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Parking plans moving ahead

... continued fom page A6

For example, more parking could be made available by creating angle parking at the south end of Orinda Way in the Village District.

Sophie Braccini, executive director of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, said that the chamber was encouraged by the approach of staff and found it very pragmatic. Heidi Heidenriech Habestzer was against the in-lieu fees. Rachele

Latimer also opposed the in-lieu fees and had great concerns about letting employees park in residential neighborhoods, and Owen Murphy was concerned about in-lieu fees as well.

“Why? Why now? Who is pushing for this?” he asked, adding that the primary beneficiary appears to be developers. On the other hand, Council Member Darlene Gee

wondered why the proposed in-lieu fees are so low. She also wondered why there was a new parking study when the Streetscape Master Plan study was under way and how they would interact. Council Member Dean Orr wanted to make it clear that if Orinda opens church parking lots the program must be limited to Orinda residents only.

Downtown Development Subcommittee

... continued from page A7

In addition to the big public events, Eisen said, the firm will be at the farmers’ market, the food truck night, and other smaller events to engage with the public. Right now, Eisen added, the firm is reviewing older documents and creating bulleted lists in preparation for its briefing book that will offer maps, charts and narrative about downtown Orinda. Eartha Newsong and Kay Jenkins were concerned about how Eisen Letunic would get the input of seniors and disabled persons. Newsong suggested that Eisen contact Seniors Around Town for how best to gather input from seniors, some of whom may be housebound. There are also about six city commissions and committees whose input will be sought. The Parks and Recreation Commission scheduled a meeting regarding the plan on Aug. 8

and the matter must come before the planning commission as well. CZ Turner, chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, said that some of the things under discussion are already being done by his commission. Buckley and Foster will attend those meetings. Ted Urban, a member of the Art in Public Places committee, summarized the four steps for the Streetscape Plan: 1) get input from the public; 2) go to meetings of the committees and commissions to get their input; 3) the matter appears before the planning commission; and 4) the matter returns to the city council for action.

Urban raised another issue: the scope of the project. He wondered why zoning and land use were not included. Phillips explained that one of the things that came out of the ULI study was the idea that 30

years of trying to do something big hadn’t worked, so the approach should be to do smaller things that might actually work, which can help to establish trust in the process.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce president Roy Hodgkinson said the chamber is receiving questions about the project, such as, why is this project a priority? And why is it being done now? He urged public relations and marketing, along with civic engagement, to reach an agreed upon five-year plan.

Miller explained that the city has received a grant for this project that needs to be used in a timely manner and Tom D’Amato agreed with the approach of trying to get something done, even if everything can’t be accomplished.

He urged, “Don’t let perfect paralyze us.”

Moraga chamber ... continued from page A5

Vanessa Schneider, who recently opened Olivia’s Nail Salon in the Rheem Shopping Center, explains that she first heard about the chamber and the program at the community fair where she had a booth and decided it would be a good way to both promote her new business and contribute to the community.

The chamber is managing the card and will soon offer an electronic version so people do not have to remember to bring the card with them. Lynn McAuliffe with Champagne Design has provided the development for the electronic card as well as all the graphic work for the program pro bono, Nelson says.

Nelson explains that the \$25

per card will go to the chamber to help with its bottom line. The “war chest” will also serve as seed money for other plans. The chamber will initiate a study with Saint Mary’s College MBA students to analyze the needs and propose a vision for developing the Rheem Theatre. The chamber is also offering other economic development services by granting of money to business owners who want to update their storefronts. Nelson explains that funds will come from larger local businesses as well as the chamber.

The \$25 card can be purchased at 5A Rent-A- Space, Moraga Country Club or Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe, or online at moragachamber.org.

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