

City to name LLC Community Hall after Don Tatzin

By Nick Marnell



Don Tatzin observes from the audience as city council approves Community Hall renaming. Photo provided

Upon the recommendation of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation and the endorsement of the Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, the Lafayette City Council Sept. 24 approved the naming of the LLC Community Hall in honor of outgoing Mayor and Council Member Don Tatzin.

The process began with an August letter from Foundation President Victoria DeMoss requesting that the building be renamed to honor Tatzin for his accomplishments on behalf of the city. "Don has had a hand in every significant project that the city has completed over the last three decades," DeMoss wrote. She went on to point out what she termed Tatzin's greatest accomplishment: being the financial architect behind the \$50 million Lafayette Library and Learning Center. "It is therefore fitting that the Community Hall, where Don has devoted so many hours and which would not exist but for his efforts, be renamed to honor his service to the community," DeMoss concluded.

On Sept. 12, the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission board

agreed and voted to endorse the foundation's recommendation, and the city council adopted the resolution renaming the building the Don Tatzin Community Hall.

Teresa Gerringer was a charter member of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. She explained that the original thoughts of the foundation were to not offer to sell naming rights to the building unless someone came up with an enormous amount of money. "We wanted to leave it very much about the community," Gerringer said. But she told the council that she could not be more in support of naming the Hall after Tatzin. "And I know that the community supports this decision," she said.

"I'm pleased to accept this even though I'm not the most worthy person in this community to get this award," Tatzin told the audience. "I'm not even the most worthy person in this room to get this award."

The naming ceremony for the Don Tatzin Community Hall will be held later this year, concurrent with Tatzin's retirement celebration from the city council.

No election for the Lafayette School District board

By Pippa Fisher

This year will see no race for Lafayette School District governing board members as the four candidates take the four open spots on the board with no contest.

In November Jean Follmer will step back onto the board after taking a break for a few years. She will be joined in a four-year term by newcomer to the board Kenny Tuckerman, and by Rob Sturm who was appointed to the board only un-

til the next election a year ago following the mid-term resignation of Mark Kindhouse.

Suzy Pak will take the two-year remainder of Kindhouse's term, which, together with that of current board member Meredith Meade, will expire in 2020.

Stepping down from the board this November are David Gerson and Teresa Gerringer.

County Superintendent of Schools candidates

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Hansen: One of the largest concerns is the lack of service and support for our 18 districts. The current management has narrowed its role to basic bureaucratic duties and has eliminated support services, student programs, and professional development. As Superintendent, I will provide new leadership. Change must begin at the top. My leadership and record of accomplishment will bring much needed credibility, new energy, and vision to our County Office of Education.

LW: Finally, what is your position on charter schools?

Hansen: Charter schools began with the goal of offering public school choice, letting student and parents choose a school setting or instructional program that could address their learning needs. These charters share the goal of providing the best education possible for students.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase of "for profit" charters run by noneducators whose primary focus is not on educating, but using the system to exploit funding streams. These "for-profit" charters do not understand they are public schools and subject to the same

accountability as any other. "For-profit" charters use discriminatory admission practices, lack of innovative programs, questionable achievement data, high staff turnover, lack of financial transparency and fiscal accountability, and questionable governance practices.

Authorizing agencies such as the CCCOE must be proactive in their oversight, advocacy, and protection of students' educational rights and welfare.

Mackey: Charter schools should be held to the same level of accountability and transparency as traditional public schools and that academic and behavioral expectations should be held to a high standard. There are good charters and struggling charters. Issues facing some of our communities around charter schools need to be addressed at a state level to tighten the approval process and ensure that it happens on the local level with local involvement. As Superintendent, I will ensure the charter schools that have been approved by the County Board and receive thorough and transparent oversight while also receiving the support they need to ensure success for their students.

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