

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING NO. 790, MAY 12, 2010

ROLL CALL

Mayor Toben called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Howard called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Maryann Derwin, John Richards and Ann Wengert, Vice Mayor Ted Driscoll and Mayor Steve Toben

Absent: None

Staff: Angela Howard, Town Manager
Sandy Sloan, Town Attorney
Howard Young, Public Works Director
Leslie Lambert, Planning Manager
Janet McDougall, Assistant Town Manager
Tom Vlastic, Deputy Town Planner

Others: Michael Bray, Chair, Community Events Committee
Jorge Jaramillo, President, San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Jorge Jaramillo, president of the San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, invited Councilmembers to participate in Diversity Awards Celebration on May 20, 2010.

- (1) Presentation – Community Events Committee with report on the 2009 Blues and Barbecue Fundraising Event and request for transfer of funds to the Open Space Acquisition Fund.

Michael Bray, Chair of the Community Events Committee, reported final figures from the Blues & BBQ fundraiser, noting that despite the fact this was the first time in years it rained on the event, the rain came late enough in the day that it actually had little impact. Total income was \$85,888.97, including donations, underwriting, silent auction, ticket sales, T-shirt sales and “tip jars.” Expenses totaled \$36,816.96, including caterer, appetizers, various rentals, miscellaneous supplies, beverages and a few auction items. Net proceeds came to \$49,072.01 for the Open Space Acquisition Fund. The Committee thanked everyone in town (and out of town) who supported the event.

In response to a question from Mayor Toben, Mr. Bray said that committee members easily devote 100 person-hours to the event. Mayor Toben, expressing the Council’s deep appreciation for the committee’s extraordinary efforts, said that the Blues & BBQ event is “woven into the fabric” of Portola Valley, and is as much associated with the town as any event. Furthermore, he considers it an explicit affirmation of the community’s open space ethic.

CONSENT AGENDA

By motion of Vice Mayor Driscoll, seconded by Councilmember Derwin, Items 2, 3, 5 and 6 were approved with the following roll call vote:

Aye: Councilmembers Derwin, Richards and Wengert, Vice Mayor Driscoll and Mayor Toben

No: None

- (2) Approval of Minutes – Regular Town Council Meeting of April 28, 2010
- (3) Amended Warrant List of April 28, 2010 in the amount of \$129,230.23 (from \$127,159.96 previously reported)
- (5) Recommendation by Assistant Town Manager – Solid Waste, Recyclables and Yard Trimmings Franchise Agreement with GreenWaste Recovery, Inc.
 - (a) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Allowing a Rate Increase Under the Franchise Agreement for Collection of Garbage, Recyclables and Yard Trimmings Between the Town of Portola Valley and GreenWaste recovery, Inc. (Resolution No. 2488-2010)
- (6) Recommendation by Town Planner – Adoption of a Policy of a Specific Definition of Open Source Preserve
 - (a) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Adopting a Policy of a Specific Definition of Open Space (Resolution No. 2489-2010)
- (4) Approval of Warrant List of May 12, 2010 in the amount of \$190,485.60

By motion of Vice Mayor Driscoll, seconded by Councilmember Derwin, Item 4 was approved with the following roll call vote:

Aye: Councilmembers Derwin, Richards and Wengert, Vice Mayor Driscoll and Mayor Toben

No: None

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING

- (7) Public Hearing – Green Building Ordinance and Resolution [7:35 p.m.]
 - (a) First Reading of Title, Waive Further Reading and Introduce an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Adding Chapter 15.10 [Green Building] to Title 15 [Buildings and Construction] of the Portola Valley Municipal Code.

Mayor Toben called on Mr. Vlasic to introduce the item. Mr. Vlasic referenced the May 5, 2010 staff report and prior Council meeting presentation on March 10, 2010, providing the combined recommendations of the Planning Commission and the ASCC Subgroup and BEET Committee for Portola Valley's Green Building Ordinance. Based on the Council's concurrence at that time, the Planning Department has worked with the Town Attorney to assemble the ordinance and the implementing resolution for compliance on tonight's agenda. These documents are based on four years' worth of interaction with the community to ensure sensitivity to the original objectives, namely to create a cost-effective program that would provide beautiful results, abundant choices and increased value. The ordinance has provisions that provide incentives and relief. Mr. Vlasic indicated that most architects now come in assuming they will have to meet code-enforced green building standards. He also said the town will have to submit a letter to the State to obtain approval to exceed minimum Title 24 requirements (Building Energy Efficiency Standards). The Build It Green (BIG) program certification requires reaching a standard at least 15% higher than imposed by Title 24. Mr. Vlasic pointed out that most of the applications the Planning Department has considered over the last year since the voluntary use of the program took effect, come in with building permit plans that exceed Title 24 minimums as called for in the proposed ordinance.

Although Mr. Vlastic agrees that the program does have some “reach,” as the Town Council heard at its March 10, 2010 meeting, that is certainly appropriate, particularly in light of the standards set for the Portola Valley Town Center. The ordinance may not be perfect in all aspects, he said, but it’s a good starting point and we want to move it along and put it in place, knowing full well that adjustments are likely to be needed over time.

In response to a question from Councilmember Derwin, Mr. Vlastic responded that Palo Alto’s requirement is one additional BIG point for each 70 square feet over 2,500 sf, whereas Portola Valley’s is 30 square feet after passing the basic threshold. He clarified that the proposed base threshold is somewhat higher at 3,000 sf. He also noted that Palo Alto was considering revisions of its ordinance in light of the State green building code. He also noted that other cities in San Mateo County and the general Mid-Peninsula area with green building ordinances include San Mateo, Hillsborough, Palo Alto, Los Altos and some others. Initially, they all set standards at base BIG program levels; the BIG program is widely used.

Councilmember Wengert asked whether any particular issues have arisen in terms of achieving minimum thresholds while use of the BIG checklist has been voluntary. Even from the first days of the program, Mr. Vlastic replied, there has been no pushback whatsoever in terms of difficulty. The Subgroup initially looked at types of projects, up to maybe 150-170 points, and most of them were readily achievable. Referring to an architect’s Palo Alto project that would have required 140 points in Portola Valley, he said that during the first go-round in voluntary use of the checklist, taking a relatively conservative approach, they achieved 136 points. There have been no problems hitting targets. He said some relief has been built in to the ordinance for circumstances that may require it, but he does not expect it to be needed very often. In addition, people are concerned enough about energy conservation in their projects that local architects are already prepared to include high green building standards in their designs.

Responding to another question from Councilmember Derwin, Mr. Vlastic indicated that no issues have arisen with remodels being unable to achieve points targets, either, although in some instances remodels can be more difficult than new construction.

There being no additional comments from Councilmembers, Mayor Toben opened the public hearing. No one came forward, so he closed the public hearing and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion and possible action.

Vice Mayor Driscoll said that the ordinance makes a good statement, but he is slightly concerned about self-certification of BIG elements projects (up to 400 square feet). Despite this minor concern, Vice Mayor Driscoll said that he is willing to vote for the ordinance/resolution. Worst case, an applicant might have to be told no, and/or some additional rules would have to be developed for self-certification to ensure that a project satisfies the Planning Department’s satisfaction. However, he does not want to see staff put in the position where they have to deny remodel applications on the basis of self-certification. Ms. Lambert indicated that she is comfortable with monitoring the situation and seeing what develops.

Councilmember Derwin said that although Portola Valley is not the “first horse out of the gate,” this work represents a thoughtful approach to a green building ordinance. Having seen what other communities are doing, she is proud of the document and believes the approach is working. She has noted a lot of projects are coming through at ASCC, including some large houses, and they all seem to be reaching ratings targets.

Councilmember Richards said he’s “pretty happy” with the approach in that it supports improvement of Portola Valley’s housing base. As long as the process continues to work the way it has been, he’s satisfied. He indicated that the danger is getting so involved in supporting the whole effort that it becomes industry-focused rather than housing-focused. He believes there are a lot of skills in the green building industry, the verification industry, consultants, etc. It is desirable that the market ultimately drives green building, so that it makes financial as well as environmental sense. Up to this point, he said, that is the

direction to which this ordinance leads. Mayor Toben indicated that he had recently had reason to shop for an asbestos consultant regarding a pipe to be removed, and it is difficult to know who to trust and who is related to whom, to identify conflicts of interest, etc. He favors a system that builds in oversight.

Following up on Councilmember Derwin's metaphor about Portola Valley not being first out of the gate in terms of implementing a green building ordinance, Councilmember Wengert said that it will be a long race and we're in it for the long haul. She thanked Mr. Vlasic, as well as Mayor Toben and Councilmember Derwin, for the extensive work they have put into this over a long period of time. She said she is very enthusiastic and excited about the ordinance as a first step. Noting that she also appreciates the concern that Councilmember Richards expressed, Councilmember Wengert said that she has a variation on that concern, in that she worries about being able to keep abreast of emerging technology and adjusting rating schedules accordingly. On the other hand, she added, that's "probably a good challenge." A lot of changes will be coming, new materials will be introduced and so forth.

Mayor Toben thanked the staff and members of the community who put serious intellectual capital into putting the ordinance together. He feels that now the "wind is at our back." Because it seems to make sense to adopt the resolution and approve the ordinance simultaneously, he suggested continuing those items until the June 9, 2010 meeting, since Mr. Vlasic is unable to attend the May 26 meeting.

Vice Mayor Driscoll moved to introduce the First Reading of Title, Waive Further Reading and Introduce an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Adding Chapter 15.10 [Green Building] to Title 15 [Buildings and Construction] of the Portola Valley Municipal Code. Councilmember Richards seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

- (b) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Adopting Green Building Standards for Compliance (Resolution No. ____)

Vice Mayor Driscoll moved to continue consideration of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Adopting Green Building Standards for Compliance to the consent calendar of the June 9, 2010 Town Council Meeting. Councilmember Wengert seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

- (8) Recommendation by Public Works Director – Discussion of Additional Site Lighting along Pedestrian Corridors (Council will tour current lighting through Town Center) [7:58 p.m.]

After the Council agreed to view the current Town Center lighting just prior to adjournment (and after sunset), Mayor Toben invited Mr. Young to introduce the item. Mr. Young reminded the Council that the consensus at the time of construction was to follow a "less is better" guideline, agree on a solution and implement it, and then revisit the situation when new lighting is functional, adding more lighting where needed. He outlined what he hoped to complete tonight, before coming back to the Council with a lighting plan for further discussion, approval and installation:

- Discuss potential conceptual lighting solutions, including a review of the exhibits of two options provided
 - Obtain direction for staff to continue working with the lighting consultant on an acceptable site lighting plan
 - Assign a Council liaison and establish a working subgroup to provide input during the design process
- Mr. Young explained that Exhibit A uses the existing 12-foot parking lot poles and supplements them with pedestrian poles to improve lighting in the parking lot, in the center courtyard, on pedestrian pathways from the Town Hall to the Schoolhouse – to increase public safety and to minimize hazards.

Mr. Young further indicated that incidents have generally occurred in the center courtyard, with people tripping over the low seat walls because they don't notice them in the dark, and tripping over wheel stops. In response a question from Vice Mayor Driscoll, Mr. Young said that the wheel stops would be painted when the rains stop and they are fully dry. Complaints about insufficient secure porch lighting have come

primarily from visitors and Library employees, Mr. Young added. Pendant light fixtures, he said, would be added to all three buildings – Community Hall, Town Hall and Library. Both Exhibits A and B incorporated such fixtures.

He also indicated that there have been complaints about parking lot lamps not being bright enough. When first designed, they were 20-watt fixtures and then upgraded to 30 watts. Now they are at 42 watts. At this point, to install brighter lights – 50 to 80 watts – will require switching out the ballasts on all the parking lot lights. In response to a question from Vice Mayor Driscoll, he said 20-, 30- and 40-watt bulbs work in the current fixtures without overheating. Higher-wattage fixtures, though, require a specific wattage; in other words, a 50-watt fixture accommodates only a 50-watt bulb, and a 60-watt bulb would require a 60-watt fixture. Mayor Toben asked if that implies a substantial cost in providing brighter lighting. While switching out the ballasts in the fixtures would be about \$2,000, Mr. Young answered, the bigger-ticket items would be the bollards and the pedestrian poles. Pedestrian poles run about \$4,000 each. Copper fixtures for the bollards are \$1,200 each. Exhibit A includes new pedestrian poles and also replaces existing bollards with pedestrian poles.

The Exhibit B scenario adds quite a number of bollards because it tries to light up the path itself. Mr. Young explained that when the site was first designed, it incorporated point-to-point lighting, which leaves dark spots in between. The additional bollards would eliminate those. He said there is the possibility of changing fixtures, too, but at this time the fixture is a downlight, which some of the green building ordinances specify. Mr. Young said there is probably sufficient wattage to spread more light using the existing bollards if the fixtures are right.

In response to Councilmember Derwin, Mr. Young said that the pedestrian poles would not be as tall as the parking lot poles. Answering a question from Councilmember Richards, Mr. Young confirmed that removing special baffling, or diffusers, in the bollards might increase the apparent wattage of the light, but the main purpose of the baffling is to direct the light downward. Whether the diffuser is clear or frosted would not make much difference, according to Vice Mayor Driscoll.

Councilmember Richards noted the importance of being consistent with the way residents and businesses are required to deal with lighting. Mr. Young agreed, but added that public safety is the overriding concern. Mayor Toben said that we have ample notice that there are some safety issues.

Vice Mayor Driscoll observed that in some cases problems have been blamed on inadequate lighting, but the footwall itself as an architectural feature with very few lights on it is probably part of problem. People don't expect to run into a wall without lights on it. He speculated that finding a way to clearly illuminate where that footwall might reduce the need for much additional site lighting. Councilmember Richards said that goes along with the idea of lighting a path more broadly, in which case he said using strategically placed small bollards might be the way to go.

Councilmember Derwin said that the area absolutely needs more light; at this time, it's as if you're walking the path blindfolded. Councilmember Wengert agreed, particularly as the number of evening events is increasing. Even if you know your way and have good eyesight, you have to go slowly to avoid stumbling. From an aesthetic viewpoint, she prefers shorter bollards as more subtle than taller poles, because there may be quite a few of them. A crowd of bollards may not be ideal aesthetically, but safety is more important.

Vice Mayor Driscoll, who has some experience in the field, volunteered to work as a subgroup with Commissioner Richards as Mr. Young requested. Vice Mayor Driscoll said that whatever features cause people to trip need to be made more visible, such as the wheel stops in the parking lots and the footwalls. Since it's hard to wire a solid concrete footwall for a light fixture, the idea of using screwed-on solar-powered fixtures intrigues him. There may be other creative solutions that will help. However, he stressed

that he wants to avoid the appearance of holiday lights strung throughout the property. The best solution will strike a careful balance between celebrating the darkness and providing pedestrian safety.

Mayor Toben asked Mr. Young what other specific, additional direction he wants from the Council. Mr. Young said that he would work with Vice Mayor Driscoll and Councilmember Richards to refine the lighting plan.

In addition to concern for people's safety, Ms. Howard added that it's essential to proceed with a lighting solution and implement it fairly soon from a liability standpoint. Vice Mayor Driscoll said that knowing exactly where accidents have taken place might be very helpful in pinpointing particular problem areas. Ms. Howard said that the incidents she knows about occurred either in the courtyard or going from the courtyard into the parking lot.

Mr. Young confirmed that the Council concurs on the use of pendant lights on the porches. Speaking of porch lights, Vice Mayor Driscoll identified the relatively low-wattage lights mounted on the columns as a whole separate issue. When you come to a doorway, he said, these lights cast your shadow in the doorway. Early in the design process, he recalled, the architect said this might happen Centering light over the space might be a solution. Unfortunately, those fixtures aren't wired for it, which would entail considerable work figuring out how to solve this problem. Vice Mayor Driscoll added, however, that better porch lighting is definitely necessary, and since they're going to be behind the sunscreens in most cases, they're not apparent. Mr. Young said they could bounce around ideas of using lights mounted to a column.

In response to Mayor Toben asking how quickly the Council might have an action item to consider, Mr. Young estimated two to three weeks. Ms. Howard said she did not anticipate exceeding this year's \$30,000 budget for the project.

The Council postponed the Town Center tour to view the lighting until just before adjourning the meeting.

COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- (9) Report from Planning Manager – Water Use Survey Reports for Town Center and Town Fields [8:15 p.m.]

Ms. Lambert referred to the 5-12-10 staff memorandum reporting that staff coordinated water audits through a program offered by California Water Service at the Town Hall and Library, Town Center Landscape Areas and Fields, Ford Field and Rossotti Field. At the time the water audits were performed in October 2009, the irrigation systems had already been shut off for 1-½ months and the fields were still under heavy use by the user groups. Mayor Toben found that startling, inasmuch as the audits were conducted in October and the rains didn't come until November.

Surveyors with Water Wise Consulting conducted onsite station-to-station audits with Recreation Facilities Manager Tony Macias. As identified in their reports, the surveyors found some systems in need of repair, Ms. Lambert said that Mr. Macias would have those things in any case with the springtime maintenance and repair program. Some of the tips on water conservation that emerged from the audits turned out not to be relevant because the systems were shut down and were scheduled for spring maintenance; thus Ms. Lambert supposes that the total potential savings reported is overstated. However, she said the audits did bring out some good points, and because Mr. Macias has manual control over all systems except in the Town Center, he has the situation well under control. The audits confirmed that the landscape appeared to be sufficiently watered, noting there were no indications of dry spots or over watering Ms. Lambert indicated. Staff feels it may be unnecessary to replace the already-efficient aerators and showerheads in the Town Hall and Library. Staff feels that the surveyors did not take into account that the landscape areas are natives and once established will require less water. Watering for

Town Center landscaping was already scheduled to be cut back somewhat once all the plantings are established.

Councilmember Derwin asked whether the water budget is theoretical. Ms. Lambert said the auditors looked at historical versus current water use to produce a landscape water budget for the Town Center. However, staff felt it was unrealistic in the sense that the amount of water usage will be reduced anyway. The water use records for the site were from January 2008 through January 2009 to establish a baseline. The auditors indicated that the facility has a dedicated irrigation meter, the current landscape water usage is the actual usage for the past 1 year period and the annual average landscape water use at the site was 4,469,300 gallons. The table provided a comparison of water use versus the landscape water budget for each month of the year. Because the total water usage for irrigation throughout the year is less than the annual allotment calculated, tweaks here and there will help.

Another factor that Ms. Lambert indicated should be taken into account is that Mr. Macias had already begun cutting back water on the performance lawn to see how it would fare through the summer, and it did quite well. Ms. Lambert said the auditors also found a leak right outside one of the rooms on the pathway. Mr. Young indicated that a car had broken an irrigation pipe – which keeps recurring and it keeps getting repaired – so one should be careful in reviewing the numbers the auditors represent. The water savings suggested is based on that pipe leaking year-round.

Mr. Young added that some work was required in terms of installing sub-drains in the Town Center to correct a drainage problem. He said the sprinkler heads Portola Valley uses are quite efficient, but the auditors recommend changing all of them (at a cost of \$5,000). That investment won't be necessary because the native plantings won't be irrigated; they probably will be watered a couple of times during the summer.

Vice Mayor Driscoll expressed concern that making the recommended fixture changes, including low-flow faucets and showerheads might invoke the law of unforeseen consequences. Using even more efficient fixtures could decrease the water flow to the septic system causing problems. Mr. Young agreed, pointing out that flow from the water tank behind Town Hall must keep flowing. Furthermore, certain chemicals keep the water fresh. It is good to use water, he said, because all fixtures already are water-efficient – toilets, urinals, etc.

Mayor Toben acknowledged the superb job that Mr. Macias has done and the remarkable progress he has made over the last couple of years. He no longer hears grievances from any recreational community users about the condition of the fields; quite the contrary. However, Mayor Toben also said he senses an implication that the town doesn't need automated, climate-sensitive, GPS-controlled irrigation systems because Mr. Macias has mastered the intricacies of the fields' various microclimates. Mayor Toben is concerned what would happen if Mr. Macias should leave Portola Valley. "Boom and bust" experiences with the fields occurred not so long ago, he said. Technology coming on line is supposed to be very sensitive to changing temperatures, measures the amount of moisture in the soil via satellite and adjusts irrigation as appropriate so that the systems don't depend on a professional of Mr. Macias' caliber to do it. "Let us just be mindful about that," Mayor Toben said. He also asked whether it might be appropriate to perform water audits on a regular basis going forward.

Mayor Toben suggested repeating the audit in midsummer, when the demands on the system are most intensive. Noting that he doesn't think the issue warrants year-to-year evaluation, Mr. Young, suggested monitoring water usage and following up with an audit when a spike is noticeable and otherwise conducting an audit every two or three years.

Mayor Toben also asked about the audit finding 120-some sprinkler heads needing attention – approximately 17% of the total. Assuming that these sprinkler heads did not all fail in October, how long had they been in a state of disrepair? Could they have been spotted and fixed in June? He said it is worth

flagging. Mr. Young said that Mr. Macias walks the sprinklers almost daily, but the way the auditors counted damaged sprinkler heads, they counted even those that were bent a little bit. Mayor Toben allowed that there is a lot to take care of and none of us is perfect, so having independent eyes look at it from time to time is useful.

- (10) Appointment by Mayor – Request for Appointment of Members to the Sustainability Committee [8:30 p.m.]

Councilmember Derwin reported that the Sustainability Committee reviewed applications at its May 4 meeting and unanimously endorsed five volunteers to serve on the committee. The Council concurred with Mayor Toben's appointment of Don Yates, Judith Murphy, Victoria Klein, Lance Vaughan and Stefan Unnasch.

- (11) Appointment by Mayor – Request for Appointment of a Member to the Community Events Committee [8:32 p.m.] -

With the unanimous concurrence of the Council, Mayor Toben officially appointed Karen Mobley to serve on the Community Events Committee.

- (12) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons [8:33 p.m.]

- (a) Community Events Committee

Councilmember Wengert reported the Community Events Committee meeting of May 10, 2010 was cancelled due to lack of quorum. If anyone has any volunteers in mind, their suggestions will be appreciated. The picnic is coming up soon.

- (b) Planning Commission

Councilmember Richards reported the Planning Commission reviewed the geologic maps and proposed Safety Element of the General Plan. He said the Commission's review of the Safety Element was impressive; the Planning Commission stuck to it and got every little word right. He further reported that he would be attending the Cable & Undergrounding Committee meeting May 13, 2010, and would remind the Committee to submit a letter requesting the Town initiate the undergrounding process. The committee wants the Council to adopt a resolution so that the engineering can get underway.

- (c) Library-JPA

Councilmember Derwin reported she attended the Library-JPA meeting. The fiscal year 2010-2011 budget ran \$31.015 million. Since 88% of the operating revenues come from property taxes and property taxes are flat, the budget shows no increase in revenue. Over the next three years, 2011-2012 at 1% and 2012-2013 at 2% growth is anticipated – not good news. On the expenditure side, labor is the highest-cost item. Contracts with the major bargaining unit expires in August. The shortfall was offset by reducing collections and allocation for extra help and office expenses. \$10 million remains in reserves, but there was considerable discussion, including consensus that spending 65% of the budget on staff is not sustainable. There are also discussions about partnerships with libraries that are not affiliated with JPA, such as Burlingame, because apparently many city libraries are currently struggling and reducing hours. JPA libraries are not reducing hours.

Councilmember Derwin also said there was an announcement about Woodside Library having one of San Mateo County's best native gardens; she said Portola Valley ought to be recognized for their native gardens, too.

Councilmember Derwin further reported on the Safe Routes to School maps. Town Manager to contact Sheriff's Department to request increased enforcement of traffic safety and speed limits while students are being picked up and dropped off. Principals have made it clear that they would like to see that happen. Mayor Toben asked if anyone has followed up with the Sheriff's Department; Town Manager said that she will do so. The committee is also working on designating neighborhoods on a town map, with contacts in each neighborhood, to distribute in the directory and in back-to-school packets. Another effort involves improving safety at crosswalks. The last meeting of the school year is scheduled for June 10, 2010.

(d) Sustainability Committee

Councilmember Derwin reported that the Sustainability Committee held its first meeting, which was very short because the purpose was only to review applications. Also discussed was bringing members to the committee from neighborhoods that are under-represented, particularly Oak Hills, Ormondale, Blue Oaks, Lower Wayside, Santa Maria and Upper Wayside. Councilmember Derwin asked for any names to consider. The next meeting will be held on either June 1 or June 8, 2010.

(e) Trails and Paths Committee

Vice Mayor Driscoll reported that the May 11, 2010 Trails and Path Committee meeting was cancelled. Because there are a couple of issues about the Committee, he asked that with the Council's concurrence, he and Mayor Toben would act as a subcommittee, sit down with the Committee and review its charter. Vice Mayor Driscoll said that the trails themselves are fine, except that SOD keeps killing trees and the trees then fall onto the trails.

(e) Conservation Committee

Mayor Toben reported that he attended the Living with Wildlife event sponsored by the Conservation Committee, and described it as a lovely, well-planned event with fantastic speakers. Unfortunately, attendance was thin. He said it was a revelation when the traditional yard, lawn, ornamental shrubs and other landscaping were compared to the soda pop rack at the grocery store – a source of no nutritional value for wildlife. He heard about a Half Moon Bay resident who transformed his tract subdivision property, and went from spotting two native bird species in year one to spotting 36 in year three – all on less than a quarter-acre parcel. Mayor Toben described it as an oasis in the middle of a sterile subdivision.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [8:43 p.m.]

(13) Town Council 4/30/2010 Weekly Digest

(a) Spring Business Mixer

Mayor Toben offered a tip of the cap to Sustainability & Resource Efficiency Coordinator Brandi deGarmeaux, who helped develop the Spring Business Mixer, which was staged on Monday, May 10, 2010, at the Priory. Mayor Toben said that it was significant to him how energetic the Priory was about playing host to this event. It was a very good idea to try and draw the business community into the conversation about Portola Valley's commitment to advanced resource efficiency. The turnout was modest, but spirited. He said that he would like to see this idea germinate and go further.

(14) Town Council 5/7/2010 Weekly Digest

(a) Transcriber

After nearly 17 years of service transcribing proceedings of the Town Council and Planning Commission for the Town of Portola Valley and preparing the meeting minutes, Lynn Noble has retired. The new transcriber is Barbara Templeton.

RECESS [8:50 p.m.]

(8 continued) TOWN CENTER FIELD TRIP [8:55 p.m.]

Councilmembers recessed briefly and then toured Town Center to review current lighting situation and discuss areas of concern they encountered.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:05 p.m.

Mayor

Town Clerk