

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY



Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

8:15 AM Online with ZOOM

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety (BPTS) Committee Meeting Minutes

1 Call To Order

Ed Holland (chair) called the meeting to order at 8:17 am.

2 Roll Call

Ed Holland, Angela Hey, Gary Hanes and Kevin Welch attended. Patt Baenen was absent.

Craig Hughes (Town Council Liaison and Mayor), Howard Young (Public Works Director), Paul Krupka (Krupka Consulting Traffic Engineer) and Gary Nielsen (Police Commissioner) also attended. Caroline Vertongen, Maddie and other residents attended.

3 Review/ Approval of the Minutes of the December 1st, 2021, Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 1st 2021 meeting was proposed by Ed, seconded by Gary and unanimously approved. There was no January meeting – the meeting was cancelled since it lacked a quorum.

4 Resident and Committee Open Comments

Caroline Vertongen said that she had submitted an application to join the Bicycle and Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee.

5 Sheriff's Report

Sheriff's Sergeant Patrick (Pat) L. Taylor has replaced Sergeant Andy Hui who has been promoted. No Sheriff's office representative attended this meeting – so no accident or citation statistics were presented.

5.1 Accidents

Ed noted that a vehicle hit a telephone pole. Kevin was able to direct traffic at the scene.

A peloton (possibly the Noon Ride) rider hit a pothole on Portola Road that has since been repaired, Gary Hanes reported.

6 Public Works Update

6.1 Fire Mitigation and Cleanup

Howard reported that fire mitigation work is continuing and recently brush was cleared near Stonegate on Portola Road.

The public works department has been working on clearing fallen trees, particularly those on trails, and cleaning culverts.

6.2 Town Playing Fields

Fields have been closed during the winter so reseeded grass can grow and will open soon.

6.3 Road Resurfacing

The 2021 road resurfacing project is being closed.

Howard is starting the 2022 street resurfacing project. Howard asked that people call him if they knew of road issues that need to be addressed.

6.4 Parking Controls Associated with Windy Hill Visitors

6.4.1 Paul Krupka's Report

Traffic engineer Paul Krupka submitted a report on Windy Hill parking to Howard, who had passed it on to Ed prior to the meeting. Ed will send the report to the committee members so they can review it. They can then send comments to Ed. At the next BPTS meeting it can be reviewed so that the committee can make a recommendation to the Town Council.

6.4.2 Willowbrook/Alpine Area

Ed noted that on Alpine Road near Willowbrook there has been parking on both sides of the road. In particular, cars park opposite the small Windy Hill parking lot that is on Alpine near Willowbrook.

Gary Nielsen said there are large crowds at Windy Hill – and as Ed pointed out this is the time of year traditionally when parking is heavy. Gary reported heavy parking on Willowbrook. He said it was in effect a one-lane street when cars are parked on it. There may be a need for more red paint on the curb.

6.4.3 Portola Road

Angela had also seen cars parking in the shoulder on the curve before the Windy Hill parking sign on Portola Road.

Regarding parking on the west side of Portola Road, Ed had not seen any problems with cars parked there. Paul replied that he had not observed, on a few visits to the area, any areas for conflict on the roadway caused by cars parking on the west side of Portola Road near the Windy Hill main car park. Gary Nielsen agreed with Paul that the cars there were off the pavement.

Ed was concerned that when it gets muddy alongside the shoulder on Portola Road and cars park in the mud that they then drag dirt on to the pavement which may create a hazard for cyclists.

7 Ongoing Committee Business

7.1 Portola Valley Housing Element (HE) update

Ed attended the Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee and explained the role of the BPTS committee to attendees. Ed asked Craig if there was an agenda for future meetings. Craig said 3 more meetings were planned (ed: the dates are 2/22, 3/21 and 4/18). The agendas have yet to be created.

Gary noted that the committee had not been asked to review traffic implications for the low-income development on the former Linwood Realty lot next to Roberts. Craig said it was ministerially approved because of its purpose. It is for adults with disabilities.

Craig said the committee could make a list of considerations for the Planning Commission, particularly for developments that are ministerially approved and aren't reviewed by committees. Ed agreed this was an appropriate approach.

7.2 Request for updates on the "Stanford Wedge" EIR

Ed said he had requested information from the town. Craig said the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) is close to being ready and the draft EIR should be available for review in February. It is expected that the comment period will be 60 days. Committees will be asked to put together their comments as part of the public comment process. Then these comments will go to the ASCC and the Planning Commission.

8 Events

8.1 2022 Event Ideas

Craig said that dates for events still have to be selected by committees. Craig is the Town Council liaison for the Parks and Rec committee that most likely will have the traditional town picnic in September. Craig said the Parks & Rec committee agreed with Ed's observation that the 2021 Town Picnic was organized well, especially with regard to the Zots-to-Tots race that was supported with excellent representation from the county Sheriff's deputies.

9 Matters Arising

Ed had attended the town meeting for committee heads. Angela had attended the county/cities Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) that reviews grants. She noted that many towns had 10-year plans for the cycling and pedestrian developments, which Portola Valley does not have. Then they use the plans to request grants for infrastructure from the BPAC committee.

For the past two years Kevin and Gary Nielsen have been deploying the town speed trailer. Gary would like to hand the operation of the trailer over to the Sheriff's organization.

Caroline Vertongen said that she had attended the Wildfire Preparedness Committee – she urged everyone present at the meeting to look at the video (ed: the video is at <https://youtu.be/DKpGpPiqUPw>)

10 Next Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 2nd 2022 at the default time of 8:15 a.m., on Zoom

11 Adjournment

Ed adjourned the meeting at 8.52 a.m.