

A New Welcome Home on the Horizon for Orindans?

By Laurie Snyder

"Show me your garden, provided sion lines. But the utility also indi-Austin

Drive, tucked against Orinda \$57,000 in 2011, following input Theatre Square, sits a tiny, green from the Orinda Parks and Recresanctuary. It has been there – in ation Commission and Public some shape or form – since 1973 Works Aesthetic Review Commitwhen PG&E entered into a 20- tee, Montelindo Garden Club and year "Cooperative Landscaping Theatre Square management, but Agreement" with Contra Costa did not specify a funding source. County. Orinda inherited both Undaunted, Montelindo continued park and agreement when it in- its tender loving care. corporated as a city.

the patch was christened "the interest in providing funds - poten-Mini-Park," and redwood trees were planted. And therein is the rub - literally. Redwoods, magnificent though they are, do not mix with power lines.

PG&E advised the Orinda City Council in 2010 of its new maintenance initiative, requiring removal of trees to protect 230KV transmis-

it be your own, and I will tell you cated a willingness to hold off until what you are like." - Alfred Orinda could figure out how to replace the trees with shorter greent the juncture of Camino ery. The City Council approved a

Cut to 2013 when the Orinda Somewhere along the way, Community Foundation expressed tially in the six-figure range – and presented ideas at a summer meeting with the city, PG&E, and Montelindo. Attendees were said to be open to new options "since OCF was committed to provide substantial financial support." PG&E, while anxious to proceed, appears to be willing to give Orinda more

time since Orinda's volunteers are, in effect, taking care of a headache by beautifying and maintaining the land for them.

"A design process with identi-Pablo and Brookwood plan with an estimated cost of fied funding for this project could yield significant improvements to the entrance to the Theatre Square/Crossroads Downtown area," wrote staff in a Nov.5 report to the City Council. Both the Parks and Recreation Commission and Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee would like to do more, but also want the project to move forward quickly. After council members considered the options - implementing the already approved plan or regrouping and re-envisioning - they directed staff to obtain more information about the funding available from the Orinda Community Foundation and work with the other bodies to consider what else might be done with the additional financial support.

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