Candell to recuse from Deer Hill project, three others reject call to recuse

By Pipa Fisher
The Feb 23 city council meeting got off to a spotty start as four of the five city council members reading statements – one reading from and two others stating their intention not to recuse – were advised by legal counsel on any future discussion or decision on the Deer Hill project.

Lisa Brydon, the controversial 8-unit apartment project on a 0.25-acre plot on Deer Hill Road, is expected to come before the city for approval this spring. The development was first proposed in March 2011 but its application was suspended in 2014 and in favor of alternative plans for a scaled-back development of 44 single-family homes, a dog park, and a play ground, all set to be reviewed today.

A member of the council, the developer, O’Riordan Homes submitted the revised project in late January. The principal member statements were read during the report from the closed meeting and came following a barrage of letters from the developer regarding Mayor Rick Weber and City Council member Susan Carlson’s decision to recuse themselves from all matters containing the Deer Hill Road site as a conflict of interest in her role as policy advisor to the developer. The revised project was approved 2-1 at the council meeting.

Rule remains in place where PG&E has been working to bury exposed pipeline along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail

By Pipa Fisher
The Lafayette City Council spent a short time at their Feb 23 meeting discussing next steps in the restoration of a safety trail and what exactly that might look like. The matter will be on the March 11 meeting agenda.

Gina Tesser, co-founder with her brother Michael Tesser of Save Lafayette Trees, was disappointed that the item was excluded in the February meeting only as a conversation on the consent calendar.

PG&E, a local organization, was formed in 1853 in an attempt to stop Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s planned removal program, which the utility wants to do as part of their Pipeline Safety Initiative, an effort to claim the twenty underground high transmission pipes and buried underground ac cessions, has been pushing for the formation of a safety task force with the idea that it would work with the city, the utility and the California Public Utilities Commission. Initially PG&E provided a second updated plan (rewritten), but it had the Dawson to be Incidentally contacted about a wider scope of pipeline safety issues. It is currently weighing the city and the utility.

But should the city form a task force headed by the people who are currently using them? What would such a task force

Council to keep talking gas safety; plans meeting with PG&E, community and CPUC

City attorney Marc Huber advised against attending meetings of SCE on such a task force. Mayor Clay Parks advised caution regarding the meeting it open to the public or to set up any type of regulatory body.

The Dawson’s have done a lot for the community in this space, I am grateful for their efforts,” Buske said later, but added, “We need to be careful as a city not to represent ourselves or even give the appearance of representing ourselves – as an oversight or regulatory body, when it comes to pipeline safety. We need to be matter appropriate to do so, and we certainly don’t want to be state mandates or authorities in a regulatory body in this space.

Gina Tesser is frustrated. “If we established a body the pipeline safety can drive the task in frustrating,” she tells her.

This news... Since the city after that Save Lafayette Trees members were not appointed to the task force because of a misunderstanding was nothing as this item has been on the agenda for many past council meetings. We sent initial letter and proposal to the city a month ago and we’ve been dropping off charts for the task force in good faith with Vice Mayor Mike Acker but with this current summer – we’re not appreciative of his efforts.

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Lamarinda Home Price Comparison Between 2017 & 2018

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<th>City</th>
<th>TOTAL HOMES SOLD</th>
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<th>HIGHEST PRICE SOLD</th>
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2 Hartwood Court, Lafayette
4 Bed | 3 Bath | +/- 2,418 Sq Ft | $1,799,000

8 Evergreen Drive, Orinda
4 Bed | 3 Bath | +/- 2,943 Sq Ft | $1,750,000

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