



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**  
**Sustainability Committee Meeting**  
**May 18, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

**Scott Elrod**, Chair  
**Jason Saleh**, Vice Chair  
**Rebecca Flynn**, Secretary  
**Leslie Field**, Member  
**Ronny Krashinsky**, Member  
**Loverine Taylor**, Member  
**Anita Wotiz**, Member

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE– 775 PORTOLA RD. – PORTOLA VALLEY, CA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL 7:06 pm**

Members: Ronny Krashinsky, Anita Wotiz, Loverine Taylor, Rebecca Flynn (Secretary and Temp Chair); Absent: Scott Elrod, Jason Saleh, Leslie Field  
Residents: Rita Comes, Kristi Corley, Judith Murphy

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

*Speakers' time is limited to two minutes.*

**3. INTRODUCTIONS**

**4. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. Meeting of April 20, 2023: MINUTES APPROVED

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Updates from Brandi (sent an email update that she is working with Greenwaste on a future tour. She will provide a longer update to the committee next month)
  - i. Smart Water Meters - AMI Pilot Project with CalWater
  - ii. Climate Action Plan 2030
  - iii. SB 1383 - State's Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy targeting organic waste disposal and surplus food
  - iv. Green building amendments and electrification of existing buildings
  - v. Disposable Foodware Ordinance
  - vi. Greenwaste interactions, including HEA insert in future Greenwaste mailings
    1. Lines long but moving quickly
    2. No longer accepting construction waste
    3. Kristi Corley's garbage did not get picked up.
- b. Feedback on committee participation in Wildfire Preparedness Fair
  - i. Helpful that they recorded the talks which were excellent.
  - ii. Insurance industry talk helpful. You have to be proactive that you have made fire safe changes to get a better rate.
  - iii. Residents enjoyed it. Our table had good traffic and people liked the displays.
  - iv. Interesting
  - v. Good that Sustainability was there.
- c. Review ongoing effort to issue "Public Service Announcements" on PVForum
  - i. Anita doing one on food waste for June. She is planning to talk to Laura Stec for feedback.
  - ii. Jay working on one for transportation.
  - iii. Scott writing about air transportation.
- d. Library loaner program:
  - i. Need for a longer-term plan for the library loaner program at the request of Garrett Kuramoto at PV Library. Anita spoke with him and he needs to know the Committees plans for additional items.
  - ii. The library has limited display space.
  - iii. Request for electric weed whacker (Judy Murphy – items should help town residents to transition to electricity. The library could display only the newest items; Kirsti Corley in favor of the weed whacker.)
  - iv. Rita Comes rented the large battery and found it very convenient to try out.
  - v. Kristi Corley requested that we move forward with the electric weed whacker ASAP.

- e. Findings on ways to engage children on sustainability (Ronny): San Mateo County Office of Sustainability offers major programs geared towards students and youth:
  - i. Youth Climate Ambassadors Leadership Program
    - 1. 8-month program to guide for community action for high school students.
    - 2. The call for students for the program is at end of summer. We could help promote applicants.
  - ii. School Programs
    - 1. Lesson plans for teachers
    - 2. Assemblies and workshops for schools
    - 3. SMC Off. Sust. not currently involved with the PV schools.
    - 4. We can promote the programs to the Town residents.
  - iii. Newsletters.

Ronny will take a closer look to see what we could promote and look into drafting a short message for the Town residents to alert them to the activities available. Judy Murphy reminded the committee about a student from middle school who came to present to our committee about phantom energy a few years ago. We could coordinate with a teacher in the schools and offer a program to come present to the committee or run a contest to get an award or prize for a project.
- f. How our committee will engage with Community Emergency Response Team
  - i. Loverine Taylor: CERT member. She reported that CERT is not the relevant organization to coordinate with the Sustainability Committee.
  - ii. There is a different group: WPV-Ready. LT reached out to Selena and Patty Dewes to learn how the neighborhood organizations works. We would need to liaise with those smaller groups to work on sustainability topics such as hardening your house, networking with neighbors. Encouraging neighbors to promote sustainability to each other. LT will follow up when she hears back.
- g. Review and update committee priorities for 2023:
  - i. Community education: Public Service Announcements to encourage greenhouse gas and water use reduction.
  - ii. Smart water meter usage with Cal Water: education and outreach
  - iii. Climate Action Plan
  - iv. Existing building stock electrification ordinances. Committee to stay informed about the various lawsuits against gas bans.
  - v. Demonstration units – Induction stove top, backup power, smart meter gadgets, weed whacker.
    - 1. Members need to bring other ideas to the June meeting to discuss future plans so Anita can work with the library. Anita to draft a message to get ideas from town residents.
  - vi. Preparing for drought - including update to MWELo and drought sections on Town website. Town staff doesn't have bandwidth currently to assist us this year with water issues.

## 7. NEXT MEETING AND PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS

- a. Ideas for other loaner items (every committee member should come with some ideas to discuss for next meeting)
- b. Water meter and Cal water update from Brandi
- c. Greenwaste update about issues and tour dates. (Preference not summer dates)

## 8. ADJOURNMENT 8:05 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is June 15, 2023. RF will be travelling and may not be able to connect. Another member will need to take notes.

The Town of Portola Valley acknowledges the colonial history of this land we dwell upon—the unceded territory of the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone, Tamien Nation, and Muwekma (mah-WEK-mah) Ohlone, who endured a human and cultural genocide that included removal from their lands and their sacred relationship to the land. Portola Valley recognizes that we profit from the commodification of land seized from indigenous peoples and now bear the ecological consequences. We seek to understand the impact of these legacies on all beings and to find ways to make repair.