



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements City of Lafayette: www.love Lafayette.org Phone: (925) 284-1968 Chamber of Commerce: www.lafayettechamber.org

Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting: Monday, March 11, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, March 18, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Monday, March 11, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

Lafayette Burton Valley Downtown Lafayette Glorietta Sky Hy Moraga Reliez Valley Happy Valley Sanders Ranch Trail Neighborhoods Orinda

Lamorinda's #1 Real Estate Team Since 2010 DanaGreenTeam.com | 925.339.1918 | DRE 01482454



Have you heard?!

We are busy prepping many wonderful homes for market all over Lamorinda!

Call us for details!

Dana Green Team

Lafayette's Transportation Circulation Commission presents long list of accomplishments

By Lou Fancher

Presenting to city council the Transportation Circulation Commission's highlighted 2023 accomplishments and 2024

work plan, committee chair Bart Carr on Feb. 12 said, "Probably our biggest accomplishment in the year was the Local

Road Safety Plan, which is really the centerpiece action supporting our Vision Zero approach to traffic safety."

Commissioners Greg Brown and Stella Wotherspoon had volunteered to sit on the staff's Local Road Safety Plan task force, providing expertise prior to the plan being reviewed and discussed at two TCC meetings. The plan received updates and was adopted by the council in August 2023. Carr emphasized Wotherspoon's considerable contribution of time to the effort and thanked her for also participating in General Plan Advisory Committee activities and providing monthly verbal updates to the commission.

Among initiatives the TCC focused on in 2023 was the local zoning included in the Engineering and Traffic Survey conducted last year that allowed the city to reduce speeds by five mph on select high volume roads in Lafayette. The Burton Valley Elementary Traffic Calming Pilot Project was created by a task force of 18 residents and reached its conclusion in 2023. Carr said the task force's work had resulted in a "great plan" that is currently in use. Information about the traffic calming project is available for residents to view at the city's website. Additionally, the TCC provided updates to a guidebook online where new, streamlined

information and formatting makes the program's features more useful for residents in other neighborhoods interested in implementing similar traffic calming measures.

The TCC last year continued to prioritize and oversee all Lafayette school safety programs, including those at private schools. An initiative that started in 2021 to make roadways safer, especially for parents, caretakers, and kids making their way to schools, had the Commission reviewing and evaluating Rapid Implementation Plans for Schools reports prepared by Toole Design Group in 2022. Recommendations for priority measures to be implemented around each school were provided and TCC commissioners spent time on-the-ground to better identify ongoing safety issues and offer recommended solutions. Carr said work on near- and medium-term school safety projects begun in 2022 will continue in 2024. He made specific note of traffic calming measures put into place around Burton Valley School that have received "an energetic response from residents" in relation to added speed humps, high-visibility lane striping, and improved signage, among other measures taken.

Concluding his comments on achievements in 2023, Carr said the council's approval in January in response to staff's request to move in a more efficient, timely manner to capitalize on grant opportunities for projects that are strong matches for county and state funding will be helpful. Grant announcements often arrive with tight deadlines and the flexibility and pre-approval to enter the application process will help the TCC—and the

city—to not lose opportunities to other regions.

Outlining the 2024 work program and priorities, Carr referred to a matrix the committee has prepared in a staff report, which includes projects and programs the commissioners will be addressing throughout the year, viewable on the city's website. Instead of reviewing the details, Carr provided what he called a "high flyover" of the most important elements, beginning with the Connecting Lafayette Project. The Downtown Pathways and Schools Safety Project focuses around Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary. "What we want to do is improve the connections for youths, pedestrians, parents, families, and cyclists in that area," Carr said.

Improvements to pathway connections to Moraga Trail and the downtown core, he said, would increase the safety of the area for anyone walking or biking. "The project also includes an expanded drop-off location on St. Mary's Road for drivers choosing to drop school children off in that location." He said the commissioners would look closely at speeds on roads adjacent to local schools to see if new issues need to be addressed in order to support the City's efforts to reduce speed limits in school zones via the School Zone Speed Limit Study.

Transportation Program Manager Patrick Golier's staff report lists the TCC's continued review and input related to two Pleasant Hill Road Pathway projects (center-median and east side alignment) and the design for the Pedestrian Pathway Near Springhill School as part of the 2024 work plan. These

projects are in different stages of planning, design, and public engagement, and the commission expects to bring comments to the council in the coming months. Additionally, the TCC will be working on three larger projects related to improving multi-modal travel in Lafayette's downtown: the Downtown Parking Management Planning Study, an update to General Plan's Circulation Element, and the Mt. Diablo Boulevard Corridor Plan.

Responding with input regarding the EBMUD Aqueduct Pathway that currently constitutes a short length on the western side of the city, Carr said the TCC would like to see it expand — a measure that would require EBMUD to obtain added funding. Similarly, participating in the Contra Costa Transportation Authority-led multi-jurisdictional Olympic Boulevard Corridor Plan (Lafayette-Moraga Trail to Iron Horse Trail) is dependent on grant funding.

Speaking on a most general topic, transparency, members of the commission expressed that they are "wrestling" with the subject and aiming to find ways to make their processes and projects more available to the public. They thanked residents and others who have provided input because it alerts them to the highest concerns and exceptions of the community they serve. Questions from the council and two public comments made clear that clarification and updates about the Mt. Diablo Boulevard Corridor Plan and the Downtown Parking Management Study are priority interests and more transparency would be welcome.

The full staff report and 2024 Transportation Work Plan can be found at https://lafayette.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view\_id=3&clip\_id=7115&meta\_id=179462

Discussion continues regarding Housing Element and Res Tower

By Lou Fancher

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa in her bi-weekly update at the Feb. 12 council meeting, said the city had received the third review letter from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The six-page response indicated Lafayette's sixth-Cycle Housing Element requires additional revisions.

The city in January of 2023 adopted and submitted the first iteration. Two months later, HCD notified the city that additional analysis and revisions were necessary to

comply with state law. The updates supplied by staff were subsequently reviewed by the planning commission and city council in late summer and early fall. Once again, further clarifications and metrics were added and the revised HE was submitted to HCD on Dec. 14, 2023.

Upon receiving HCD's latest notice that the city has more work to obtain a certified HE, Srivatsa said the city immediately contacted HCD to request a meeting. She said face-to-face contact was integral to under-

standing the deficiencies and specific actions staff and the council could take that will allow HCD to deem the HE is substantially compliant with state law. The council planned to discuss HCD's letter and the results of any meeting that has taken place at its next regular meeting on Feb. 26. (Information on the Housing Element Update process can be found at www.Plan-Lafayette.org or email GeneralPlan@love.lafayette.org.)

... continued on Page 11

BATTERSBY. 1224 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY. 2,235 Sq Ft\* .87 Acre\* 3+ Bd 2 Ba Study + Bonus Room + Office/4th Bd 1224UpperHappyValley.com. Ashley Battersby Broker/Partner (925) 323-9955 ashley@ashleybattersby.com @ashleybattersbyhome DRE# 01407784 \*per public records It's Village. Of Course. Village ASSOCIATES

COMPASS Coming Soon to Moraga Country Club... 2 CARNOUSTIE, MORAGA 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 3,424± SF | Email/Call for Pricing Spacious Sequoia model includes over-sized primary bedroom retreat, beautifully remodeled gourmet kitchen + wet bar, hardwood floors, newer dual pane windows and stunning views of Moraga hills. KURT PIPER GROUP KURT PIPER Broker Associate 925.818.8000 kurtpipergroup.com DRE 01130308 Visit Kurt Piper Group

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.