

Rez runners start, finish in sunshine this year

By Cathy Dausman



From left: Beck Cate and Jonathan "ACE" Katayanagi Photo Cathy Dausman

What a difference a year made for the Lafayette Reservoir Run. Race day this year dawned sunny and mild with a light breeze; a great improvement over the rainy skies of 2016.

Marshall Eames, one of several Oakwood Athletic Club volunteers biking the course for the last several years remembers "it rained a good portion of the race" last year.

This year, master of ceremonies Tom Stack offered ongoing play by play, while Stanley Middle School's combined symphonic bands pumped out music to race by.

Mere steps from the starting line where Oak Hill Road meets Lafayette Circle, vendors at the Healthy Lifestyles Fair vied for customers lured astray by the diet-busting aroma of pancakes on the griddle served by The Lafayette Rotary Club.

Approximately 1,650 participants competed in one of three races—a certified 5K and 10K run and the stroller and dog friendly 2-mile fun run. They came from around

the Bay Area. The young and fit triumphed in the 5K race as Nick Hutson, 15, finished in 17:22 for the 5K. Less than three minutes and 10 runners separated Hutson from the first female to cross the 5K finish: 11-year-old Makena Weberski clocked a time of 19:57. It was the seventh 5K run in three years for the Walnut Creek resident.

J.D. Kieffer, 22, of San Mateo powered through a 5:30 pace to finish first in the men's 10K at 34:08. Orinda's Alison Zamanian finished first in the women's category with 42:46.

Now in its 25th year, the Lafayette Reservoir Run for Education is a benefit for the school district's Lafayette Partners in Education and the Lafayette Chamber.

"A truly beautiful day in downtown Lafayette," said the chamber's Executive Director Jay Lifson.

Eames, who remembers "being really wet" last year, could hardly disagree.



Photo Gint Federas

Council postpones action on conflict of interest policy

By John T. Miller

Much to the consternation of the Save Lafayette group, the City Council at its meeting last week delayed action on the conflict of interest issue dealing with committees and commissions.

The issue particularly involves members of the Lafayette Planning Commission and the Design Review Commissions advocating illegally for their clients before their own and other city commissions, violating the California Political Reform Act.

The proposal before the City Council was a continuance from the Sept. 11 meeting when council members Ivor Samson and Cam Burks were tasked with creating a new policy to eliminate conflict of interest within the city's commissions.

Much discussion centered on whether commissioners should recuse themselves or be forced to resign over conflicts of interest, and whether or not it would apply to all commissions or just the two in question.

Samson and Burks favored resignation, with Samson saying, "We may lose a lot of good knowledgeable hard-working people, but a black-and-white distinction is easier to apply to all commissions."

During public input, one Lafayette resident addressed the issue of qualified people, saying, "I prefer an unbiased layman who can read

and apply the Lafayette municipal code to a real estate lawyer or an architect that thinks the planning commission is a business opportunity."

Council Member Mark Mitchell favored recusal as an incremental step: "It's better than going further with resignation; it's difficult to go backward."

Mayor Mike Anderson agreed, saying, "If we're going to tighten, let's tighten the recusal policy. We need to communicate clearly that there is state law, and, in our policy, we want to go beyond state law."

Bob Cleaver, who resigned as a commissioner, approved of the proposal. "I couldn't comfortably serve on a commission and serve my clients at the same time," he said.

The council voted 3-2 for recusal rather than resignation. Anderson summed up the next step, sending it back to the subcommittee and the city attorney to look at the details of the policy and applying it for all commissions and committees. The report is due back next month.

Burks, who along with Samson will head the subcommittee, said, "Maintaining, preserving and protecting the integrity of the public process is important. When we see a fundamental erosion of trust in the way we run our city we need to act swiftly."

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