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Eisen-Letunic wins streetscape master plan contract

By Sora O'Doherty

vote against, the Orinda City meeting and stated that Eisen-Council on June 19 awarded a Letunic had scored far higher \$250,000 contract to Eisen-Lutu- than the other six proposals the Clain, of Fehr & Peers, talked nic to create a Streetscape Master city had received in response to Plan for downtown Orinda. Phil- its request for proposals. After lips was skeptical about the abil- Phillips had expressed her conity of the group to be impartial in cerns on June 12, the council seeking and incorporating views asked Eisen-Letunic to return of all types of Orinda residents. on June 19 to address the is-She cited some statements in sues raised. The council heard the proposal that gave her con- from Victoria Eisen, principal cern, such as, "The city's recent of Eisen-Letunic, the company planning efforts have revealed that specializes in transportation, that some longtime Orinda resi- environmental and urban plandents, business owners and oth- ning, as well as team members er stakeholders are resistant to John Gibbs, landscape architect change ..." while referring to and urban designer, and Ryan other groups, such as What's Up McClain, a civil engineer who Downtown Orinda and Orinda will focus on a creek survey and Vision, as "blossoming." Else- green infrastructure. where the proposal says, "This plan seeks to pursue the perspec- work in Willets, a community tives of newer residents and oth- that wanted downtown developers tuned into regional issues like ment but also to retain the city's housing affordability and avail- industrial aspects, on Miller Avability and the advantages of a enue in Mill Valley, an affluence include strategies for the prioriless auto-focused lifestyle."

Planning Director Drum- which involved telling the story

Gibbs, of WRT, spoke of his community in Marin County

ith Council Member Eve mond Buckley introduced the of the rise of Mount Tamalpais, town wanted to emphasize wine culture and authenticity. Mcabout his work in Palo Alto, on a citywide pedestrian project that was community focused. He referred to the concept of connectivity for all ages, 8 to 80, that Mayor Amy Worth had brought up after attending an event with Vice Mayor Inga Miller.

Eisen explained to the council how the group plans to work with the community to come up with solutions that have broad-based support with a six-step plan that includes the publication of a briefing booklet for the community, workshops to acquire concept alternatives, a celebration during which they will receive feedback on their recommendathe recommendations, and then the final master plan which will tization of elements of the plan with a focus on costs. The group

with people who cannot attend the meetings, and Eisen said that they planned to get the word out at community events, such as the Farmers' Market. In response to a question from Worth about taking all opinions into account, Eisen said that "there is no benefit to imposing any ideas we may have" on the community. "We'll be trying to come up with something everybody embraces," she

walkways master plan. Dan De vocal." Busschere said that the providers

will seek to identify goals that of grant funding are anti-automo-Phillips casting the single proposal at the June 12 council and in Yountville, where the can successfully be grant funded. bile and, in Orinda, he said, that Miller asked if the planned amounts to age discrimination. tours of the Crossroads Theatre Chris Kniel said, "I think we've Square area and the Village side got our priorities all screwed up; will be available to participants we're missing the boat entirely." on both sides of town, and was Richard Colman urged putting assured that they will. Coun- a moratorium on development, cil Member Darlene Gee asked arguing that Orinda schools are about plans to communicate already overcrowded. But Tom d'Amato of the Chamber of Commerce said that the chamber supports to proposal. "A development moratorium is the last thing we need," he declared, but urged the group to not rely on people coming to them, but to go out to public meetings, etc. Greg Haete also supported the proposal, saying that he wants to see a community with "thriving businesses where people can walk, bike, and connect with both sides In public comments, Bruce of Orinda." He concurred with tions, implementation to refine London said he didn't see why staff's recommendation to hire Orinda needed another plan, the group, saying that they "have since, after all, he said, they al- the ability to bring together all ready have the bicycle, trails and stakeholders, not just the most

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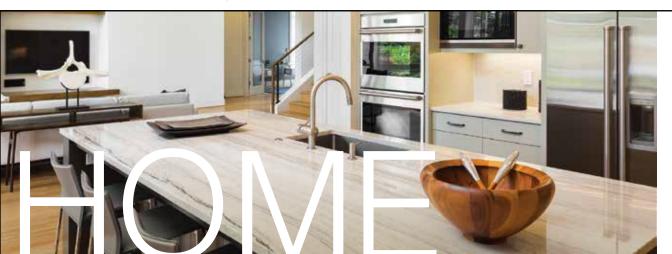
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