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Strong showing of GPAC applicants as Lafayette starts General Plan update

By Pippa Fisher

The General Plan Advisory Committee, which will be responsible for the comprehensive update to Lafayette's General Plan, has been selected and is now in place. Senior Planner Sarah Allen brought the city council up to speed at the Oct. 13 meeting, reporting that they were happy to have had 85

applicants, which she said gets the process off on a really positive note. Commission and community representatives include members from the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, the Senior Services Commission, the Youth Commission, Transportation and Circulation Commission along with the Chamber of Commerce.

A lottery system was used for the remaining member selection with the mayor conducting the drawing live via a Zoom webinar Oct. 5. That provided representatives from a nonprofit organization and from each of the four districts of the city plus one at-large member. In each instance both a primary and an alternate was chosen, with the intention

that it should be mainly the primary who will attend meetings and vote, to ensure continuity through the long-term process. But Allen noted that there will still be opportunities for participation and that the public should visit the city website or General Plan website for ways to be involved. The general plan is the blueprint for how the city will

grow over the next 20 years, containing policies on housing and development, jobs, leisure, public safety etc. Mayor Mike Anderson commented that this was a great start to the process. "The lift off is spectacular," he said. For more information go to: www.planlafayette.org/

New book store opens; offers thoughtful escape amid pandemic



Betty and Rudy Winnacker opened a new bookshop in Lafayette in mid-September

By Pippa Fisher

Independent bookstores are something of a rarity these days. And that's even without a pandemic. So it came as a bit of a surprise to many in

Lafayette to see a brick-and-mortar book shop open its doors in mid-September. Reasonable Books is located in the old Papyrus store near Trader Joe's. For owners Rudy and Betty Winnacker,

this is their first time owning a bookshop. It has been a dream of theirs inspired by their family's shared love of reading. Rudy Winnacker says the store is an opportunity he's

looked forward to for some time to work with the printed word after a career working with a number of digital publishing companies such as Blogger, Twitter and Medium. "Before that," he says, "I delivered newspapers and worked in most of the libraries at Cal as a gopher." The store feels like a sanctuary of peace and quiet – a deliberate goal of the Winnackers. Their aim is to make available thoughtful, quality, "reasonable" materials, believing that there is enough stress in the world at the moment and that the mind can benefit from rest and healthy distractions. They carry a roughly 50-50 split between fiction and non-fiction, along with a small selection, about 20%, of gently used books as well. The types of books include current fiction and non-fiction bestsellers along with classics, science, history, philosophy and other books of enduring quality. If they lack a title, they are happy to order it. While Betty Winnacker prefers well-written fiction, her husband says he prefers

non-fiction. "I became interested in history as a way to understand our current world," he says. If their name sounds familiar, that is because local Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Chief Dave Winnacker is Rudy's cousin. The challenges of opening a physical bookstore are real and not helped by the pandemic, but the couple is optimistic. Rudy Winnacker says they're very pleased with how the first month has gone. "There is a steady stream of visitors and a lot of support and good will from the community," he says. "We are making sales, growing our inventory and learning a lot about how we can serve the readers in Lafayette and surrounding towns." The couple plans to become very involved with the community, the Chamber of Commerce, schools and book clubs. They aim to have in-person events at the store such as books signings and author talks. ... continued on Page A3

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