

SHERRIE B. PERLSTEIN

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Orinda Community Park

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Trimble inherited the project when lized area of the park all day long, it was well underway, and presented the staff report at the March 6 Orinda City Council meeting. Trimble noted that there is currently only one women's restroom and one men's restroom in the park, that the park's play equipment is obsolete, and that the new plan would inside the third court. incorporate exercise equipment.

When public comment began, the amphitheater was the first matter of concern. John Cahill, a 37year resident of Orinda, said that the message to ORSVP was "get out of Orinda." JoAnn Cahill said the ORSVP brings the community and the National Main Street Centogether, but they need bathrooms ter. The project began as a capital near the amphitheater, a ticket booth, and space for concessions.

Jill Gelster, ORSVP administrative director, told the council Landscape Architecture, Inc. for that the theater group has rented the the purpose of design and developamphitheater for 35 years and last year added pennants and painted the facility to match the Globe Theater. Contacted after the meeting, Gelster said that the ORSVP had heard nothing of the plans for the was approved by the Parks and park until shortly before the meeting.

When the city decided to build then approximately \$2.6 million. the public restrooms in the park they added a concession stand/ ticket booth to the construction. tive in building consensus during Gelster said that then Mayor Victo- the process, the project funds were ria Smith gave ORSVP a grant of exhausted before presenting to the \$1,000 which was used to improve city council. The project also sufthe city's electrical box, enabling fered from unintentional delay the use of theatrical lighting effects. If any of the proposed plans and a period of transition in city adare implemented, Gelster said, it ministration. On Dec. 19, the counwill prevent theatrical performances in the park. She also said that the the authorized contract amount for group uses the Kindergym area for the Master Plan Services Agreestorage in winter, and in the summer for keeping props, furniture, and costumes. Without the space, ORSVP cannot function, she said. the public and questions from the Gelster was also concerned about the ticket booth, the locations of the bathrooms, and concessions. ORSVP is due to begin auditions in April and will open its 35th season

Former Mayor Laura Abrams said that the first responsibility of local government is to do no harm. She asked the council to not disenfranchise ORSVP, and also suggested that the bocce ball courts might be better in Orinda Oaks

Park. Comments then shifted to the sports wall, which is located adjacent to the tennis courts and used by people to practice hitting tennis balls. Drew Diefenbach works with the city of Orinda and coaches tennis in the park. He works with a lot of kids, he said, and thinks Orinda Community Park is a great, safe park. While he would like the bathrooms nearer the tennis courts, he thinks it would be a bad idea if it takes away from other park functions. Tennis is huge in Orinda, he said, and the wall is used by many people. Todd Nyman, a 26-year project had clearly not been manresident of Orinda, said that the aged the way it should have been.

Parks and Rec Director Todd sports wall is the most highly utiall year long. Lots of friendships start at that wall, he added. Several commenters stressed that a single person who wished to play against the wall would never ask two people wanting to play a game to leave the court, if the wall were relocated

> The park is one of the major features of the civic area in Orinda Village, and has been the focus of future planning for some time, including during the downtown development studies conducted last year by the Urban Land Institute improvement project in 2013. In June of 2016 the city executed a contract with Callander Associates ment of an overall master plan. Callander conducted three public meetings with the Parks and Recreation Foundation and presented four different options. A draft Master Plan Recreation Commission in December 2016. Construction costs were

Although Orinda staff felt the additional dialogue was produc caused by the Miner Road sinkhole cil approved a \$8,340 increase to ment, raising the total amount from the original \$25,000 to \$33,340.

After hearing comments from council, City Manager Steve Salomon stepped in and suggested that the discussion be discontinued and the matter returned to the staff for further work. Many of the parks features are well loved and need to be improved, he said, noting that no one attended the meeting to speak in favor of adding bocce ball courts. The budget includes \$100,000 for the park design, and is expected to be sufficient.

Mayor Amy Worth suggested that perhaps the bocce ball courts might work at Wilder, and Vice Mayor Inga Miller, noting that this was the first time the council had seen the plans for the park, asked about the enhanced entrance, and wondered if the amphitheater used by the OSVP could be suitable for another use. Trimble responded that the amphitheater could be used for events to raise money for the city. Council Member Dean Orr suggested that staff figure out what the next steps should be and not just hand the project back to Callander for further work as he felt that the



Maria Eberle, REALTOR®

(925) 478-7190 Maria@MariaEberle.com www.MariaEberle.com CalBRE #01798906

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A graduate from the University of Notre Dame, Michelle started her career in the IT industry. Since then she has been awarded a patent from the US government, built and sold a business run various non-profit organizations, taught at our local schools all while raising 4 children. Michelle has lived in Lafayette for 20 years and is the newest member of the Chris Swim and Tracy Keaton team. With Michelle's organizational and creative skills, she brings a fresh new perspective to the real estate industry. Her connections with the community along with the expertise and experience of her team makes Michelle the perfect agent for your real estate needs.

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- Circulation Commission
- Community Center Foundation
- Creeks Committee
- Crime Prevention Commission
- Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee(DSIMPIC)
- **Emergency Preparedness Commission**
- **Environmental Task Force**
- Senior Services Commission Youth Commission

For additional information visit the city's website: www.lovelafayette.org Hot Topics Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, jrobbins@lovelafayette.org Application deadline March 31, 2018. Positions open until filled.