



See public meetings schedule on this pages and 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 Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Special Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Contact me for a market update.

Dana Reedy
 JD | Broker Associate
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dana@danareedyhomes.com
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Residents invited to Workshop on building height and design in downtown areas

By Sora O'Doherty

As part of the continuing effort to complete a Downtown Precise Plan, there will be a joint Zoom meeting Nov. 19 of the city council, the Orinda planning commission, city staff and Opticos Design, the consultant team preparing objective design standards.

In drafting the plan, the city hopes to be able to have different standards for the different areas of Orinda's downtown. These areas are known as character areas, and the workshop will discuss whether the areas should have differing standards for things such as building heights and design standards. Fol-

lowing a discussion on potential changes to allowable building heights and changes to building design standards in these character areas, the meeting will then go to breakout rooms to allow participants to share their thoughts in a smaller group setting.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Although registration is optional, all attendees are requested to RSVP in order to allow staff to estimate the number of participants. The Zoom meeting link will then be available on the Downtown Precise Plan page at least one week prior to the workshop:

<http://cityoforinda.org/445/Downtown-Precise-Plan>.

To RSVP, use the link, <https://forms.gle/ZxiHGwMEsuW4pqA99>

Incumbents and taxes win the day in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Current mayor Darlene Gee and former mayor Inga Miller staved off a challenge from attorney Latika Malkani, but by a slim margin of nearly 700 votes. As of Nov. 6, with 6,437 votes, Gee took 34.65% of the votes cast, as Miller took 34.52% with 6,414 votes. Malkani came in at 30.83% with 5,727 votes.

In addition, Orinda voted for a one-cent sales tax by a majority of 59.35%. That tax rise will be joined by a

county-wide sales tax of one-half-cent that passed with 58.26% of the vote. Neither tax measure required a super-majority vote. In other results, Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan was elected with a decisive 69.94% of the votes cast and State Senator Steve Glazer received 67.89% of the votes.

Semi-official results were updated Nov. 6 with 100% of precincts reported. The vote tally was earlier than previous years owing to the very large number of ballots cast early in the election.

Halloween remembrance



Orinda residents placed signs and flowers around the fountain at Orinda Crossroads Park in memory of those who died in a shooting at a local Airbnb rental on Halloween last year. - S. O'Doherty

Artify Orinda hopes to beautify utilities in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Inspired by utility boxes in Lafayette and Walnut Creek, Maggie Bosco, a member of the Lamorinda Arts Council and curator of the Orinda Library Gallery, has embarked upon a project, which she shared with the Orinda City Council on Oct. 14, to bring art to Orinda's utility boxes, pipes and so on.

Bosco particularly likes local scenes, like the view of Mt. Diablo painted on a utility box on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Walnut Creek. Lafayette's utility boxes host whimsical pictures painted by students. At Moraga Commons park in Moraga, a wrapped box was painted by a high school student. The box in Moraga Commons cost \$1,500 and was financed by a private citizen, Bosco said.

Some boxes in Orinda belong to the city, others to other utilities. Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble suggested to Bosco that the project start with boxes owned by the city. Bosco noted that the project will not be seeking funds from the city, but instead will look for grants and donations.

The first step in the project was to have some proof of concept works completed. Bill Carmel painted the first proof of concept at Mash Gas Station. Carmel took four days to paint the work, which has the theme of Rocky the Squirrel and Andy the Hummer. He used outdoor paint, varnish and an anti-graffiti sealer. Bosco suggested that perhaps Orinda might have a theme of hidden animals.



Photo provided

Artist Kath Balamuth and Maggie Boscoe, chairperson for the Artify Orinda project. The painting, which depicts the San Pablo Dam Reservoir with a border of Ceanothus, is located across from CVS by the mail box near 59 Moraga Way. Stop by and enjoy, and look for six animals in the painting.

The second proof of concept, by Kath Balamuth, is a view of San Pablo Reservoir with a border of ceanothus blooms. Placed on back of Big Belly waste receptacle next to a mail box on Moraga Way near the Mash Petroleum building, the work has six hidden animals. Antonio Arroyo installed the art on the back of the big belly.

Artify Orinda is also working with CVS to add art to three wood panels on the side of the shop. Bosco says that the owners of CVS are excited about having some art, and that the parties are negotiating a contract. Three Orinda artists, Lois Meade, Kath Ballamuth and Judy

Fine, have already volunteered. All artists have donated their time and effort. Bosco would like to be able to pay the artists, noting that in Berkeley artists were paid between \$200 and \$500 for their work.

Council member Inga Miller asked about legal aspect of art of public buildings, and Planning Director Drummond Buckley told the council that staff is working on a roadmap for future projects, with the intent to come back, possibly on Nov. 10 (after press time), with a policy for the city council to consider.

Donations to Artify Orinda may be made by mail to Lamorinda Arts Council, Box 121 Orinda 94563. Please put Artify Orinda in the memo on checks. To donate online, go to the Lamorinda Arts Council's website and put Artify Orinda in the comment box. <https://lamorindaarts.org/donate/>

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