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Bocce, Frisbee Golf and Pokémon Go — Can it all Fit at the Commons?

By Sophie Braccini



A map of the Moraga Commons Park Master Plan - existing conditions.

The Parks and recreation department is preparing a master plan for Moraga Commons Park.

In the words of the department director Jay Ingram, the purpose is to select, with the community, projects that will define the park's usage for the next 10 years. With the help of consultant RHAA Landscape Architects, the stakeholder outreach has started, sketching broad outlines and raising some

questions. The objective is that the public will be asked to contribute ideas after the summer and the town council will receive the plan in November.

Doug Nelson from RHAA has been meeting with the Park Foundation, the Bocce Ball Club, the Junior Women's Club and the parks and recreation commission. He says that those groups consistently stated that the park is beautiful as it

is, and whatever changes are made, they want to make sure it will stay that way.

However, some issues have also been raised. First of all is parking. The commissioners agreed when they discussed the topic last month that parking is challenging, but that since the park is surrounded by development on all sides there was no easy solution. Nelson said that his study will look at increasing

parking spaces, but that there will be trade-offs. The commissioners proposed to look at the new pocket park that will be available across from the Commons along Moraga Road and discussed the possibility of adding parking there.

After some initial support they decided that encouraging people to park there, when the pedestrian path will not be secured by an overhead roadway, was not a good recommendation.

Nelson listed other requests, such as to provide better lighting for evening events, to add an indoor event space, to get the two existing playgrounds closer to one another and to add more bocce ball courts.

Commissioner Carman noted that this topic of adding bocce ball courts has been continually surfacing for at least eight years but never seems to get resolved. The game is very popular in Moraga, with many of the players being seniors, but not all. Moraga would need two more courts to be able to be on par with other regional leagues and be part of tournaments.

Besides the question of funding — probably over \$70,000 to build two courts — one challenge is the conflict between bocce and the nine-hole Frisbee golf course. Ingram noted that the golf course is highly used and that he would not recommend abandoning the use.

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Help Name the New Park

By Sophie Braccini

The Parks and Recreation Commission proposed four names for residents to choose from to label the new small park across from Moraga Commons along Moraga Road.

The town has set an online survey for people to cast their vote at www.Moraga.ca.us. The town council will make the final decision.

- The names proposed are:
- Dos Arroyos** – because it has two creeks;
 - West Commons** – because it is close to the Commons Park;
 - Camino Campos** – because Campos means “commons”;
 - Camino Tesoro** – because “Tesoro” means gem.

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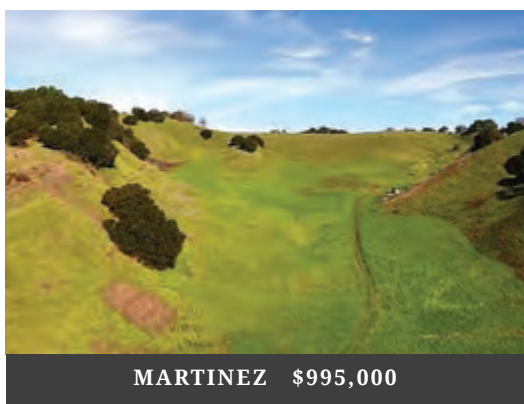
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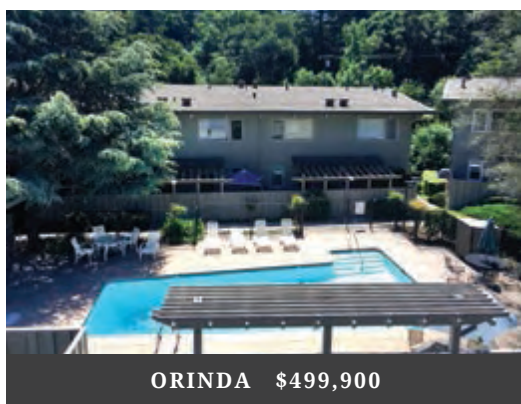
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