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# Downtown Development Subcommittee gears up for information gathering

By Sora O'Doherty

Streetscape Master Plan, attending and speaking out Aug. 9 at the Downtown Development Subcommittee's second meeting. The committee consists of Vice Mayor Inga Miller and Orinda City Council Member Eve Phillips. These meetings were the first steps in gathering the input of stakeholder groups.

This next step in the process will take place on Aug. 29, from noon to 5 p.m., when the stakeholder group interviews will be conducted by Orinda planning staff and the contractor on the project, Eisen-Letunic. The interviews will be short, just 15 minutes, with a five-minute break in between. On the same day, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., there will be a joint meeting of several committees and commissions that are subject to the Brown Act in the Library Auditorium, which will be open to the public.

The main objectives of the streetscape master plan are: 1) to connect the two sides of downtown Orinda; 2) to investigate pedestrian access to San Pablo Creek; 3) to preserve Orinda's sense of place; 4) to develop grant-eligible, fundable projects; 5) to beautify Orinda; and 6) to build consensus in the community. Planning Director Drummond Buckley addressed what will be in the Streetscape Master Plan, explaining that the plan will cover projects in the right of way or on city-owned land that meet the objec- including commuters from other commu-

terest in the progress of the Orinda City a right of way. Rights of way include parking spaces, vehicular lanes, sidewalks, bike lanes, transit stops, underpasses, pedestrian murred, saying that there were many things bridges, planting areas and Caltrans property. Publicly owned land includes public color the views of the respondents. Howparking in front of the Community Center and underutilized land in the right of way. San Pablo Creek between Santa Maria Way and the Safeway parking lot is mostly on private land, except one parcel that is owned by the county.

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Stakeholder groups (see list) will receive a questionnaire prior to the interviews to enable them to organize their thoughts about issues including traffic and parking, and their vision and experiences in downtown Orinda. Committees and commissions will not receive questionnaires, owing to Brown views, there will be a public questionnaire, Act considerations. The meeting with the committees and commissions will be open to the public.

Roy Hodgkinson, president of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, urged the subcomstated that some 3,000 cars park at BART, plan drafted.

The public continued to take a lively intrives, plus San Pablo Creek, which is not on nities, such as Lafayette and Richmond. She asked that her graph be included in the stakeholders' questionnaire, but Buckley dethat could be included, but he didn't want to ever, he agreed that the graph would be appropriate for including in the briefing book.

> Miller asked about including neighborhood groups as stakeholders, and Buckley agreed that there was enough "wiggle room" to add the downtown neighborhood groups, such as Bates, Brookwood, Northwood, Southwood, Orinda Woods, and La Plaza. Hodgkinson suggested joining residents of senior housing to the Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging.

Following the stakeholder group interpossibly in early September. Phillips suggested another meeting of the subcommittee to consider the public questionnaire. Also in early September, an interactive online survey map will be released. It is anticipated that the mittee to avoid asking too many questions city council and planning commission will that have already been answered, and to hold meetings on the streetscape master plan learn from past projects, such as the paving in late September, and that October will see of Theatre Square. Kay Jenkins produced the release of a briefing book on the project a graph of the age of Orinda residents. She as well as a "Launch Event." After all these found that over 80 percent of Orindans com- events, plus a lot of public engagement and mute, and that 18 percent take BART. She meetings, options will be formulated and the

### **Stakeholder groups:**

Bike Orinda

Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging Downtown-adjacent Neighborhood Group(s) or HOAs

Downtown Property Owners and Leasing Agents

Friends of Orinda Creeks

Lamorinda Arts Council

Orinda Association

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Orinda Community Foundation Orinda Garden Club

Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation

Orinda RoadRunners

Orinda Rotary

Orinda Union School District

Orinda Vision

Orinda Watch

Save Orinda

School Parent Clubs

What's Up Downtown Orinda

### **Committees and Commissions**

Art in Public Places Committee Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight

Commission Parks and Recreation Commission

Planning Commission Public Works

Aesthetic Review Committee Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

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