



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members of the Town Council

FROM: Melissa Thurman, Town Clerk

DATE: January 9, 2023

RE: Interviewing of Applicants to the Architectural Site Control Commission and Planning Commission

DISCUSSION

On November 17, 2022, the Town of Portola Valley launched a recruitment to fill vacant positions on both the Architectural Site Control Commission and the Planning Commission. Details of the vacant seats are as follows:

- Two Short-Term Vacancies on the Planning Commission, with One Seat's Term Expiring in December 2023, and One Seat's Term Expiring in December 2024; and
- Two Short-Term Vacancies on the Architectural Site Control Commission, with One Seat's Term Expiring in December 2023 and One Seat's Term Expiring in December 2024

A deadline to submit a letter of interest to serve on either Commission was given as December 19, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.

Six residents of Portola Valley submitted letters of interest by the deadline listed above to the Town Clerk.

For the Architectural Site Control Commission, two letters of interest were received from:

- Lucy Neely
- Carter Warr

For the Planning Commission, four letters of interest were received from:

- Lynda Brothers
- Rebecca Flynn
- Ronny Krashinsky
- Karen Vahtra

An initial interview date was provided to the public of January 4, 2023; however, due to the major storm event impacting Northern California, staff postponed the interview sessions to January 9, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the interviews, nor the appointments of volunteers to Town Committees and Commissions.

ATTACHMENT

1. Letters of Interest from All Applicants

Lucy E Neely
[REDACTED]
Portola Valley, CA 94028
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Town Council
Town of Portola Valley
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028

December 22, 2022

Dear Town Council of Portola Valley,

I'm writing to express my interest in applying for the position of a Commissioner on the Architectural and Site Control Commission.

I grew up in Portola Valley and have lived here for going-on eight years as an adult. I think I'm from the most beautiful place on earth. I feel the place as an extension of my own body and count my blessings everyday to be home here. I appreciate the harmony of landscape and built environment and the ability to connect with the stars at night.

I've always been and grow increasingly interested in architecture, space, landscaping, and the interplay between the natural and built environment. I appreciate Portola Valley's particular attention to these relationships and the strong ethos of denizen-driven processes that work to maintain these relationships in harmony.

I've served on the town Finance Committee for four years now, including three as chair. For the past year I've also been a member of the newly formed Race and Equity Committee. I'm interested in serving this place I love and helping it develop in the best way possible during these fascinating times of accelerating change.

Furthermore, I like the remaining members of the ASCC and would enjoy serving with them.

I look forward to conversing with you further. There's so much good work to be done.

Sincerely yours,
Lucy Neely

Melissa Thurman

From: Carter Warr [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Town Center
Cc: Eden Licup; Jeremy Dennis
Subject: ASCC - Application

Town Council;

I am submitting my letter of interest in again serving on the Architecture and Site Control Commission or the Planning Commission for the Town of Portola Valley.

Tami and I moved to Portola Valley in 1988, 34 years ago. We bought a very small home on likely the smallest lot in Town. We made Portola Valley our permanent home. Tami was a middle school science teacher for 9 years at Corte Madera School. Our daughter Emily has spent her entire life here attending preschool at Carillon, PVTC for theater, Ormondale for grade school, Corte Madera for middle school, and the Woodside Priory for high school before heading off to attend college at TCU. Emily and I have our horses on our property. We actively ride the trails and keep our horses fit with cutting horse practice in our small pen. I moved my practice of Architecture to Portola Valley in 1990 after a year of commuting to and from San Mateo. I have practiced here ever since. The majority of my work is with 20 minutes of my office. Many weeks a year I never leave Town.

I love this valley and what it represents as a home for those who appreciate a rural lifestyle in close proximity to the busy world of the Bay Area. Portola Valley is a treasure founded on great principles set down in the early 1960's by those with courage to protect open space, a rural lifestyle, and the aesthetics/land practices associated. That courage and determination has been inspiring. I had the great privilege to know personally and count as friends several of the Town's founding members and their families. John James, as a sitting Council Member, came to my office in the fall of 1990 at the urging of the planning manager to solicit my participation on the ASCC. I was initially reticent since I was a relatively new member of the community. John spent a long time with me telling me the story of the Town's founding and how important it was to carry on the memories and the principles that carved Portola Valley out of the County's jurisdiction. 'It is our volunteers that make this Town special' he said. "We need talented caring volunteers on the ASCC to be the first line of defense" he repeated. From that day it has been important to carry on these intimate memories and stories to the next generations of Portola Valley volunteers.

John convinced me to serve. I served from 1991 to 2012. My first meeting was with another longtime volunteer and first time ASCC member Bub Eisberg at a site meeting to walk the lands that were eventually approved as the Blue Oaks subdivision. I served through a tough period during the Design Standards Re-Review where nearly all of the original standards were modified to guide and protect future Portola Valley from becoming like some of the other adjacent communities. Many of those years the preparation and meetings were intense trying to be vigilant to protect a way of living. During my 21 years I was keenly aware that my experience as a practicing Architect was valued by the town staff, applicants, and the public. To this day I am stopped at public events and at local stores by previous design review participants to express their gratitude for my measured guidance and carefully balanced attention to all sides of the design review process. I continue to feel the Town benefited because I was a volunteer.

Before and since 2012 I have volunteering at the Councils' behest on various other official and unofficial committee assignments.

I feel the Town would benefit by having, again, a practicing design professional on either the ASCC or the Planning Commission. I look forward to an interview with the Council and an opportunity to contribute again as a volunteer.

Carter J. Warr, AIA, CSI, NCARB lic. No. C-19397

CJW Architecture

130 Portola Road (business)

[REDACTED] (residence)

www.cjwarchitecture.com