



See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
 www.lovelafayette.org
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.lafayettechamber.org



Burton Valley Charmer | 3312 N. Lucille Lane, Lafayette

5 Bed | 2 Bath
 2310± Sq. Ft. | .23± Acre Lot
3312NLucilleLane.com
 Offered at \$1,795,000



Lafayette's #1 Real Estate Team
 Since 2008
 DanaGreenTeam.com
 925.339.1918 | DRE 01482454



COMPASS

Council considers return to in-person meetings

By Lou Fancher

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Lafayette City Council has been meeting online according to Assembly Bill 361 guidelines, which temporarily allows local governing agencies to continue virtual meetings and to teleconference from remote locations when physical access and quorum requirements of in-person meetings would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

At its March 14 council meeting Lafayette Communications Analyst Suzanne Iarla updated council about current and upcoming Contra Costa County Health guidelines, the expiration of California Gov. Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 that waived provisions of the Brown Act to allow local and state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference without the teleconferencing locations being open and accessible to the public during the meeting, and AB 361, which is poised to sunset on

Jan. 1, 2024.

When AB 361 expires, unless other laws still in proposal stage are enacted, local governing bodies will revert to the original guidelines. With the county continuing to recommend teleconferencing meetings online, the council after hearing the recommendations from staff, unanimously chose to follow county health guidelines and AB 361 protocols and to continue online meetings while beginning to prepare for the return to in-person and hybrid meetings when it is safe.

Iarla asked council to consider if some governing entities remain online, what the means by which the content of those meetings would be communicated to the public; whether face mask and social distancing mandates be continued in an in-person setting; if proof of vaccination would be required and if a voluntary contact list is a violation of privacy or a desired tool for contact tracing; and whether in-person meetings should include teleconferencing to the public as a courtesy

hybrid component.

According to Iarla, hybrid meetings allow real-time interactions and greater ease of access to participants including the council, consultants, experts speaking on a topic and the public, however the hybrid meetings require more staff hours for set up, operation and maintenance of the teleconferencing and livestream components. For meetings in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the library – City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Commission, and Transportation and Circulation Commission – the added staff time pencils out. For smaller commission and committee meetings, the efficacy of the extra costs are questionable and worthy of evaluation.

With \$25,000 of funding for new hardware that was required for hybrid meetings in Tatzin Hall already secured (as of March) and staff undergoing training, additional cameras will improve the room's capabilities and no extra funds are sought for this phase of the project. Solutions

for hybrid meetings to be held at other spaces such as the Arts & Science Discovery Center and the Community Center outlined in the staff report continue to be explored by staff, and updates will be brought to the council.

During the discussion that included questions from the public about what factors will signal a return to rules governed by the Brown Act, and if the city will set its own safety protocols once the county guidelines expire, council favored continuing to follow AB 361. Acknowledging that operational issues due to possible power outages have potential to disrupt teleconferenced, livestream Zoom meetings, that remote downside was not enough to detract from the benefits of online meetings.

Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok said that since his election to the council, he'd only experienced remote meetings and asked, "What are we missing by being only online? Is there a key thing we're missing that would mean we'd want to be back in-

person in a hurry?" Kwok said meeting online is "good for democracy" in terms of people being able to interact more often, more effectively, and with greater ease due to increased accessibility.

Vice Mayor Carl Anduri agreed, emphasizing the gain in public health safety, but said, "The one tangible (loss) is the feeling of the community gathering to discuss issues and a major difference is the outburst of support – or boos – for speakers (that is) common at meetings in-person and doesn't happen online."

Ending the discussion, the council chose to continue with all-online meetings and follow county health guidelines until AB 361 expires. The staff was directed to keep careful watch of other communities and what they are learning when returning to in-person meetings. Meanwhile, staff will also plan and prepare as previously approved for hybrid options for certain meetings to continue after the pandemic becomes endemic.

Lafayette's American Rescue Plan Act fund distribution discussed



By Lou Fancher

An update and recommendations made by city staff and presented at the March 14 city council meeting by Economic Development Manager Thomas Myers focused on the distribution of the first tranche of Lafayette's American Rescue Plan Act funds. Having previously approved the use of \$2,590,555 of ARPA funds for Lafayette projects and programs, the report from

ARPA Subcommittee Members Meyers, Vice Mayor Carl Anduri, and Council Member Gina Dawson included explanation of five allocations involving expenditures through the end of the city's current fiscal year on June 30.

A ruling issued by Treasury that goes into effect April 1 will allow Lafayette and other cities reporting less than \$10 million in revenue loss to spend ARPA funds on economic recovery measures but also to apply the funds to gen-

eral government services. The subcommittee's first recommendation was to take advantage of the increased flexibility and discretionary use of ARPA's funds and on April 1 to immediately transfer \$500,000 from the unallocated ARPA funds to the General Fund. The action would "backfill" revenue expenditures made by the city for the Park Theater appropriation.

... continued on Page A9

Use of on-street parking, private parking lots, and sidewalks for outdoor dining and retail sales will be extended through March 31, 2023.

Photo J. Wake

THE KURT PIPER GROUP PRESENTS

Carmel Valley Meets Lafayette Trail



655 Glenside Drive, Lafayette
 3 Bed | 2 Bath | 2,921 Sq. Ft. | 2 Acres | Offered at \$2,995,000

Enchanting 1947 custom, old world ranch-style home rarely found in the East Bay. Situated on a stunning 2 acre parcel, this solidly built stately home boasts native California adobe architecture with woodworking details that could only be handcrafted by a master builder. Explore this 2 acre paradise and discover, fruit trees, rose and vegetable gardens, plum orchard, towering redwoods, heritage oaks, meandering paths and more. Scan the below code to go to property website or www.655Glenside.com.



Call Kurt Piper for a private showing.

Kurt Piper

Realtor® | Broker Associate
 925 818 8000
 Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com
 KurtPiperGroup.com
 DRE 01130308

View the Property



Kurt Piper Group

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

BATTERSBY.



25 Southwood Dr, Orinda
SOPHISTICATED SPANISH COLONIAL

BUILT IN 2014 BY BRANAGH, UNSURPASSED CRAFTSMANSHIP
 A TRUE GEM, PERCHED JUST ABOVE TOWN WITH VIEWS
 EXQUISITE DETAILS & QUALITY, THOUGHTFULLY CHOSEN FINISHES

4 Bedrooms + Office 4.5 Baths 4011 Sq Ft* .30 Acre*

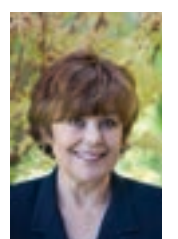
Family Room with Full Bar/Kitchenette + Gym

Sun drenched, Southern exposure, terrace courtyard, fold away glass doors, it's the perfect home for today's California living. A true entertainer!



Ashley Battersby
Linda Ehrich

(925) 323-9955
 DRE# 01407784 & 01330298
 ashley@ashleybattersby.com
 @ashleybattersbyhome
 www.ashleybattersby.com



*per public records