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Familiar face is new Administrative Assistant at City of Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo provided

Administrative Assistant Pat D'Amico

Visitors to city offices will be greeted by new Administrative Assistant Pat D'Amico, recently hired by Orinda. D'Amico was introduced to the City Council at its Oct. 1

meeting, but may have already been familiar to the council members.

City Clerk, Sheri Smith, explained that for a couple of years, D'Amico has been doing temporary work for different city departments. Smith noted that D'Amico has actually worked for the Planning Department, the Public Works Department, and the Parks and Rec Department.

Smith revealed that, "recently when our administrative assistant position became available, we were very happy to see that she applied for that permanent position." Smith noted that D'Amico has over 15 years of administrative experience, and also has a masters in Business Administration and a

certificate in paralegal studies, "so its really helpful in the city clerk's office to have somebody with that background."

Smith concluded that she was thrilled to introduce Pat D'Amico "as the person whom the public, the council, and the staff sees as the face of the city everyday and the person who answers our phones every day. We're really, really fortunate to have her."

D'Amico told the council, "I've very excited, very happy to be a part of the city of Orinda and it's a pleasure to meet all of you." Adding, "thank you so much."

Vice Mayor Latika Malkani responded, "welcome, we're so glad to have you," and other council members added their welcomes as well.

Orinda City Council talks parks, still nothing decided

... continued from Page A6

At this point, Contra Costa County requires that access to the park be upgraded to the standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) before any other work can be done on the park. Although there currently is a ramp from the north side of the park, apparently it does not meet ADA standards. The only possible solution appears to be a new ramp on the west side of the park. Although the south side of the park, adjoining the Community Center, does not have stairs, it is too steep to be considered ADA compliant.

Therefore, the plan is currently to move forward with the new ADA ramp and to also renovate the restroom. The cost for this portion of the plan is estimated at \$683,000.

The last park to be considered by the council was a proposed off-leash dog park at Wilder. Previously, the council had

considered a dog park at Orinda Oaks Park, but the uphill location presented significant difficulties and costs for providing ADA access. At that time, the Wilder location was being considered for a potential Pickleball area.

When the council considered Wilder for Pickleball courts, the location was possible, but a little less than ideal. Four courts could fit comfortably, and five with a little less than ideal orientation. However, in either case, the costs were very high, in part owing to the changes to the area that would be required to put in proper ADA access.

During the discussion, it became apparent that there really is no other site for pickleball courts in Orinda. And it was unclear how much use would be made of an off-leash dog park at Wilder. Council member Brandyn Iverson suggested a trial use of Orinda Oaks park as an off-leash dog park.

City Manager David

Biggs noted that Moraga offers an off-leash experience at Rancho Laguna Park, although he added that their Parks & Rec director says that he wished that they hadn't. He suggested that they could try off-leash dogs at Orinda Oaks for a limited period, to see if it would be popular. He suggested Monday through Friday during the hours when children are in school.

Parks and Rec Director Todd Trimble informed the council that dog owners already let their dogs off leash in many parks, adding that it presents issues for his staff, particularly at the athletic fields.

The council thought it would be a good idea to seek more input from the public, possibly through a pop up dog park trial and perhaps by asking public opinion at the Farmer's Market. Staff was directed to come back to the council in the future regarding a pop-up dog park.

The presentations on the three parks projects are available to the public at <https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/s/ph3q5jmb3sk0hw5rz2o417ka68qf6118/folder/287270385063>



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