

Fw: New Entry on Town Council Comments Survey

From Elizabeth Martelli <emartelli@portolavalley.net>

Date Tue 11/12/2024 9:04 AM

To Christine Boland <cboland@portolavalley.net>

Good Morning,

Here is another public comment for the upcoming Town Council meeting.

Thank you!

-Elizabeth

Elizabeth Martelli
Executive Assistant



Town of Portola Valley

[REDACTED]

From: webmaster@portolavalley.net <webmaster@portolavalley.net>

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:40 AM

To: Town Center <TownCenter@portolavalley.net>

Subject: New Entry on Town Council Comments Survey

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Comment on an Agenda Item for Town Council Meeting

Date & Time: 11/12/2024 8:40 AM

Response #: 60

Submitter ID: 7404

IP address: [REDACTED]

Time to complete: [REDACTED]

Survey Details

1. First and Last Name

Karen Vahtra

2. Email address (will not be publicly displayed)

[REDACTED]

3. Organization (Enter name of organization, business, or non profit if you are submitting comments on their behalf.)

Not answered

4. Street address (will not be publicly displayed)

[REDACTED]

5. City

Portola Valley

6. State

CA

7. Zip Code

94028

8. Date of Meeting you are submitting comment for.

11/13/2024

9. Agenda Item number or name

9

10. Comment

I support Mayor Wernikoff's suggestion to add a Finance Committee member to the Ad Hoc Site Evaluation Committee. As a member of this committee, we need to evaluate the viability of the sites and the financial component is an important aspect. I would prefer the person to be a standing member of our committee for two reasons.

First, the committee would benefit from continual and direct engagement with the financial expert.

Secondly, we have seven members on the committee but one is a member of the Town Council, leaving six voting members. In the past, we have had Town Council members with the ability to vote twice: as an Ad Hoc committee member and then again at the Town Council; I would discourage this practice for this committee and going forward. By adding an eight member and a seventh voting member, any vote would less likely be a tie. As we are only an advisory committee a tie vote is not crucial factor.

11. Optional: You can upload a copy of your comments.

Thank you,
Portola Valley, CA

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

Fw: New Entry on Town Council Comments Survey

From Elizabeth Martelli <emartelli@portolavalley.net>

Date Mon 11/11/2024 8:18 AM

To Christine Boland <cboland@portolavalley.net>

Forwarding a public comment.

Thank you!

-Elizabeth

Elizabeth Martelli
Executive Assistant



Town of Portola Valley

[Redacted]

From: webmaster@portolavalley.net <webmaster@portolavalley.net>

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2024 8:40 PM

To: Town Center <TownCenter@portolavalley.net>

Subject: New Entry on Town Council Comments Survey

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Comment on an Agenda Item for Town Council Meeting

Date & Time: 11/10/2024 8:40 PM

Response #: 58

Submitter ID: 7401

IP address: [Redacted]

Time to complete: [Redacted]

Survey Details

Page 1

- 1. First and Last Name**
Nona Chiariello

2. **Email address (will not be publicly displayed)**

[REDACTED]

3. **Organization (Enter name of organization, business, or non profit if you are submitting comments on their behalf.)**

Joint subcommittee of Conservation and Open Space committees

4. **Street address (will not be publicly displayed)**

[REDACTED]

5. **City**

Portola Valley

6. **State**

CA

7. **Zip Code**

94028

8. **Date of Meeting you are submitting comment for.**

11/13/2024

9. **Agenda Item number or name**

6a Revise fiscal year 2024-25 budget

10. **Comment**

Attached please find a report to the Mayor and Council with four recommendations from a Joint Subcommittee appointed by Conservation and Open Space regarding open space maintenance funding.

11. **Optional: You can upload a copy of your comments.**

Open Space maintenance recommendations from Joint Subcommittee Nov 2024.pdf

Thank you,
Portola Valley, CA

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

To: Mayor and Members of the Town Council

From: Joint subcommittee appointed by Conservation and Open Space

Date: November 11, 2024

Subject: Recommendations on open space maintenance and funding

We are a joint subcommittee appointed by the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Committee to re-examine maintenance needs of town-owned open spaces and to consider the appropriate use of the 2% Utility Users Tax (UUT) in light of the town's financial challenges. Keeping in mind that the 2% UUT is restricted to "open space purposes only"¹ and that those purposes include maintenance of open space,² we offer four recommendations. To meet the Council's decision schedule, we submit our recommendations prior to committee review.³

1. We recommend allocating \$65,000 from the 2% UUT this year to maintain the primary town-owned open spaces⁴ and areas that have been designated for "open space purposes" by the Town Council.⁵ We recommend this amount in order to provide for the following routine maintenance⁶ this year:
 - a. four mowings at Spring Down
 - b. two mowings at Ford Field, Frog Pond, and Frog Pond/Alpine Road Remnant
 - c. 5 - 6 days of weeding at Spring Down by a contractor such as Go Native, Inc.
 - d. routine maintenance at Shady Trail and Triangle Park
 - e. maintenance of trails within town-owned open space parcels (~4 miles of trails)

2. We recommend against applying the 2% UUT to trail maintenance outside town-owned open spaces without first completing a comprehensive discussion that involves the Trails and Paths Committee, Town staff, and neighborhood groups that already work together on trail maintenance.⁷ We note that:
 - a. About 22 miles of trails, or roughly half the total length of trails⁸ in Portola Valley (not including Windy Hill trails) are in road rights-of-way. The rights-of-way are managed for multiple goals such as safe transit, utility corridors, evacuation

¹ [https://ballotpedia.org/Town_of_Portola_Valley_Open_Space_Appropriations_Measure_R_\(November_2009\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Town_of_Portola_Valley_Open_Space_Appropriations_Measure_R_(November_2009))

² <https://www.portolavalley.net/home/showpublisheddocument/13036/637045996424270000> red pages 53-67

³ Review by the Open Space Committee will be on Nov. 12, and by the Conservation Committee on Nov. 26.

⁴ Map of open spaces in Portola Valley, including the principal town-owned parcels: Ford Field, Frog Pond, Shady Trail, Spring Down, Triangle Park <https://www.portolavalley.net/home/showdocument?id=2747>

⁵ This includes the Alpine Road Remnant, which was designated for open space purposes by the Council in 2021: <https://www.portolavalley.net/home/showpublisheddocument/14723/637611825576800000> pages 2948-49.

⁶ We thank Recreational Facilities Coordinator Justin Bixby for providing a breakdown of mowing costs and weeding costs. Justin has managed mowing and weeding for years in a cost-conscious way. He hires contractors who know the Town's parcels and priorities. Against the exodus of many town staff, Justin Bixby and Scott Weber stand out as staff members who have remained and whose experience and institutional memory are vital to the Town and provide significant cost-savings.

⁷ We thank Gary Hanning of the Trails and Paths Committee for an overview of seasonal trail maintenance, trail repairs, capital improvements, and trail work by Town staff and volunteers.

⁸ We thank Dave Evans for sharing detailed data on trail segment lengths, which we used together with his trail map (<https://www.portolavalley.net/home/showpublisheddocument/18321/638494781326030000>) to categorize ~44 miles of unpaved trails in Portola Valley (not including those in Windy Hill).

safety, and recreation. Open space considerations are primarily about views to adjoining land and scenic horizons.

- b. Roughly two fifths (~18 miles) of trails are easements to the town on private property or informal neighborhood trails. Multiple groups are already involved in maintenance of these trails.⁹
3. We recommend stronger partnerships, coordination, and outreach in order to make the best use of maintenance dollars, specifically:
 - a. Creating a standing joint subcommittee from Open Space and Conservation to help ensure that maintenance priorities are identified by Conservation and evaluated by Open Space, providing checks and balances.
 - b. Closer coordination between the joint subcommittee and Justin Bixby to aid the success of weeding and mowing—where timing is everything!—and extend opportunities for checks and balances.
 - c. Outreach to neighbor groups of each open space to provide additional volunteer contributions, similar to the efforts at Frog Pond organized by PV Ranch. Examples include: horse-grazing days at Spring Down; student weeders at “poppy corner” in Triangle Park; an adopt-a-trail program.
 4. We recommend a return to annual reports to the Town Council by town committees so as to increase awareness of on-the-ground committee work that serves the Town and saves it money. Examples of projects and workdays by the Conservation Committee include:
 - a. For >20 years,¹⁰ an annual town-wide “Broom pull” in the road rights-of-way¹¹
 - b. Removal of *Dittrichia* (stinkwort) from all principal open space areas¹²
 - c. Spring Down weeding and seeding¹³
 - d. Surveys by botanists to compile plant lists for Spring Down¹⁴ and Frog Pond¹⁵
 - e. Eradication of an invasive tree, *Ailanthus altissima*, on Ford Field, Spring Down

We hope these recommendations help the Council create a budget that sustains the Town’s core open spaces, honors the will of voters, and is sound and balanced.

Respectfully,

Joint Subcommittee from the Conservation Committee and Open Space Committee:

Nona Chiariello

Nancy Freire

Judith Murphy

Gary Nielsen

⁹ For example, Trails and Paths Committee members on horseback prune trees to ensure clearance for horses.

¹⁰ https://www.almanacnews.com/morgue/2004/2004_04_07.zbroom.shtml

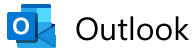
¹¹ <https://www.portolavalley.net/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/32560/20?curm=3&cury=2024>

¹² <https://www.portolavalley.net/home/showpublisheddocument/18786/638646903250200000> pages 9-12

¹³ For example: <https://pvforum.us/g/main/topic/105757341#msg190715>

¹⁴ <https://www.portolavalley.net/home/showpublisheddocument/18786/638646903250200000> pages 5-8

¹⁵ <https://www.calflora.org/app/ipl?bloom=t&vrid=svy3632>



Public Comment item for tonight's meeting 11/13:

From Christine Boland <cboland@portolavalley.net>

Date Wed 11/13/2024 2:37 PM

To Christine Boland <cboland@portolavalley.net>

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Dear Mayor Wernikoff and members of the Town Council,

In anticipation of the Town Council meeting tomorrow Wednesday Nov 13th, the Open Space Committee met tonight, adding its unanimous support for the November 11, 2024 recommendations you previously received from the joint subcommittee on Open Space Maintenance. That report is attached for your convenience.

With respect for your work on our collective behalf,
Betsy Morgenthaler
Open Space Committee Chair

Fw: New Entry on Town Council Comments Survey

From Elizabeth Martelli <emartelli@portolavalley.net>

Date Mon 11/11/2024 8:18 AM

To Christine Boland <cboland@portolavalley.net>

Another public comment.

Thank you!

-Elizabeth

Elizabeth Martelli
Executive Assistant



Town of Portola Valley

[REDACTED]

From: webmaster@portolavalley.net <webmaster@portolavalley.net>

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 7:54 AM

To: Town Center <TownCenter@portolavalley.net>

Subject: New Entry on Town Council Comments Survey

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Comment on an Agenda Item for Town Council Meeting

Date & Time: 11/11/2024 7:54 AM

Response #: 59

Submitter ID: 7402

IP address: [REDACTED]

Time to complete: [REDACTED]

Survey Details

Page 1

1. First and Last Name

Karen Askey

2. Email address (will not be publicly displayed)

[REDACTED]

3. Organization (Enter name of organization, business, or non profit if you are submitting comments on their behalf.)

Not answered

4. Street address (will not be publicly displayed)

[REDACTED]

5. City

Portola Valley

6. State

CA

7. Zip Code

94028

8. Date of Meeting you are submitting comment for.

11/13/2024

9. Agenda Item number or name

7a Update on 10/16 HCD Letter

10. Comment

As a member of the new Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Site Evaluation Committee, I have concerns about rezoning and division of Dorothy Ford Park and Open Space. We hope to be successful in finding alternatives site(s) for low-income housing, and keep that property as open space. Please address these concerns in your 10/13 meeting, specifically:

1. How can we be assured that we will be able to revert the site back to an Open Area zone? Is there specific written language that will ensure this, so we have a 100% guarantee?
2. With respect to the division of the site, how can we assure that the Little League Field and associated features (parking, spectator areas, storage, practice areas, etc.) will not be impacted?

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and for your service to our Town.

Karen

11. Optional: You can upload a copy of your comments.

Thank you,
Portola Valley, CA

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