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Vision for Lafayette creeks applauded but council takes no action yet

By Pippa Fisher



A section of the creek on the west end of Lafayette. Photo Pippa Fisher

projects.

Unifying elements include creek walkways, interpretive signage, creek icons and uniform fencing.

Water quality will be improved through low impact development requirements, pervious paving, rain gardens, which take runoff water from the streets to gardens that serve to purify the water before it goes to the creek, and riparian habitat restoration, including some removal of non-native plants.

Elder explained that the plan was to focus initially on the west reach and to start by addressing erosion. He said that once the public sees what can be done, it would be a catalyst for private development. They plan to restore the creek all the way along to the gazebo on the east end, through the downtown area.

Using the creek which flows by the Cooperage as an example of a private project, Elder said they are looking into replacing the current concrete sections of the creek with stone, making the walls more decorative and replacing the current chain link and barbed wire fencing with a more attractive alternative.

City council members uniformly praised the work of the creeks committee. Council member Cam Burks said it showed "excellent vision" but noted, having only just seen the report, that he would like more time to review it before making further comment on something that could cost the taxpayers millions of dollars.

Similarly Council Member Ivor Samson said that because of the financial implications he would need more time to study it and give it the time it deserves.

Council Member Mark Mitchell echoed concern about the cost and the need to look into outside funding sources as well as the implications for cost in terms of maintenance.

Vice Mayor Don Tatzin said he supports the plan but noted that it is a long report and most members of the council had not had enough time to review it thoroughly so suggested it be continued to the second city council meeting in September when all members would be present.

That motion to continue was carried unanimously with Mayor Mike Anderson absent.

Reach the reporter at: pippa@lamorindaweekly.com

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