



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Race and Equity Committee Meeting
September 12, 2023
6:30 PM

Lucy Neely, Chair
 Andrew Browne, Member
 Adnan Iftkhar, Member
 Cole Kawaja, Member
 Judith Murphy, Member
 Andrew Pierce, Member
 Jon Silver, Member
 Johnathan Clark, Student Liaison

REGULAR MEETING
HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE– 765 PORTOLA RD. – PORTOLA VALLEY, CA

REMOTE MEETING ADVISORY: On March 1, 2023, all committees in Portola Valley will return to conducting in-person meetings. A Zoom link will be provided for members of the public to participate remotely; however, the Town cannot guarantee there will be no technical issues with the software during the meeting. For best public participation results, attending the meeting in-person is advised.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at (650) 851-1700 or by email at towncenter@portolavalley.net. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

To access the meeting by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85760578269?pwd=YjA5Tk0N1FhNUpyVVZmeVI6dENjZz09>

Webinar ID: 857 6057 8269

Passcode: 343159

To access the meeting by phone:

1-669-900-6833 or 1-888-788-0099 (toll-free)

*Mute/Unmute – Press *6 / Raise Hand – Press *9*

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
Speakers' time is limited to two minutes.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. July 7, 2023
4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Discuss Renaming Columbus Day in Portola Valley
 - b. Discuss honoring Native American Heritage Month (November)
 - c. Discuss honoring different Heritage/History months throughout the year
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Brief update on AI minute-taking trial.
 - b. Give and hear updates on subcommittee activity
 - c. Hear about San Mateo County Grand Jury report
 - d. Discuss and approve final Land Acknowledgement revision
6. **ADJOURNMENT**
 The next regularly scheduled meeting date is October 10, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

Land Acknowledgement:

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.

Portola Valley Race and Equity Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes for July 11th, 2023, 6:30pm

Roll Call:

Lucy Neely
Adnan Iftkhar
Kim Marinucci
Andy Brown
Andrew Pierce
Jon Silver (via Zoom)
Mary Hufty (Council Liaison)

1) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

“Stanford” needs to be corrected

Unanimous approval pending some minor changes to spelling.

4) NEW BUSINESS:

a. Hear about and discuss possibilities for using AI in town processes

Otter.ai

We can pilot it out - and report it back and see how it goes

Hufty - whatever you do to make your minutes easier is ok

Brown - we will be able to make changes to it as well so that should be fine

Silver - town council meetings were a lot more detailed than other meetings. AI can make mistakes and we need to make sure that we look over them and review them before publishing.

Iftkhar - Humans make mistakes too.

Neely - how does this relate to equity

Iftkhar - AI does not have bias

Hufty - standardized meeting detail

Neely - Let's make the most of the 30 minute trail next meeting!

5) OLD BUSINESS:

a. Subcommittee Reports

Neely - Housing - anything new?

Iftekhar - Worked on creating a document that takes the Open Space, Race and Equity and Finance and synthesizes it together. Ok to share with folks on housing?

Neely - Let's wait until we get the ok from the folks on the different committees.

Pierce - We should take a look at the Grand Jury Report. Pierce will share that with the committee and with Hufty as well.

Neely - housing element is passed. What is the best way for our committee to stay informed and as we move into deployment, how do we stay involved?

Pierce - HCD (Housing Community Development) state department has not approved it yet. They will comment on our element and then we can move forward on the process. It's going to be at the council level now.

Neely - Town seal. The budget has been passed. We can submit a budget amendment now, if there is. Town Seal will make a request for the budget.

Hufty - what about Otter?

Iftekhar - It will cost \$240/year. Let's get that onto the budget.

Neely - what about the Awareness & Engagement Race & Equity Subcommittee? Can we send something out monthly to the town like COnservation and Wlldfire does?

b. Hear information on and discuss public facility rentals to non-residents

Neely - Murphy was following up on this item and she was going to follow up on this. The policy is in place because non-residents were reserving so far in advance that there was not an option for people in town to reserve some spaces.

Marinucci - She was going to check with other towns and see what they were doing.

c. Discuss proposal to TC for revised Land Acknowledgement

Neely - main goal was to shorten it and to revise it. It's in the meeting minutes. It won't be in front of the town council for a while. Just wanted to continue to hear this committee's thoughts on this. Trying to find that balance between different versions.

Iftekhar - Here's my version:

Portola Valley occupies the forcibly seized territories of the Ramaytush Ohlone, Muwekma Ohlone and Tamien Nation, a testament to the brutal legacy of colonialism that decimated these indigenous societies. We must confront the severe, ongoing fallout of these aggressive colonial acts and acknowledge the relentless resilience of these native peoples. Our responsibility is to actively dismantle ignorance, cultivating a profound understanding and respectful engagement with the original, rightful custodians of this land.

Neely - should we give more options to the Town Council?

Pierce - should we be specific? There are multiple tribes and we should perhaps be more general.

Brown - I think education is very important in this context as well.

Neely - I agree

Neely - In the revision I put in, I removed the Muwekma in that version.

Marinucci - I would be in favor of being more specific

Pierce - maybe we could say "and other tribes". If we focus on colonialism - we focus on the Spaniards. We have the mission system. So what are we specifically talking about?

Neely - should we revisit this again next meeting?

Pierce - we are not trying to impress anyone and we just want to make sure that we have this read at all meetings. What's the timeline on this?

Huffy - maybe put it on the consent agenda?

Iftekhar - let's give them 3-4 options and we can let them decide.

Marinucci - let's make sure we give them the one that the intern approved as well.

Neely - it's not legal to ask for something to be read at a meeting. I recommend it stays on the agenda but not be required to be read at the meetings.

Silver - I would recommend having it as an agenda item as folks will think we are trying to slip it through if it is on the consent agenda.

d. Revisit and discuss Committee Structure Update Draft Proposal from PV Town Council (10 min)

Neely - When we started to talk about this a few months ago we didn't come up with a decision. There were some concerns about being taken seriously by not being a non-brown act committee. Pros is that virtual attendance is allowed whereas the brown act does not allow that. Since we talked about this, we have had a few meetings canceled because of quorum but if we were allowed to be virtual we would have been able to meet.

Marinucci - Agenda setting looks like it's the same. Being able to put something on the agenda without having to put it out on an agenda a week in advance would be a good thing but I don't know if this is allowed here.

Pierce - I don't remember to be interviewed for this committee or others. I think being flexible is good for not bothering the town council. We would go through the town manager. In terms of zoom - you can still attend. The benefit of the brown act is that the agenda and packet are available to the public. This would change and the chair could add items 10 minutes before the meeting. We would also be losing standing in terms of the public.

Neely - we are looking for the balance between flexibility and accessibility.

Silver - Ask our legislators to modify law to have the flexibility be allowed in these meetings as we did during the pandemic.

Iftekhar - I move to have us be a non-brown act committee.

Marinucci - I second.

Pierce - It's important to talk to Johnny and Murphy. I'm done commenting. I vote yes.

Brown - I'm in favor

Approved unanimously.

Next Meeting is Tuesday August 8th at 6:30pm

Draft Template, adopted from renamecolumbusday.org

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER
OF EACH YEAR AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY IN PORTOLA
VALLEY.**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley recognizes that the lands now known as the Americas have been inhabited by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years, and that the Town of Portola Valley is built upon the ancestral homelands of the Ohlone People, who were longtime caretakers of these lands we now cherish; and

WHEREAS, October 12, 1492, is one of the most significant historical dates for all Indigenous people of the Americas, as it marks the beginning of European and American colonization, which included widespread violence, forced relocations, land dispossession, cultural suppression, assimilation and termination policies that forever changed indigenous lives and cultures; and

WHEREAS, government entities and public institutions today have a responsibility to enact policies to oppose systemic racism towards Indigenous people in the United States, as discrimination perpetuates high rates of poverty and disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, and as of the date of this resolution, over 200 cities, counties, states, and universities across the United States have officially adopted Indigenous Peoples Day; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October provides a more accurate representation of our nation's and region's diverse history, and transforms a celebration of conquest and cultural genocide into a celebration of the enduring traditions, values, and strength of Indigenous Peoples, and brings hope for a brighter future of respect, partnership, and unity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA:

1. That the Town of Portola Valley shall henceforth recognize the second Monday in October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day, instead of and as a replacement for any official recognition of Columbus Day. Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be placed on the city calendar, and any existing documents referencing Columbus Day shall be understood to mean Indigenous Peoples' Day. [Toggle](#) | Why

2. That the Town Council encourages all local businesses, organizations, schools, and community members to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, and to take time to deepen their understanding of the history, cultural significance, sacrifices and contributions of the Indigenous people of this land.

The foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor

City Recorder

[End of Draft Resolution]

Race and Equity Committee

MISSION

Examine and take action around issues of race and equity in Portola Valley to create a more just, diverse, inclusive, and equitable community for all residents, workers, and visitors.

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS:

1. Review existing and proposed Town policies, regulations, and practices and propose changes to the Town Council.
2. Collaborate with and make recommendations to Town committees, commissions, staff, and other affiliated groups.
3. Continue the work of truth and reconciliation with the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples that the Town of Portola Valley began with the adoption of its land acknowledgment statement.
4. Examine the impact of historic laws that prohibited people of color from owning property in Portola Valley and make recommendations to redress the legacy of this systemic exclusion.
5. Create opportunities to increase awareness and engage the community in ongoing conversation and learning experiences.
6. Create space for the community to share personal experiences of inequity.

RESPONSIBLE TO:

The Town Council

COORDINATION:

Town Council Liaison(s)

MEMBERSHIP:

No more than nine members, each appointed for one-year terms by the Mayor with Town Council concurrence. Rotating Chair and Vice Chair selected by Committee.

MEETINGS:

Regular meetings are to be held the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm.