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Rock the Plaza Soon Rolls Away



Photo Cathy Tyson

Lucky attendees at the Friday the 13th Rock the Plaza event enjoyed a perfect Lafayette evening to picnic, listen to music and get their collective groove on. The Floor-shakers provided a wonderful mix of funk, soul and rock and roll for the young and young at heart to dance to. The inspired mix of tunes from "Lady Marmalade," to Amy Winehouse's soulful "Valerie," to the disco classic "Good Times" with a spot-on

rap riff shook the floor, or rather, grass. There are only two more events left in the Friday summer series: on June 20 is The Big Jangle - a Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band, and on June 27 the Lamorinda Idol Finalists will perform. Both free shows run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Plaza Park, at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. *C. Tyson*

Narrowing Options for Traffic Study

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The volunteers who make up the Circulation Commission, all of whom live in Lafayette and are intimately familiar with local traffic, have over the past 11 months painstakingly developed a problem statement and a broad scope of work, to keep all options on the table. They carefully examined past studies, brainstormed new areas and honed the crux of the matter into one sentence: Continual worsening of downtown traffic congestion compromises the mobility, health, safety and quality of life of Lafayette residents.

While the Circulation Commission preferred an extensive list for a consultant to consider, racking up an impressive 32 items on their "Working List of Grouped Topics for Further Study," but the more items in the study, the longer it takes to complete and the higher the price.

City staff recommended a much shorter list with a total of five items. Even that list was narrowed by council members to now focus on three key concepts and to add one additional component - parking - which

contributes to the traffic mess. First was to look at signals in the downtown area to become more efficient; next, examine a downtown bypass route to more efficiently connect traffic south of Highway 24 to the freeway; and finally, implement park-and-ride service to BART and downtown from satellite parking lots outside the congested core - or consider a park-and-walk model.

Additionally, there was consensus that, presuming the study receives funding, the consultant can propose his or her completely new, well-reasoned concepts based on a thorough understanding and analysis of downtown.

How much is this going to cost? An estimated price tag of around \$250,000 for the shorter focus list, and roughly double that for the more extensive options suggested by the Circulation Commission. All involved are hopeful funding is received; no funding - no study, or it may be deferred until funding becomes available.

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