



See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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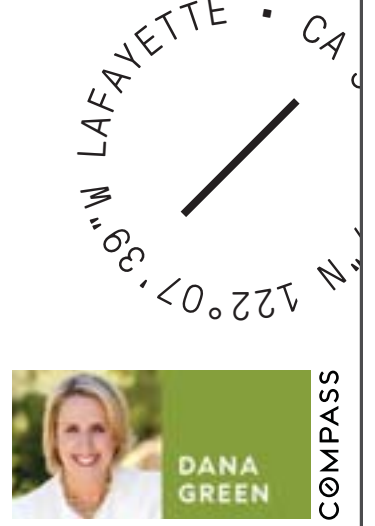


3314StageCoachDrive.com | \$1,695,000
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3831HappyValleyRoad.com | \$2,195,000
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Brown Avenue condos approved



View from Mt. Diablo Boulevard

Images provided



Aerial site view

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council has approved the development of 13 condominiums in two, three-story buildings with two below-market rate units on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Brown Avenue, replacing the existing structure currently used as an auto repair shop.

City council review was required in this instance because the project requested concessions and waivers under city and state density

bonus law.

The vote at the March 25 meeting was 4-1, with Council Member Susan Candell voting against the motion to adopt the resolution subject to modified conditions finding the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

The council heard from Stefan Schnitzler of Branagh Construction who, along with architect Scott Thomsen from Left Coast Architecture, gave details of modifications made to plans since their last appearance before the city two

weeks ago. With tweaks made in the areas of on-street parking, moving laundry facilities into each unit, improvements to pathways, allowing enough egress and ingress for garbage pickup and slight changes in materials used to keep the more “rustic” nature of the neighborhood, Senior City Planner Payal Bhagat said that city staff recommended approving the project.

The project has prompted concern from residents who worry about increased traffic, lack of parking and who

are not happy with the three stories in the design, many claiming it goes against the General Plan.

Such concerns were voiced by several during public comment and were the subject of several letters from residents. Lafayette resident Deborah Callister had written, “It will set a bad precedent for building height on the east end of town, it eliminates commercial space – another bad precedent; it will do nothing to help provide much needed very-low or low-income housing in Lafayette; and we need to protect views of our green hills that we enjoy every day.”

However Vice Mayor Mike Anderson, having spent

time during the week meeting with residents, sought to explain more clearly that state legislation now forces height higher than in Lafayette’s General Plan.

“We have had our hands tied in terms of density bonus requirements as well as by a request by developers to basically waive certain conditions,” said Anderson, explaining that the state’s requirements allow that. “So the height and the setbacks in this particular situation are different than the General Plan or the specific plan area due to the fact that state legislative guidelines require us to do that.”

A timeline for the development was not available as of press time.

Search for city manager seeks public engagement

By Pippa Fisher

A handful of residents came out March 26 to give input on considerations for hiring a city manager. It is part of the city council’s effort to include as many residents as possible as it makes its decision in hiring the

next manager to take the helm in Lafayette.

Paul Kimura of Avery & Associates, the recruitment firm chosen by the city council, arranged the meeting. One of the conditions placed on the firm by the council was that it must seek public engagement in

several formats.

Kimura led the informal brainstorming session in what he described as “getting a flavor of the community.”

Though their numbers were small, the audience’s voice was still loud and clear.

“His/her vision should be



Photo Pippa Fisher

Paul Kimura leads a brainstorming meeting attended by a handful of Lafayette residents March 26.

consistent with that of the council,” said one.

From another, “We need a city manager who’s aware of issues around climate change and sustainability.”

Other comments included the need for strength of character, persuasiveness, kindness, determination, a master communicator, someone with connections at the state level, someone with specifically California experience, fiscally prudent, financially savvy, an experienced urban planner who will be inclusive.

Is this akin to finding a unicorn?

Kimura seemed undaunted.

He said he hoped to start with between 30 and 40 candidates and then to narrow it down to around five or eight candidates for serious consideration by the council. “We are about quality numbers, not raw numbers,” he said, explaining that they will be putting out a marketing brochure to advertise and will also go to their database.

The solicitation for community input will continue in the form of an online survey and phone calls.

Kimura anticipates the search and hiring will take between four and five months to complete.

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- 650+ Transactions Closed to Date
- Knowledgeable-Insightful-Committed
- 100’s of Happy Clients
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Lamorinda Listings

<p>40 Woodford Drive</p> <p>COMING SOON</p>	<p>3 Honey Hill Court</p> <p>PRICE REDUCED \$2,995,000</p>
<p>1003 Woodbury Road #208</p> <p>ACTIVE \$1,100,000</p>	<p>3535 Wilkinson Lane</p> <p>PRICE REDUCED \$2,750,000</p>
<p>875 Birdhaven Court</p> <p>PENDING - 5 OFFERS IN 3 DAYS</p>	<p>3360 Johnson Road</p> <p>SOLD \$1,300,000</p>

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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
 Monday, April 8, 6:15 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission
 Monday, April 15, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
 Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.
 AUHSD Board Room
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District
 Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting
 District Office Board Room
 3477 School St., Lafayette
 www.lafsd.k12.ca.us