



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Race and Equity Committee Meeting
November 14, 2023
6:30 PM

Lucy Neely, Chair
Andrew Browne, Member
Adnan Iftexhar, Member
Judith Murphy, Member
Andrew Pierce, Member
Jon Silver, Member
Johnathan Clark, Student Liaison
Cole Kawaja, 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/88666860239?pwd=v1eqemOR5bxLj0fVNaCkykzKVcb6dF.1>

Webinar ID: 886 6686 0239

Passcode: 878544

To access the meeting by phone:

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

- 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. September 12, 2023
- 4. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Discuss possibility of developing a Town program to place markers of historic genocide and bigotry
 - b. Discuss possibility of cosponsor events with the Library, Cultural Arts Committee, and local organizations, schools, and churches
 - c. Discuss possibility of co-sponsoring vital preservation and commemoration efforts with our Town's Historical Archives Committee
 - d. Discuss December' meeting
 - e. Update on Oscar Martinez letter to editor
- 5. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Hear subcommittee reports and business.
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**
 The next regularly scheduled meeting date is Tuesday, December 12, 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.

Race & Equity Committee | Meeting Notes 9/12/2023

[Otter AI Notes](#) (first 30 mins)

Neely: We lost Marinucci as a committee member. We are currently at 6 members. We can have 9. If you know people, please.

Iftekhhar: move to approve minutes

Browne: I second

Murphy: I agree to approval

Neely: 2nd Monday in October - traditionally Columbus day and moving to rename it Indigenous Peoples Day. Based on the teacher Robin Taves (check spelling). Ask TC to recognize the day as Indigenous Peoples Day. In the agenda packet, we have a draft resolution from renamocolombusday.org. These things could be seen as performative but I still think it's a good idea.

Murphy: If we don't have a Columbus Day and it's no longer called that - I'm not in favor of naming something Indigenous Peoples Day. I am not in favor of having days for ethnic groups.

Kawaja: I agree with that. I don't feel strongly one way or another

Browne: We can get along fine without it

Neely: Ok, I am not going to fight for it. The month of November is Native American Heritage Month.

Neely: Moving on to Agenda Item 4b.

Murphy: We should have something in town that recognizes that month.

Neely: I agree. Any brainstorming or ideas around this?

Hufty: I think a concerted effort in November would be nice. Native plants and relate them to the culture. A cultural display, maybe jointly with the Conversation committee?

Murphy: The town has a collection of misc things. I'm not sure if any of them would relate to this.

Browne: Anything we did have has been obliterated by a Town Manager some time back. There really is no collection at this point.

Neely: Historical Resource committee - reach out to them. Hufty had mentioned working with a local leader.

Murphy: Pomponio set up shop here and would be good to hear more about that story.

Neely: Definitely would be good to have more of those stories. Anyone interested in helping?
Hufty: (raises hand)

Iftekhar: I will help.

Neely: Last few years Black History Month has come around and folks ask what are we doing so it would be good to start organizing this sooner.

Feb: Black History Month

March: Women's History Month

April: Celebrate Diversity Month; Autism Awareness Month; Scottish American Heritage Month; National Volunteer Month; Arab-American Heritage Month

May: Asian Pacific American Heritage, Jewish American Heritage Month; Haitian-American Heritage Month

June: LGBTQ Pride Month

NOTE: Otter is no longer taking notes now.

Hufty: Rtia Comes would be interested in figuring out

Neely: Murphy would you like to help out with Black History Month

Murphy: I will make some inquiries and get back to us.

Neely: It would be good to have some sort of format and figure out how to develop a cadence.

Neely: We will start the conversation with Native American Heritage Month and then go from there.

Murphy: What's going on with RHNA?

Hufty: It was turned down but we are looking at it again tomorrow. County is not satisfied.

Neely: If there is support needed, please let us know.

Neely: We may not be ready to discuss the Hear about San Mateo County Grand Jury report at this point, right Andrew?

Murphy: Correct.

Neely: Moving on to Discuss and approve final Land Acknowledgement revision and I would like you all to take one last look at the land acknowledgement.

Murphy: We probably should be looking for more members. The process is for them too fill out the form on the website.