



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

City Council
 Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Wilder Council Subcommittee Special Meeting
 Wednesday, Sept. 9, 5 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

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CALBRE# 00903367

Steve Salomon plans to retire in January



Photo Sora O'Doherty
 Steve Salomon in 2017

By Sora O'Doherty

Although the mayor of Orinda was sorely disappointed that the city attorney did not come up with an agreement to prevent Steve Salomon from ever leaving Orinda, she accepted his letter of retirement, effective Jan. 7, 2021. Darlene Gee told Salomon at the Aug. 18 city council meeting, "We are so very, very sorry to see that we are going to lose you."
 Vice Mayor Amy Worth echoed the mayor's comments. She thanked Salomon "from the bottom of our hearts," saying, "we have been so fortunate to have you as our city manager; you have contributed tremendously to quality of life and financial security of our city." In what will be a preview of the encumbrances to be bestowed on Salomon before the end of the year, Worth said, "I can't thank you enough. So much of your work is behind the

scenes, you have really been a mentor with your vast incredible experience managing cities around California."
 Orinda citizen Charles Porges also wanted to thank Steve "for all of his wonderful work behind the scenes and wish him the best retirement anyone could ever have."
 Porges added, "His shoes are really hard to fill."
 Salomon came to Orinda as an interim city manager after former city manager Janet Keeting retired in 2017. The city searched for a permanent city manager, but failed to find a candidate they liked better than Salomon. They prevailed upon him to take the position on a permanent, if admittedly short-term, basis.
 In his letter, Salomon said that his retirement in January 2021 will end his 45-year career serving government agencies, and will allow the city time to interview and hire a replacement. During

his time as city manager, Salomon said, "the Council and community have accomplished a great deal ... and faced significant challenges." He went on to enumerate the Miner Road sinkhole, repaired in less than six months, the completion of the \$60 million road improvement program approved by voters, the opening of the Art and Garden Center and Wilder Fields, the installation of Big Belly trash and recycling containers, and the increase in the library parcel tax to keep the library open seven days a week during normal hours.
 Salomon said it was an honor and a pleasure to work with seven Orinda council members. He added, "I also want to thank the community for the exceptional volunteerism, passion and participation. I wish you and the community the best moving forward in these challenging times."

City agrees to 5-foot parking ban on El Toyonal during red flag days

By Sora O'Doherty

Right before a flurry of red flag days, the Orinda city council on Aug. 18 adopted a ban on parking within 5 feet of the edge of the roadway on El Toyonal. The matter came back to the council after staff was asked to come up with the best distance to assure that emergency vehicles can access the top of the hill while residents can safely evacuate if needed.

The ban addresses parking alongside the road, and includes private driveways, so that vehicle parking must leave 5 feet of space from where the driveway meets the road.
 Council Member Inga Miller recognized that it is a hard topic, and inconvenient for people dealing with high fire risk, but she said, "For me it is a safety issue." She mentioned terrible tragedies that have occurred right on

the other side of the same hill. Council Member Nick Kosla asked that complaints and compliments be monitored over the next six months, and Director of Public Works/Assistant City Manager Larry Theis agreed. "This is a pilot program," he added, that may be expanded to other streets in the future. He promised to track how it goes on El Toyonal and report back before the next fire season.

Council Member Dennis Fay thinks the city will learn a lot from the pilot program, and that it will inform work in other parts of Orinda. While Mayor Darlene Gee acknowledged that there may be some inconvenience, she said, "We are all aware of the danger and how challenging this area is." She agreed with Miller's memories of the Oakland Hills fire. The measure passed unanimously.

Re-Elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council

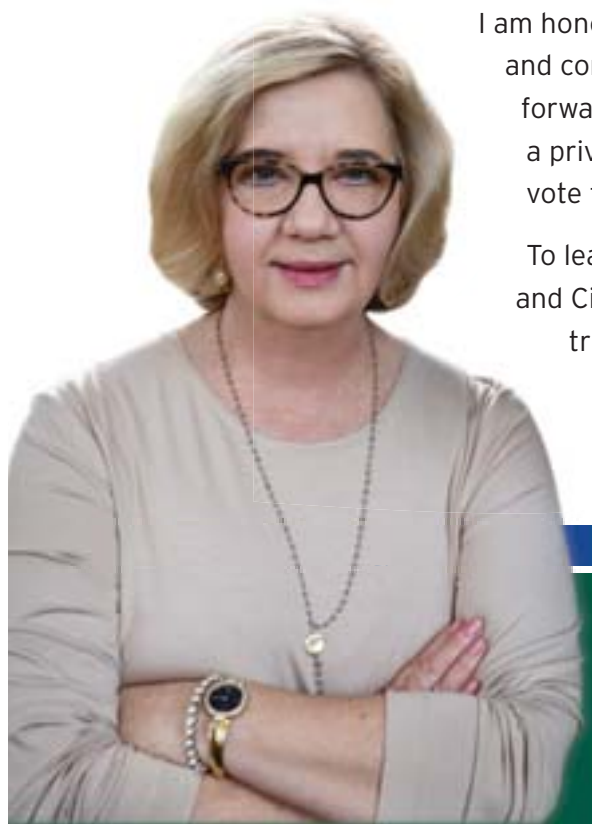
As the current Mayor of Orinda, I have worked hard this year to lead our City during the dual challenges of COVID-19 and the national unrest associated with social injustice and inequality. I am proud of Orinda's response to both these issues, as well as the key agenda we have furthered this year toward fire prevention, infrastructure rehabilitation, downtown planning, and public safety.

My husband, Dennis, and I have lived in Orinda for more than 30 years and enjoyed raising our two sons in a community with such great schools and family focus. We love living here and I have always actively contributed my time and expertise to Orinda's schools, charities, and volunteer government.

I am honored to be in my fifth year serving on the Orinda City Council and continue to have great energy toward moving our community forward while preserving our exceptional quality of living. It has been a privilege to use my experience serving Orinda and I ask for your vote this November 3rd.

To learn more about my professional background, accomplishments and City service, and goals for the coming years, and to see a list of the trusted leaders and community voices who support my campaign, please visit my website at darlenegeeforcouncil.com.

Darlene K. Gee



VOTE DARLENE GEE

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Darlene Gee for City Council 2020, FPPC 1428111