

Task Force Speaks Out

By Nick Marnell

In response to the district's recent request for public input, the most visible and critical of the community groups that go toe-to-toe with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has offered suggestions to the district on how to properly present its financial situation to the public ... and to do it soon.

"Hands-on leadership is missing in the district," said Orinda Emergency Services Task Force member Diana Stephens, speaking of the MOFD board of directors. The group complained that, despite the bleak financial situation, it took the district's finance committee nearly one year to meet. And Steve Cohn, the task force member who parses the district's financial data, pointed out what he interpreted were serious flaws in the district's recently released long-range financial plan.

The task force is a self-appointed grass roots organization of Orinda citizens. In 2012 the group delivered a formal presentation to the MOFD that criticized its response times and its unfunded pension liability, and demanded that what it perceived was the subsidizing by Orinda of Moraga's costs for emergency services be stopped.

"I'm not convinced that the district knows the true value of its liabilities," said Cohn. "MOFD needs to confirm its unfunded pension liability, and find out what it will really cost to bring that liability down." He indicated that the district may need to get an outside opinion to find that answer.

Cohn then suggested three revisions to the district's long-range financial plan, which he says understates MOFD liabilities by more than \$30 million over the next 15 years.

Property tax revenue should be increased at a 5 percent rate, rather than the 4 percent rate used in the plan, said Cohn. And if expenses increase not at annual average of 1.7 percent but at 2.62 percent - which he said was the average Bay Area inflation index of the past 15 years - he

noted that "the two revisions should produce a net benefit of \$6.5 million."

For the unfunded pension liability, Cohn said that, if the district's current debt of more than \$45 million is paid down to \$23 million in 15 years, as stated in the plan, it will take \$3 million more in payments. "This is not a big difference," he said. "But they should get their math right."

Cohn singled out the district's other post-employment benefits unfunded liability, which consists mainly of retiree health benefits, as the largest miscalculation in the plan. The discounted liability should be \$31 million, not the \$11.9 million that MOFD reports, said Cohn. He claimed that the \$24 million liability that he said was calculated in a 2009 actuarial accounting of the other post-employment benefits has increased 30 percent. To totally fund this liability would take \$48 million, he said, not the \$14 million the MOFD plan assumes. "How does MOFD think they can pay off what was \$24 million in 2009, and has increased 30 percent since then, with \$14 million?" said Cohn.

The net result of the revenue increase, correctly amortizing the pension liability and paying off the current other post-employment benefit liability is more than \$30 million, according to the task force.

The group acknowledged that a reduced staff and lower wages and benefits were the only methods for the district to achieve any real operational cost savings. "Cut salaries by 10 percent, and cut medical by 20 percent," said Stephens.

Both Stephens and Cohn did concede that, despite what they noted as its flaws, the long-range financial plan was a good starting point for prudent fiscal management by the district. The latest version of the MOFD long-range financial plan is available online at www.mofd.org; the task force response can be found at www.orindataskforce.org.

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Films and Events Schedule* | Location

Thursday, Nov. 7th

5:30PM Opening Night Reception 2013 Slate Awards Presentation	Rheem
7:00PM Le Week-End (93 min, Comedy/Drama)	Rheem

Friday, Nov. 8th

1:00PM Short Program A (89 min)	Rheem
1:00PM Short Program B (104 min)	Orinda
3:00PM Short Program C (80 min)	Rheem
3:30PM Sapporo Shorts (92 min)	Orinda
6:00PM Garibaldi's Lovers (108 min, Comedy)	Rheem
6:00PM Short Program D (97 min)	Orinda
8:15PM Broken (90 min, Drama)	Orinda
8:30PM Key of Life (128 min, Comedy)	Rheem
9:30PM Festival Social CAIFF Lounge	Orinda

Saturday, Nov. 9th

10:00AM Iron Filmmaker Contest	Rheem
12:30PM Short Program B (104 min)	Rheem
1:00PM Short Program A (89 min)	Orinda
1:30PM Sapporo Shorts (92 min)	Rheem
3:00PM Wet Behind the Ears (90 min, Comedy)	Rheem
3:30PM Desert Runners (92 min)	Orinda
4:00PM Short Program D (97 min)	Rheem
5:15PM Coldwater (104 min, Drama/Thriller)	Rheem
6:00PM G.B.F. (98 min, Comedy)	Orinda
6:00PM We the Owners (52 min)	Rheem
7:30PM A River Changes Course (83 min)	Rheem
7:45PM Along the Roadside (108 min, Comedy)	Rheem
8:00PM Love or Whatever (84 min, Comedy)	Orinda
10:00PM American Pie (95 min, Comedy) Q&A with Thomas Ian Nicholas	Orinda
10:00PM Saturday Night Party	Shelby's Orinda Theatre Square

Sunday, Nov. 10th

11:00AM Rookie of the Year (120 min) Q&A with Thomas Ian Nicholas (Kids Program)	Rheem
11:00AM Bay Area Showcase of Shorts (82 min)	Orinda
1:15PM Valentine Road (89 min)	Orinda
1:30PM Bullying in Schools (120 min) Q&A with Bruce Burns and Heidi Hoihn Felt	Rheem
3:15PM Bluebird (90 min, Drama)	Orinda
4:00PM Short Program C (80 min)	Rheem
6:00PM Closing Night	Orinda
6:00PM Jackpot (86 min, Action/Comedy)	Orinda

Special Event Features Documentaries Shorts

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Movie Reviews by Adam Reeves

Along The Roadside

Playing at The Rheem Theatre –
Sat., Nov. 9 – 7:45pm

This is a must see movie!



A man named Varnie (Iman Crosson) picks up a female hitch hiker named Nena (Angelina Hantsch) while driving on a journey to escape his past and his responsibilities. The dialogue and interaction between this odd pair as they travel together on the road make one great story. The story is told lightly and believably by the great ensemble cast directed superbly by Zoran Lisinac. Every character is real and yet so unbelievable in their encounters and situations.

The people they encounter include Michael Madsen (from "Kill Bill" fame) who comes in one of the funnier pit stops in the film. You will feel like you are the "third" person on this trip as you sit back and enjoy getting to know your traveling companions and the adventures they will take you on. There are so many clever elements in this film it is well worth seeing. The movie starts a little too slow – but give it about seven minutes and you will be glad you stayed for the entire 108 minutes.

Ticket Prices

General admission	\$12.00
Opening Night Reception & Movie	\$50.00
Opening Night Movie Only	\$15.00
Closing Night Film and Reception	\$20.00

G.B.F.

Playing at The Orinda Theatre –
Sat., Nov. 9 – 6:00pm

Pure entertainment based on adolescent humor



The newest and latest fashion accessory that you must have is a Gay Best Friend (G.B.F.). Who knew? Well, obviously the most popular girls at the local high school found this out and now they want to accessorize!

The witch hunt is on to find a gay student (Tanner played by Michael Willett). Once found, the three most popular girls - Fawcett (Sasha Pieterse), Caprice (Xosha Roquemore), and 'Shley (Andrea Bowen) - compete to make him their own pet. The competition, the cat fights, and the shallowness of each of the senior females in their pursuit to accessorize are what makes up the majority of the humor in this film.

A big shout out to the actors playing the parents and adults in this film, they each steal any scenes they appear in. Tanner's parents (Rebecca Gayheart and Jonathan Silverman) are hilarious when Tanner decides to "come out" to them. And the ever supportive mom of Tanner's best friend Brent (Paul Iacono) is played by Megan Mullally from "Will and Grace" fame and she will have you falling out of your chair laughing!

G.B.F. is 92 minutes

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