

## 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