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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, January 9, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, January 9, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, January 11, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District
Thursday, January 12, 7:00 pm
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce:
www.lafayettechamber.org

Confronting the Growing Demand for Wireless

By Cathy Tyson

Let's make an ordinance! Turns out - that's easier said than done. In response to increasing requests for wireless communications facilities in the city, an expert was hired to give advice to the Planning Commission about the specifics of crafting an ordinance. With technology constantly changing, and an alphabet soup of regulations that govern wireless towers, the Planning Commission heard a complete review about everything from soup to nuts regarding wireless at a recent meeting.

Currently the City of Lafayette doesn't have a wireless ordinance, however there are existing rules about land use permits, but height limit rules don't apply to "devices for the transmission of telephone and telegraphic messages," according to a staff report on the subject.

Consultant Jonathan L. Kramer,

Esquire is uniquely qualified to outline the dos and don'ts of a proposed ordinance. He splits his time between his telecommunications-focused law firm and his technology consulting firm. In addition, he has a background as a radio telecommunications engineer and holder of a General Radiotelephone Operator License from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

He promised right off the bat to not torture the Planning Commission and the audience with "death by Powerpoint." Instead, he delivered on his goal of providing a guide to help the Planning Commission find its way through the regulatory jungle.

He reviewed relevant case law, the role of the FCC, defining what a Joint Pole Authority is and how it functions, the amazing growth of technology, and Distributed Antenna

Systems - all factors to consider in writing a wireless ordinance. He advises, "What you get out of the process is what you put in the ordinance" and suggested integrating design elements to come up with something "that's aesthetically appropriate for the community."

That nugget especially resonated with the many residents who turned out for the meeting and are concerned about living next door to an ugly cell tower.

The highlight of the presentation was a variety of photos of cell towers from around the country. Some were hiding in plain sight - like the fake mono-palm located near a group of real palm trees, or camouflaged in bell towers, or incorporated into a McDonald's structure, or the gigantic metal bison on a windswept hilltop in Colorado, that hid wireless equipment. But some were just

plain ugly.

Comments from the audience were limited, but supported the concept. Angela Lucas said, "There are twelve ordinances for putting a satellite dish on your house, and nothing for cell towers."

Wireless technology is in everything - getting an electronic book for your Kindle, streaming Netflix movies, to the shoe department at Macy's, to vending machines sending messages about restocking soda and emptying the coin box. As Kramer pointed out, it took twenty-five years to build the first 200,000 wireless sites, and it's estimated the country will need 200,000 more in the next nine years to keep pace with demand. Writing an ordinance to control the process may hold some appeal for many Lafayette residents, but the complexity of the issue suggests this won't happen overnight.

New Mayor for the New Year in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson

It's that time of year again. Before the Menorah is lit or Santa comes down the chimney, the City Council does its annual reorganization. The new Mayor and Vice Mayor are elected from the current members of the City Council, to mostly ceremonial positions. In their usual civilized manner, everybody takes turns. Freshly former Mayor Carl Anduri who served for 2011 stepped down, and former

Vice Mayor Federighi got "promoted" by a unanimous vote to serve as Mayor for 2012, her third time since joining the City Council in 1999. Mike Anderson will serve as Vice Mayor.

"You have been a terrific mayor," said Federighi, "Doing your homework, listening and asking good questions." She cited his terrific leadership on a range of issues from protecting open space and

ridgelines to serving senior citizens.

As a token of appreciation the former mayor, now just a regular City Council Member, received a lovely cutting board with a small personalized plaque. He graciously thanked all of the City staff, commission, committee and task force volunteers, the Chamber of Commerce and the Homeowners Council. "It's a joy to serve the city," said Anduri, describing the experienced senior people within the City Council and the city staff that help things run so smoothly.

City Manager Steven Falk opined that the cutting board could refer to a number of things; the former Mayor's "cutting wit, or perhaps his willingness to cut off people who go over their allotted speaking time, and cutting the budget."

After changing seats, new Mayor Federighi thanked her supportive husband, terrific staff and many community volunteers and



Carol Federighi Photo Cathy Tyson

concerned citizens that help make Lafayette wonderful. "It's largely a ceremonial role. I'm honored to represent the city in all kinds of ways - I hope I can represent you well," she said.



Police Report

You have been chopped, 11/27/11 "Chop Chop!" "Who's there?" "Wood!" "Wood who?" "Wood you like a tree cut down?" Someone called police when they heard a chopping noise outside their residence. A look around failed to reveal Paul Bunyan, but they did notice a small tree had been cut near their property—the felled tree was actually on city property. No leads, no suspects. No Babe the Blue Ox either.

Water ways, 11/27/11 Someone threw a filled gallon water jug at a victim's parked car and broke the left rear tail light. Gives a whole new meaning to "water park" doesn't it? Damages are estimated at between \$300 and \$600, which will surely dampen your enthusiasm.

Party time, 11/27/11 Did you hear about the burglars who broke into a Lafayette residence? They stole some things (valued at \$2700), yes, but they liked the place so much they stayed to party. The intruders caused an additional \$1150 worth of damage while entertaining themselves. I would definitely cross them off my guest list.

Slick job, 11/28/11 Thieves broke into a work place on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and absconded with 30 cases of oil, plus a battery charger. More than two grand in cash and checks were taken too. Oil gone in a jiffy.

Pulling the old switcheroo, 11/28/11 A 2007 Prius was stolen in Lafayette. Perhaps the oil thieves grew weary of their wares? Half an hour later police recovered a 2004 Beemer, parked next to where the Prius was stolen.

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