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## Change of leadership at Lafayette City Council

By Lou Fancher

Prior to handing leadership and the “crown” position on the all-volunteer city council to Vice Mayor Teresa Gerringer, Mayor Susan Candell at the Dec. 13 meeting issued a heartfelt expression of appreciation.

“It has been truly such an honor to serve as your mayor this past year,” Candell said. “I’ve sincerely enjoyed it and hope that all the efforts here from myself and my fellow council members, commissioners, and staff have helped to make Lafayette a better and safer place to live.”

The annual reorganization that has Gerringer stepping into a new role and Council Member Carl Anduri becoming the vice mayor will not mean Candell departs the council. She will move “one frame over” on the all-Zoom council meeting videos available for public viewing and archived on the city’s YouTube channel, while continuing as a council

member to champion the priorities and interests of Lafayette residents and business owners.

In her remarks, Candell said she never expected to be the city’s first and hopefully only “virtual” mayor for an entire term as the council hopes to move to a hybrid format allowing people to choose between attending city meetings in person or online. Highlights of her term, she said, were having “spun up” the actions of the General Plan Advisory Committee; institution of an earlier rotation of mayor and vice mayor that leaves experienced past mayors on the council at the end of their term and provides smoother transitions; and the strength of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force that held multiple events and training sessions and has become a “true force” community group in Lamorinda and in their role advising the council about actions it can take to support their mission.

Candell showed obvious joy and enthusiasm while announcing that the Park Theater is about to finalize reopening plans and sincerity in comments pertaining to transportation and circulation commissioners who she said were successful in achieving goals set for school safety programs and improvements. Areas where work is ongoing include steps related to the Zero Vision plan, vigilance around fire risk reduction and vegetation mitigation and Candell hopes the council will continue to advocate for local control of affordable housing standards and set goals that meet and even exceed the California State requirements.

Vice Mayor (now mayor) Gerringer said Candell had provided a more-than detailed summary of actions and improvements accomplished by the council.

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## Lafayette’s Park Theater Trust announces purchase of historic downtown theater



Photo provided

Classic holiday films like “Miracle on 34th Street” often underscore how dreams can come true with a little luck, lots of perseverance, and strong community support. After three and a half years of countless hours and tireless effort, the all-volunteer nonprofit Park Theater Trust (TPTT) announced its own “Miracle on Golden Gate Way” in Lafayette after successfully closing escrow and now owning, on behalf of the entire Lafayette community, the iconic Park Theater.

The sale closed on Dec. 16 and now the Trust is ramping up its community-wide fundraising to bring in the \$5 million needed for the

renovation, with plans to reopen in 2023. TPTT will be teaming up with Adam Bergerson and Jaimi Holker of CinemaSF, longtime operators of the historic Balboa, Vogue and soon-to-be-reopened Four Star neighborhood cinemas in San Francisco. Lafayette’s iconic Park Theater will be CinemaSF’s first foray into the East Bay and will offer first-run art and indie films, Hollywood classics, and non-film events.

To learn more about how to donate, visit [www.parktheatertrust.org](http://www.parktheatertrust.org). For information about CinemaSF, visit <https://www.cinemasf.com/> - J. Wake

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