

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