



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:00PM
Special Videoconference meeting via Zoom

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order: 7:00 pm

- 2. Roll Call:** present – Terry Lee (chair), Nona Chiariello, Arthur (Chip) McIntosh, Gary Nielsen, Ticien Sassoubre, Craig Taylor, Craig Hughes (Council Liaison)

Also attending: Kristi Corley, Town Manager Jeremy Dennis, Caroline Vertongen

Terry Lee opened this special videoconference Zoom meeting with a thanks to members and additional attendees during the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19.

3. Oral Communications:

- a. none

- 4. Approval of Minutes:** minutes of the Oct 29, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously with one correction—the call to order was 7pm, not 6pm.

5. Old Business

- a. Committee Recruitment Update (Welcome Interested Community Member Kristi Corley).** Kristi Corley introduced herself as a 25-year resident of Portola Valley; her children attended PV schools. She cares about preserving greenspaces, and using planning for conservation. She has worked at Apple and Levi Strauss, enjoys teamwork, and is considering several Town committees.
- b. Open Space Brochure, Map, and Website Update.** The text for the Open Space brochure, revised by Ticien, is a step toward updating the OSAAC presence when the new Town website goes live in summer. Ticien suggested that OSAAC develop a newsletter for posting on the new website, and create a site (web page) for each open space parcel in PV. Craig Taylor proposed that the new pages include a vision statement for each open space using a more visual presentation.

Coordination of the OSAAC web presence was discussed next, especially the timing of new elements relative to elements that are complete (or nearly so). The PV Open Space map was revised and approved, and the revised Open Space Brochure needs just one high-res photo. Craig Hughes suggested a 2-pass solution: use the map and brochure now, and later add the new vision statements and visuals when they are ready. The committee agreed on the 2-pass strategy:

Nona will work with committee members to get the last photo that is needed for the brochure, and will submit the approved open space map to the Town, aiming to have a brochure+map ready to be reviewed by the committee so it can be mailed to residents in July. Craig Taylor and Ticien will be a subcommittee to

undertake the open space vision statements, working in some cases from versions already drafted by OSAAC and/or the Conservation Committee.

- c. **Open Space Vision Statement update.** This topic extended the discussion of the brochure/map/website to consider what the vision statements for individual open space parcels should entail. Members emphasized that the statements should take the long view and big picture; they should give a sense of what the future should hold; they should reflect the individual character and purpose of each open space; they should address how each open space should be maintained (in a big-picture way, leaving specifics to the Conservation Committee). Ticien recommended working on one vision statement at a time in order to create a sense of momentum; Kristi Corly suggested a 5-yr cycle for revising the statements, which Jeremy Dennis said would align with the Road right-of-way plan cycle. Terry Lee concluded that this is the committee's next priority.

Gary Nielsen asked whether the ad hoc wildfire committee has addressed Town open spaces. Jeremy answered that they are looking only at properties greater than 50 acres, of which there are 8, some public and some private. However there is a strong need for a vision that articulates both open space principles and wildfire management. Terry and Ticien agreed to think about content and vocabulary.

- d. **Inaccessible, Underutilized Open Space Properties Update.** Jeremy credited Chip with fantastic groundwork in reaching out to residents who might be interested in purchasing a parcel from among those that are more of a liability to the Town than a benefit. Jeremy and Chip will reach out again to residents who expressed interest in two properties.
- e. **Open Space Wildfire Mitigation Update.** Terry commended everyone in Town who is being proactive about fire risk reduction. Jeremy provided an update, noting that the Town's website tracks where fuel reduction is taking place, and that tree removals by PG&E will be accelerating in some places. Work in the right-of-way is a joint effort by the Town and Woodside Fire Protection District. Chip noted that 15-20 homeowners in Westridge self-organized to undertake a fuel reduction program.

6. New Business

- a. **Budget for FY 2021-22.** Terry proposed rolling forward last year's budget request for the purpose of printing and mail the brochure and map. Craig Taylor moved that the budget be \$2,500, and it was seconded and approved.
- b. **Donation Program for Small Scale Town Projects (formerly PV Donates) (1/27/21).** Jeremy described this new program as opening the door for smaller scale contributions to fund a variety of things requested by Town Committees. The program won't supplant funds for existing programs, but instead provides more ways for more people to contribute. Projects should cost on the order of several thousand dollars. A repaired fence at Spring Down might be an example.
- c. **Use of Open Space Funds – Open Space Easements (3/16/21).** Craig Hughes described another possible use of the Open Space Fund for creating open space—using the fund to cover certain costs of legally establishing an open space easement on a property. He said the Town would need to set guidelines and criteria for desirable easements. The goal would be to create more wildlife corridors and other kinds of connectivity among the Town's open spaces. Several members expressed support for looking into this possibility, and suggested re-examining a corridor map Chip and Craig Taylor sketched out a long time ago. Members also noted some risks to the idea, and some uncertainties, such as possible effects on the Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

Craig Hughes noted that no list exists of current open space easements in Portola Valley; Jeremy estimated there are roughly a dozen. The number of trail easements is greater.

7. **Date and time of next meeting:** Terry Lee will reach out to members about meeting in mid June after the Town's new website is up in order to move ahead with mailing the brochure.
8. **Adjournment: 9:10 pm**