



TOWN of PORTOLA VALLEY

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Town Council Meeting Summary – September 11, 2019

- The Town Council received an update from the Ad Hoc Wildfire Preparedness Committee. The Chair of the Committee shared the work of the three subcommittees (Communications, Outreach and Evacuation; Home Hardening and Infrastructure; and Vegetation Management and Defensible Space). No recommendations were made to the Council at this time, but topics the Committee have worked on include:
 - Development of a Fire Safety Reach Code
 - Revision of Design Guidelines to support home hardening
 - Increased engagement with insurance carriers
 - Mitigation of ignition sources, including right-of-way vegetation reduction and partnering with adjacent agencies to do the same
 - Enhancement of evacuation routes through neighborhoods
 - Development and adoption of a Portola Valley Evacuation Plan
 - Fortification of Cell Tower Battery Back-up
 - Consideration of an emergency siren system
 - Continued community engagement and information sharing.

The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting has not been scheduled but is expected to be held in early October. Recommendations from the Committee are expected to be short-, medium-, and long-term.

- Staff provided an update on the 2020 Census. Census workers have begun knocking on doors in Portola Valley, and the Council directed staff to provide support to these efforts and remind residents that census workers will be engaging in the community over the next six months. The Council also voted to support the Census through the adoption of a resolution.
- The Town Council held a study session to review a council subcommittee's work on the Town's committees. Ideas supported by the Town Council include:
 - Increased support from the Town's Communications Analyst
 - Increased recruitment for all committees, and "rebooting" those committees that have had difficulty retaining members, including the Nature and Science Committee
 - Realigning the timing for committees to engage with the Council on their budgets and priority-setting, and increasing communications between the Council and committees on areas of interest that may require additional Town support
 - Creation of an event support team to assist with the day-of set-up and break-down of committee events
 - Creation of a Community Engagement Committee to assist in the planning and management of major town events
 - Connecting committee members with the Committee Handbook on a regular basis
 - Inviting committee members to serve as disaster service workers
 - Deletion of the Cable and Underground Committee.

The Town Council is expected to review formal recommendations, based on the above input, at their September 25 meeting.

- Staff provided an update on state, regional and local housing issues:
 - State
 - As the legislative year ends, the Legislature is passing bills and the Governor is signing them into law. The Council heard about legislation that would reduce the amount of time to review certain kinds of housing projects, made changes to HOA-type covenants that prohibit the construction of accessory dwelling units, and increase funding for housing projects. Staff continues to analyze these bills to understand their potential impact.
 - Regional
 - Cities in the Bay Area continue to discuss housing projects with their communities. One significant story from San Mateo is their council's decision to not participate in a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) sub-region, which allowed cities to "trade" units required for planning under housing elements.
 - Local
 - Last week, the Ad Hoc Housing on Town-Owned Property Committee [met](#) to discuss three properties:
 - Ford Field – the Committee found that the undeveloped portion of Ford Field unsuitable for further housing consideration
 - Town Center- the Committee reviewed drawings prepared by a committee member to understand the site's housing capacity; members were uncomfortable with the massing and asked for a revision with fewer visual impacts and units
 - Los Trancos Road- staff continues to review documents related to the Blue Oaks subdivision to determine the site's legal status related to housing
 - The ASCC met and approved the Priory's six-unit housing project
- The Town Council approved a change to the Business License Ordinance exempting vendors that support memorial services in the Community Hall.

Please click [here](#) should you wish to review materials from this meeting