

Lynda L. Brothers  
[REDACTED]  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
[REDACTED]

Via Electronic Mail  
TownCenter@Portolavalley.net

December 19, 2022

Melissa Thurman  
Town Clerk  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

RE: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST, PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Thurman;

This letter constitutes my expression of interest in the one-year vacancy on the Town Planning Commission. I am interested in the position because I believe I have important skills to offer, I believe in public service and I would be honored to work with the citizens and staff of our Town. My skills developed over a lengthy career with appointed positions in federal and state government including a long career exercising skills of problem-solving, obtaining win-win outcomes and collegiality on many boards and on behalf of clients at federal, state and local agencies and various legislative bodies.

Here's a summary of my career with the intention of providing you with insight into the relevant background and skills I'd bring to service on the Commission. I was a biochemical geneticist working on the techniques

that eventually led to the human genome project, and the founding of Genentech. I chose to go to law school with the explicit goal of addressing scientific matters in the public policy arena and had a career that accomplished that. I held management positions at federal, state agencies followed by the private practice of law. I worked as Subcommittee Counsel, US House of Representatives; appointed Principle Deputy, US Department of Energy (DOE); Executive Vice President for Raytheon Hanford Corporation; Assistant Director, Washington State Ecology Department followed by the practice law. I am a retired partner from Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal which is now part Dentons - of one of the largest law firms in the world. The primary focus of my practice was new facility siting, permitting and development for large (usually Fortune 25) corporations. I was intimately involved in developing low level nuclear waste disposal facilities nationwide, including advising the DOE on licensing of the Trans-Uranic waste "disposal" facility in New Mexico, and very low activity radwaste facility in Utah, and drafting legislation establishing the national compact system for low level radioactive waste disposal. In addition, I was part of multidisciplinary teams that obtained permits, sited and developed spring water bottling facilities, native American gaming facilities, a sports-water bottling facility and completed many complex environmental hazardous cleanup actions. Many projects involved both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). I believe these representative matters provide insight into the range of my experiences that may be of value to the Town. I understand governmental agencies and their relationships, have dealt with many of the relevant state laws and have many areas of technical understanding as well as the important range of interpersonal skills including listening to public comment and other inputs, and obtaining creative, problem-solving outcomes.

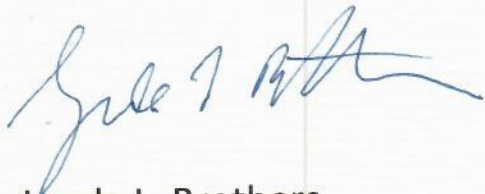


I am fully retired and do not have any apparent conflicts that would affect service to the Town of Portola Valley. I moved here about year ago. I feel like an old timer in that I grew up in Palo Alto, primarily off Arastradero Road, and have spent many years roaming these hills. I would embrace the opportunity to work with the Town staff, elected and appointed officials to address the planning challenges the next year will bring.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this vacancy further.

Please confirm receipt.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lynda L. Brothers", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lynda L. Brothers

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Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Dec. 21, 2022

Re: Planning Commission

To: Towncenter@portolavalley.net

After much deliberation and consulting with other residents about the ASCC and the Planning Commissions, I've decided to volunteer to serve on the Town's Planning Commission (PC).

Portola Valley is facing important planning decisions over the next year and beyond that will shape how the Town can develop in a manner that will respect our commitment to the preservation of open space and the conservation of our natural environment. All decisions of the Planning Commission must be made balancing our General Plan with the laws and regulations of the state of California.

Portola Valley exists in a stunningly beautiful landscape of mountains, hills, and steep ridges straddling the geologically active San Andreas Fault, covered with oak forests and riparian zones along creeks and riverbeds. It's critical that all land use plans respect and preserve that uniqueness while also making it possible for a wider variety of families and individuals to join Portola Valley.

There are several activities in my background that would be relevant for the Planning Commission.

I have a very strong analytical background with master's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and INSEAD in France. This background enables me to easily grasp complex concepts, understand detailed government regulations, and make logical decisions.

I have closely followed the massive efforts of the Ad-Hoc Housing Element Committee, Stanford Wedge Redevelopment project, and the Safety Element and have frequently contributed multiple ideas for meeting our housing goals. The efforts to refine the Housing Element as well as find solutions for increasing affordable housing in our Town in a manner that respects and preserves our natural environment will continue to be active efforts for several years to come as the Town grapples with finding locations for affordable housing.

I've been on the Sustainability Committee for many years (and the Water Conservation Committee, prior to that). Given the extreme and critical situation of climate change, it is vitally important that the Town continue to encourage the adoption of green and sustainable building practices and be at the forefront of those efforts. I routinely attend lectures, workshops, and green home tours on green building, air sealing, energy efficiency, water conservation, and passive house building and have a strong understanding of sustainable building practices.

In addition, I've recently been serving on the ADU Ambassadors Team where I've become very familiar with the new regulations for ADUs and JADUs. As the Town seeks to find lower impact housing, ADUs and JADUs represent a significant portion of our new Housing Element that can meet those requirements with less of a visual impact on the Town as a whole.

Finally, I'm very knowledgeable about building plans, zoning regulations, permitting, and architectural drawings as I have been involved in the past in designing my own remodel and general contracting a major project at my own property.

Regards,

s/Rebecca Flynn  
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## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Ronny Krashinsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:12 PM  
**To:** Town Center  
**Subject:** Planning Commissioner letter of interest

[REDACTED]  
  
Ronny Krashinsky

Portola Valley, CA 94028

December 22, 2022

Portola Valley Town Council  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
*via email*

Dear Town Council members,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Planning Commission.

As odd as it may seem, I have a fond memory of reviewing the real estate disclosure packet for what would become our home in Portola Valley. My wife and I had long shared a dream of returning from San Francisco to our roots on the Peninsula to raise our children in a more rural environment. Expecting the usual legalese about leaks and lead paint, I was instead struck by the beauty of the Design Guidelines and Conservation Guide. As I read these documents late into the night, I realized that the Town character was not simply a byproduct of its scenic natural surroundings. The ethos which drew my family here derived from principled land-use planning, from the elegant drawings of structures integrated with the landscape, to the nearly poetic respect for flora, fauna, night skies, and view corridors.

After moving to Portola Valley, I learned that the Town was under great strain. The regional need for more housing was colliding with a desire to preserve the Town's rural character and the need for geologic and fire safety. I found myself unexpectedly enthralled by these challenges. Over the past year, I have closely followed the Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee and related Planning Commission and Town Council meetings. Through this, I learned about the spirit of volunteerism in Portola Valley. I joined the Sustainability Committee earlier this year and, as a member of the Town's ADU Ambassador team, helped craft an ADU survey and educational materials.

My background is in Computer Engineering. I completed my undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley and earned a doctorate at MIT. I spent a couple of years at a startup, and then joined NVIDIA where I've worked for over a decade. I expect that my analytical skills will be helpful in the Planning Commission role. I have a rigorous attention to detail, yet am mindful of big picture goals and impacts. I would approach the Planning Commissioner position with humility, curiosity, and thoughtfulness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ronny Krashinsky

Karen Vahtra



December 20, 2022

Dear Members of the Portola Valley Town Council,

I have lived in town for 20 years and believe my extensive experience volunteering within the town and in neighboring communities will be useful in helping guide decisions in front of the Planning Commission.

I co-founded a technology company that went public in November 2001. I am Electrical Engineer by trade and also have extensive business and marketing experience.

I chose Portola Valley over the neighboring communities because I love nature, open space, and a quiet environment. I am very familiar with the design and construction process as I participated extensively with the architect and contractor when I built a house here that was completed in 2006.

After extensively traveling the world, I have found the most satisfaction in giving back to the community. I have volunteered for ten years in a tax program run through the IRS and the United Way for low-income people as a Tax Preparer, Site Coordinator, and Tool Developer. I also volunteered at Stanford Hospital for several years.

In Portola Valley, I volunteered as the co-editor of the Portola Valley Post, created a small ad-hoc Technology Committee after a resident was robbed, served on the Wildfire Committee, and spearheaded an effort with many residents in town during the pandemic to sew and repair about 1,000 masks for the community at large. In the beginning of the pandemic, I walked every street and trail noting each address with a wood shake roof - so I am familiar with every street and neighborhood in town. During the pandemic, I also attended countless Housing Element, Town Council, and Planning Commission meetings and am well versed on how the town government operates.

I enjoy challenging volunteer activities. Both my professional and volunteer backgrounds will enable me to serve the town well as a commissioner.

I look forward to discussing the Planning Commission openings with you.

Sincerely

Karen Vahtra