



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 28, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way
Tuesday, February 14 canceled

Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, February 28, 3:00 pm
Gallery Room, Library
26 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, March 12, 6:00 pm
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

ORINDA POLICE

Police Report

Tipsy on the tatami, 1/31/12
A fifty-something woman at a local Japanese restaurant showed signs of inebriation. An Orinda police officer observed her to be unsteady of gait, and having watery eyes, slow and slurred speech and possessing a strong odor of alcohol. She laughed, she cried, she called the police officer an unprintable name ...and refused to take a preliminary alcohol screening test. In spite of that, and because of her two outstanding warrants specifying no alcohol be consumed, she was arrested and taken to Martinez Detention Facility.

...and that's all there is to report at press deadline from Orinda P.D. "It's been a good week [with no crime reports written]," says Chief Jeffrey Jennings. He balances this week's low crime reports with the prior week, which showed eight arrests. "This is a great, safe city," Jennings said. He reminded residents to look out for each other, keep their eyes open and consult the police even when they think it's "silly stuff."



Maureen Wilbur

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Fighting for Paradise

By Laurie Snyder

"I'm not someone who sees a communist under every leaf, but I see a communist under this one," said one speaker during the public forum period at the Orinda City Council's regularly scheduled meeting on January 31.

The remark made in jest prompted smiles among both Council members and attendees, and was indicative of the good humor displayed during intense discussions regarding the City's finances and the potential impact to the Orinda community of the Initial Vision Scenario (IVS) developed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

A section of "Paradise Lost" was even quoted by one among the ten who expressed their opposition to the IVS and urged their fellow Orindans to become better informed about the far-reaching plan.

Often referred to as the "One Bay Area" strategy, the IVS was developed in response to California Senate Bill 375. Enacted in 2008, 375 requires "the inclusion of a 'Sustainable Communities Strategy' (SCS) integrating land-use planning and transportation in the federally mandated 25-year Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

with the goal of addressing global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from cars and trucks while accommodating the region's population and job growth."

Analysis of this ABAG-MTC plan followed Council's mid-year finance review in which members discussed a continued decline in property tax revenues by an additional two percent – over and above the one percent decline that had been previously projected for year two of the City's current two-year budget cycle. Both the audio and the staff reports for this meeting are available on the City's web site.

The staff report for this meeting

includes the strongly worded letter sent June 9 by Mayor Victoria Smith to Adrienne J. Tissier and Mark Green, the respective Chairs of ABAG and MTC, regarding the IVS:

"Most aspects of the Transit Town Center place type are appropriate for Orinda's PDA [Priority Development Area]; however, because approximately 40% of the land area within 1/2 mile of the Orinda BART station is regional open space (primarily EBMUD watershed), the number of households suggested for the place type is not appropriate in Orinda.

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Orinda, the Malibu of the Bay Area

Pollsters say residents rate quality of life high; remain concerned about roads and infrastructure

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda City Council reviewed the results February 7 of the latest poll of residents regarding Orinda's quality of life, and in particular, their interest in paying for road and infrastructure repair.

The poll was conducted from January 22 to 25 with 402 Orindans "likely to vote in the November 2012 election," including a subset also likely to vote in June. David Metz, a Partner with FM3, presented the findings.

The margin of sample error is plus or minus 4.9 percent.

Quality of Life, Safety, and Infrastructure

Ninety-eight percent of participants rated Orinda's quality of life as excellent or good (65 percent labeling it excellent). Calling the results "an absolutely astonishing number," Metz said that, of every other FM3

poll, only Malibu and one other community received such high ratings.

Traffic was not seen as a serious problem, but road and storm drain conditions were. A combined 71 percent felt that fixing public streets and repairing potholes was extremely or very important (with 53 percent labeling it very important) while 76 percent prioritized the repair of collapsing storm drains (59 percent saying very important).

And, while Metz observed reduced support for "driver, pedestrian and bicyclist safety" improvements, support for collapsing storm drain repairs rose, from 62 percent in 2006, to 76 percent in 2012.

Appetite for a Ballot Initiative

Funding mechanisms considered by those polled were: "A one-half cent sales tax funding general City services" (street and road repairs em-

phasized), street and road repair bond measures (10, 20, 60 million dollar), and a "\$200 annual parcel tax funding street and road repairs."

Passage of the sales tax increase would require approval by only a simple voter majority. A bond or parcel tax would require passage by a two-thirds majority.

Projected sales tax supporters included: "Definitely yes," (27 percent), "Probably yes" (30 percent), and four percent undecided or leaning toward yes. Conversely, 20 percent provided a definitive no, 12 percent said "Probably no", and 2 percent were undecided but leaning toward no.

In comparison, the figures showing residents' opinions regarding potential bond and parcel tax measures are shown in the chart accompanying this article.

FM3 concluded, "Of the three measures, the sales tax generated the most support."

Reasons cited by those opposed included "No more taxes" (39 percent) and general government mistrust (34 percent).

Public Forum and Council Discussion

Richard Colman, one of four Orindans at the meeting urging the Council to reject a sales tax increase, noted that California already has the highest sales tax in the nation. If proposals by the City and California's Governor both take effect, Orinda's tax would be pushed from 8.25 to 9.25 percent.

"The sales tax," said Colman, "hurts senior citizens on modest, fixed incomes."

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