# Adjustments to city's Lamorinda Village partnership to benefit local seniors

#### By Lou Fancher

Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jonathan Katayanagi, during a brief presentation at the council meeting March 13, said the city's partnership with senior services nonprofit Lamorinda Village was a cause for celebration. "We find ourselves in a wonderful position where we have a nonprofit, volunteerbased organization in town that's really helping look out for older adults in the community,"

At its June 13, 2022 meeting, the city council approved the budget expenditure of \$142,000 to partner with Lamorinda Village to provide senior services and develop a volunteer hub that would benefit older adults. Katayanagi and members of the city staff have been working with city council liaisons and the Village to determine the best application of funds that has resulted in a revised Membership Proposal. After a review and unanimous approval Feb. 23 from the Lafayette Senior Services Commission, the council was asked for similar consideration and approval.

Parks and Rec had already launched a few programs at the Lafayette Community Center, but needed approval from council for a suggested reallocation of \$142,000 in previously approved funding. The new plan takes that \$142,000 budget and allocates \$60,000 for citysupported memberships for

Lafayette residents, and \$82,000 to hire a recreation director to support the Senior Services program.

The recreation director's responsibilities would include overseeing city programs and activities for seniors, counseling for members and their families, vetting senior service resources, and providing referrals to those resources and other services available to

The city-supported memberships would provide qualifying Village members whose finances and service needs pass a means test with full membership benefits at a reduced per month amount (proposed \$5 per month for single members and \$10 per month for couples to match current Village supported benefactors). When asked by Mayor Carl Anduri and Council Member Susan Candell how much the initiative could increase Village membership, which currently stands at about 200, Katayanagi said depending on how many new seniors join as single or as couples, the Village could see an increase of up to 250 people, doubling the number of current participants. In his report, he noted that the city views this program as a two-year pilot collaboration to evaluate the effectiveness of subsidizing Lafayette residents.

Lamorinda Village is a community-based network of people over age 55 living in Lafayette, Moraga, and Ōrinda.

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### Terraces court battle ends; project to proceed

After more than two years, litigation against the city of Lafayette and developer O'Brien Land Company (O'Brien) regarding the city's approval of the 315-unit Terraces of Lafayette development project has ended and is in favor of the city and O'Brien.

In 2020, Save Lafayette, a citizens group, sued the city and O'Brien to overturn the city's approval of the Terraces of Lafayette. In November 2021, the Contra Costa County Superior Court rejected Save Lafayette's claims and upheld the city's approval of the Terraces of Lafayette. Save Lafayette appealed the Superior Court's decision.

In November 2022, the Court of Appeal issued a unanimous opinion holding that the city's environmental review complied with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and that the city properly followed the Housing Accountability Act in approving the project. Save Lafayette requested that the California Supreme Court exercise its discretion and review the Court of Appeal's decision.

On Wednesday, March 15, the California Supreme Court denied Save Lafayette's request for review, making the Court of Appeal opinion in favor of the city the final word in the long-running dispute.

"The courts have once again affirmed that the city complied with the Housing Accountability Act and the California Environmental Quality Act in its environmental review and approval of this 20%-affordable housing project. The litigation is over, and we should now focus on welcoming new residents to our community," said Lafayette Mayor Carl Anduri.

Now that litigation has ended, O'Brien will be able to proceed with the development of 315 for-rent apartments, including 63 below-market-rate units on a vacant a 22-acre site at the southwest corner of Pleasant Hill and Deer Hill Roads, adjacent to Highway 24 in Lafayette.

For more information, visit https://www.lovelafayette.org/terraces.

- J. Wake

Clarification/Correction: In the March 15 article, "Council discusses potential state legislature grant projects; Pleasant Hill Road Pathway project pulled from list for now," Lauren Herpich, whose public comment was correctly quoted in the story, clarified that what she meant to say was: "There is no one - perhaps other than Eric Law - who wants to see the Pleasant Hill dedicated bike and pedestrian path happen more than me." In another point of clarification, the pedestrian bridge mentioned in the story is not an alternative design to the dedicated bike and pedestrian path, but a totally different project which would cross Pleasant Hill Road at Acalanes High School tennis courts with the goal of removing crosswalks at Pleasant Hill and Springhill so cars can drive faster on Pleasant Hill Road. "The bridge does nothing to address crossing Highway 24," resident Eric Law noted.



Lafayette **Public** Meetings

### **City Council**

Regular Meeting Monday, April 10, 7 p.m. Teleconference via City of Lafayette's You Tube Channel: http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

#### **Planning Commission** Meeting

Monday, April 17, 7 p.m. Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

### **Design Review**

Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m. Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

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