



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

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Moraga community groups sponsor mayoral candidates forum

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

Preserve Lamorinda Open Space, Viva Moraga, We WILL and Safe Moraga facilitated a standing-room-only city council candidates forum – with audience members ranging in age from toddler to retiree – at the Moraga Library Sept. 17. The three candidates running to fill two positions on the Moraga Town Council are incumbent Dave

Trotter, Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke.

The interest shown by the size of the crowd mirrored Ana Moon of Safe Moraga's thoughts: "It's often difficult to differentiate candidate's positions just by looking at their websites or reading campaign mailers."

Each sponsor hoped the forum

would enlighten voters regarding some of the key issues facing Moragans in the coming months. Viva Moraga's Stephanie Gray expects the town leaders to help attract new retail to the area. Darlene Bennett of We WILL, felt it was important to promote public art and creativity. Her organization "would like to hear how the candidates think they can support these goals as we find creative ways to express the town's welcoming personality." Co-founder of Safe Moraga, Allison Anderman, stated that she was "excited for the opportunity to hear the candidates' views on how Moraga can continue to be courageous and proactive on gun safety." Finally, Suzanne Jones, founder of PLOS believed the forum would "allow voters to learn about the candidates' positions on open space develop-

ment." The proceedings began with moderator, Kathryn Oehlschlager, explaining the forum rules. Each candidate was allowed two minutes for an opening statement, one minute 30 seconds to answer each question and two minutes for a closing statement. They drew straws to determine who would go first and in what order. The questions were provided by each of the sponsoring groups.

When candidates were asked what they thought it will take to move the Moraga Specific Town Center Plan forward in real and actionable ways in the next 12 months, Trotter said he supports getting empty retail spaces filled quickly, especially the soon to be empty OSH building.

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Council fills Jeanette Fritzky's vacant seat with commercial litigator

By Nick Marnell



Renata Sos Photo provided

The Moraga Town Council Sept. 26 appointed lawyer and former planning commissioner Renata Sos to fill the vacancy created by the July resignation of Council Member Jeanette Fritzky, who passed away on Sept. 28. The makeup of the council will now include three lawyers: Mayor Dave Trotter, Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus and Sos.

Eleven candidates applied to fill the vacancy but by the time the

open session interviews were conducted on Sept. 25 and 26, three applicants dropped out, including two who regularly criticized the town's failed stormwater fee measure on social media. The eight candidates presented a wide swath of work and life experiences, from a financial professional to a candidate with an extensive public policy background to an advocate of a radical (for Moraga) suggestion to populate the town shopping center vacancies with high tech startups. Applicants ranged in age from the low 40s to the mid 70s.

In the end, after very little deliberation, the council members chose Sos, the candidate they knew and no doubt felt the most comfortable with. "To my surprise, there is clearly a superior candidate," Korpus said. "Renata will do Jeanette justice." Council Member Roger

Wykle agreed and said that Sos would carry on Fritzky's legacy.

Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda focused on the council succession plan. "We need someone with experience in the town," she said. "Next year Dave may not be here. I won't be here. We could have three new people." Trotter is running for reelection, and Onoda said she would not run.

The mayor had asked Sos if the town has the right to reasonably regulate development, and she said that it did. Trotter wrapped up the discussion by stressing that the coun-

cil needs someone, like Sos, who understands land use and development. "I give the nod to Renata," he said. "We need to hit the ground running."

Sos' appointment was approved unanimously. She will be sworn in at the beginning of the Oct. 10 town council meeting; her term runs until December 2020.

"I feel privileged and flattered to have the opportunity to carry on Jeanette's legacy," Sos said after the meeting. "This town has given me and my family so much, and I look forward to giving back."

The Lamorinda Weekly was saddened to hear that Jeanette Fritzky passed away on Friday, Sept. 28 from lung cancer. The Town of Moraga will fly flags at half mast as a tribute to Jeanette and to support her desire to bring public awareness to the heightened risk of non-small cell lung cancer for non-smoking Asian women. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/non-small-cell-lung-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/signs-symptoms.html>

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