta Boulevard and Moraga Way ending at Estabueno Drive.

Emphasizing that it's all about safety and first responder access, Smith said, "We want to make it as safe as possible for our customers."

The PG&E letter to residents will probably come as a surprise since, according to Smith, easements on properties may or may not have been recorded.