

# **Planning Commission Applications**



E-Filed  
12/08/2024  
20:25:36  
Filing ID:  
10552

**Personal Information**

*First Name*

Rasha

*Last Name*

Lashin

*Street Address*

REDACTED

*Apt, Suite. Etc.*

REDACTED

*City*

Los Gatos

*State*

CA

*Zip Code*

95032

*Phone*

REDACTED

*Phone Type*

REDACTED

*Email*

REDACTED

*Employer*

Visa Inc

*Job Title*

Senior director global risk management

*How long have you lived in Los Gatos?*

5



## Planning Commission Information

Please list what experience, education, or volunteer positions that you have held.

I am bachelor degree graduate of economics. I always did volunteer for supporting, organizing and implementation plans for the WVMA in Los Gatos. I also volunteered for holiday hours to support distribution of gifts for kids who are need of community support

Why are you interested in serving on the Planning Commission?

I am so amazed about Los Gatos as an area and how it has grown beautifully over the past couple of years. This I am sure is based on great study and decision done at the planning permission committee. I am so keen to be part of continued great decision to support enable the committee effectively and safely.

How would you define the role of a Planning Commissioner in relation to the Town Council in planning matters?

The Planning Commission enforces the current zoning standards the Town Council has adopted. As a Planning commissioner, it will be our role to enforce the zoning standards whenever there are objective standards. For any subjective matters, the planning commission must deliberate and choose the right course of action on a project based on the rights of the owners and rights of others. If there is a need for a change in policy, I think it would be pertinent for the Planning Commission to bring those recommendations to the Town Council and work together to review the change.

Have you ever attended or viewed a Planning Commission meeting? If yes, please note which meeting you viewed or attended and provide a summary of your observation. If not, why not?

I viewed the details for this Planning permission meeting date: 12/11/2024 - 7:00pm where there was a pre-circulated calendar, agenda, and zoom access to the public to ensure all relevant stakeholders are included to support the decision needed for consent of annual review of conditional approved permit.

**How will you demonstrate impartiality in your role as a Commissioner with your personal beliefs with regards to land use and planning policies?**

As mentioned above, I view my role as enforcing the current zoning standards adopted by the Town council, irrespective of my personal beliefs. I intend to uphold the vision of Los Gatos to maintain a high quality of life and preserve the character of the Town, including maintaining a balanced, well-designed mix of residential, commercial, service and open space uses, fostering a pedestrian-oriented community with a small town, village-like character.

My goal is to make sure that I am fair with every application, and to ensure that regardless of my personal beliefs, make a determination on any issues with the highest of empathy for each person by giving them the time, noting the points each person makes, and then using my best judgment to decide on issues with the intention of applying the vision and mission of Los Gatos.

**The Commission is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the Town Code and its land use and planning policies. What experience do you have that would be useful on the Commission?**

I am so sorry experienced leader that make decisions inline with organization expectations and I am also able to develop policies from scratch with research and alignment with the appropriate internal legal and regulatory bodies. My policies are globally and are always simple to execute easily for the organizations

**How would you describe your approach to planning and how it would relate to making a land use or policy determination?**

My approach is generally to follow the defined policy by the commission and then leverage to build my approach to the decision. This is how I do it currently in my role leveraging my International experience from EU, and US to serves the diverse culture needs while ensuring to comply with local regulations and organizational success. I bring an extensive experience internationally to help support the Los Gatos committee at my best.

**The Planning Commission meets at least twice a month and requires a significant amount of homework. Are you prepared to make the commitment to spend the amount of time required to attend regular meetings, committee meetings, do site visits, and study the packet material?**

*Response*

Yes



You are expected to serve on at least one other Committee (General Plan Committee, Historic Preservation Committee, Conceptual Development Advisory Board). Will you have the time to serve on the additional Committee?

*Response*

Yes

Please let us know how you heard about the recruitment:

- Town Website
- Town Newsletter
- Los Gatos Weekly Ad
- Los Gatan Ad
- Social Media
- Friend/Neighbor
- Town Meeting
- Service Group
- Chamber Of Commerce
- Kcat Ad
- Other

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*Explain if "Other"*

## Case Study #1 - Fictitious Location

**What is your initial reaction to the above referenced project?**

*Response*

My initial reaction is that this project is within the Town zoning, restrictions and doesn't have traffic impact based on the study. Note also that they are proposing 10,000 sq. ft, and they are allowed to build 15,000 sq. ft., so it is only 2/3rd the size. Also note that Smith Blvd has other commercial buildings. The owner has a right to build on that property, and since they are within the zoning standards, and there is no adverse traffic impact, I would be initially in favor of this application. I would like to learn more from the neighbors if there are other impacts, and will look at ways if those impacts can be mitigated before making the final decision.

**What issues do you feel will need to be investigated further?**

*Response*

The traffic impact since this is a concern from some residents.

**How would you weigh your personal observations or experience regarding traffic and the professional input and recommendations of Town staff and Town consultants?**

*Response*

For issues to be investigated further, I am not sure if the traffic impact is on certain days, or certain times, and I want to make sure that traffic study has studied the specific concerns highlighted by the majority of neighbors.

I would say that I am not an expert in zoning or traffic, so I would weigh the analysis and testimony of the experts much higher. I will however, critically analyze the traffic study to make sure that the right elements were studied, and whether the outcomes are supported by evidence.

This will help me build compelling recommendations to the Town Staff and Town Consultants that would help enable supporting the decision.

## Case Study #2 - Fictitious Location

What is your initial reaction to the above referenced project?

*Response*

My reaction is that this project is within the Town zoning, and restrictions. Yes, that is correct - it meets the objective criteria. Exactly on the 2 story - we cannot deny this owner the right to construct a two story home especially since there are other 2 story homes.

What issues do you feel will need to be investigated further?

*Response*

I think we need to look at 2 things, mass of the house and privacy as these are the critical areas that need investigation to make the best decision for the owner and the neighborhood.

Mass = bulkiness - how bulky does it look as compared to other 2 story or even one story

On the privacy, I would look to see what is the impact - for example, can second floor windows look straight into the other house. and whether there are ways to mitigate the privacy by planting hedges or trees to obscure the view into neighbors homes and backyards. If not, I would consider asking the homeowner to increase the sill height of the windows to help mitigate the privacy.

How would you weigh your personal observations or experience regarding neighborhood compatibility and privacy and the professional input and recommendations of Town staff and the Town consultant?

*Response*

I would need to look at the plans and also possibly do a site visit to make a determination on the privacy impact, and whether there are mitigations available to address the concerns.

This will help me to assess the mass of the house compared to the area.

I strongly believe that this will help make an informed decision that works well for all involved.

## Verification

*I affirm that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I also acknowledge that I have reviewed the application deadline and interview date as specified on the Public Boards & Commissions website.*

Yes, I so affirm.

*Signature*

Rasha lashin

*Signature Date*

12/08/2024



**Personal Information**

*First Name*

chris

*Last Name*

ray

*Street Address*

**REDACTED**

*Apt, Suite. Etc.*

**REDACTED**

*City*

Los Gatos

*State*

CA

*Zip Code*

95032

*Phone*

**REDACTED**

*Phone Type*

**REDACTED**

*Email*

**REDACTED**

*Employer*

Christies International Sereno Los Gatos

*Job Title*

Minority Owner/Real Estate Agent

*How long have you lived in Los Gatos?*

29 years





## Planning Commission Information

Please list what experience, education, or volunteer positions that you have held.

I have a degree in Construction Management from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. I have been a realtor for 29 years here in Los Gatos and help found and am part owner of Sereno Group Real Estate, a locally owned and Los Gatos based company. I have served on two boards including the San Jose Leadership Academy Board and the Senior Housing Solutions Board. I also was on the board of Los Gatos Little League for 6 plus years. I have in the past been a member of the LG Chamber of Commerce, and went through the Los Gatos Leadership Academy about 15 years ago. I was also a member of the Saratoga Men's club for a short time a few years back

Why are you interested in serving on the Planning Commission?

I have been exposed to and involved in development and real estate for almost the entire 29 years I have live here in town. Im actively involved in the community and now have the time to get more involved, give back and help make our town even better than it already is

How would you define the role of a Planning Commissioner in relation to the Town Council in planning matters?

During a time where there is much controversy about development in Los Gatos and the bay area as a whole, I feel its extremely important to get involved whenever possible to help represent the interest of our town and community. As a planning commissioner i hope to provide a balanced and fair approach to new projects coming across the desk of of the commission.

Have you ever attended or viewed a Planning Commission meeting? If yes, please note which meeting you viewed or attended and provide a summary of your observation. If not, why not?

I watched to most recent meeting on line last week and watch other meetings online when time permits. Over the past 20 plus years I have attended numerous meetings in person, either as an interested member of the town, or as a visitor with the Los Gatos Leadership Academy, and on behalf of friends or neighbors whose projects have come in front of the commission.

**How will you demonstrate impartiality in your role as a Commissioner with your personal beliefs with regards to land use and planning policies?**

Impartiality is the absolute key to being a successful commissioner. If not neutral to start then how can the commission be viewed as impartial. Combining my personal beliefs with the laws and policies of the town and commission should make decision making easier, if not fair and impartial. I also believe policies were put in place so that personal beliefs should not get in the way if making the "correct" decision on behalf of Los Gatos

**The Commission is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the Town Code and its land use and planning policies. What experience do you have that would be useful on the Commission?**

As a realtor and part owner of a real estate company founded here in Los Gatos, and with over 29 years of helping clients and friends and family and neighbors buy and sell here in LG, im completely familiar with many of the processes that landowners an homeowners go through to bring a project to fruition. I have a degree in Construction Management from Cal Poly SLO and have bought, remodeled, and sold many homes in the county over the years (although none specifically in LG). What i don't know today i will surely get to know and work hard to understand any town codes and policies that i'm not currently familiar with

**How would you describe your approach to planning and how it would relate to making a land use or policy determination?**

25 years ago my answer would have been "managed growth". Although i think that is not an unreasonable way to proceed, I think now that i'm older and have been in town for a long time and have seen all that has gone on here recently i think extremely cautious and thoughtful growth with an an abundance of care to make sure every single project coming before the board has as much community support as possible is a better strategy. And that each project is thoroughly vetted and reviewed so as to provide the best outcome for the community and town itself. I think homeowners and landowners have the right to redevelop their properties within the law, but should also be thoughtful about how their proposals affect neighbors and the town itself

**The Planning Commission meets at least twice a month and requires a significant amount of homework. Are you prepared to make the commitment to spend the amount of time required to attend regular meetings, committee meetings, do site visits, and study the packet material?**

*Response*

Yes



You are expected to serve on at least one other Committee (General Plan Committee, Historic Preservation Committee, Conceptual Development Advisory Board). Will you have the time to serve on the additional Committee?

*Response*

Yes

Please let us know how you heard about the recruitment:

- Town Website
- Town Newsletter
- Los Gatos Weekly Ad
- Los Gatan Ad
- Social Media
- Friend/Neighbor
- Town Meeting
- Service Group
- Chamber Of Commerce
- Kcat Ad
- Other

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*Explain if "Other"*

## Case Study #1 - Fictitious Location

**What is your initial reaction to the above referenced project?**

*Response*

Based on the summary above and on the surface, the project "appears" to be very straightforward on its way towards approval if there are no objections. But as well all know things are not always so black and white. Obviously the first consideration for me would be hearing from any and all neighbors or town residents that want to comment on the project. For those that oppose the project based on potential traffic impacts, I would want to know how they are basing their opinions. Have they read the traffic study and is it clear to them, do they live immediately next to the proposed development, and how they feel potential additional traffic would affect them adversely. And for those who support the project, why? Do they have a financial interest, do they know the developer, what do they stand to gain from this project. There is a piece of land in LG today that is similar to this scenario at the corner of Los Gatos Blvd and Shannon Road which has been under review for many years for many of these exact reasons. Finally I would want to further understand the project owner's wants and needs as if this were a real project today, the need for more "commercial" space should at the very least be questioned and might there be a better use for this parcel considering today's current office space climate.

**What issues do you feel will need to be investigated further?**

*Response*

Traffic and Schools. Schools and Traffic. They go hand in hand in our wonderful small town. Every project should be thoroughly vetted for their impact on both of these critical issues. And of course the specific use for the land as I stated above. Is there a current need for this type of project in town even if it's legally allowed to be here.

**How would you weigh your personal observations or experience regarding traffic and the professional input and recommendations of Town staff and Town consultants?**

*Response*

Well, I've been in town for almost 30 years and have first-hand personal experience with the significant increase in traffic over the years. I also experienced a scary incident where my 7-year-old son was hit by a car on the way home from Blossom Hill School to my previous home on Englewood Ave. He was uninjured but it was an eye-opening experience that has since made me keenly aware of how traffic affects schools and the other way around. That being said, I think it's critically important that the planning commissioners rely on and make informed decisions on the studies and the recommendations put forth by the experts that the town has hired and use that info in combination with one's personal experience to guide them in making the best decision for the town and its residents.

## Case Study #2 - Fictitious Location

**What is your initial reaction to the above referenced project?**

*Response*

My initial reaction is similar to that of the other case scenario in this application, but as occurs often, just because the project meets the towns initial requirements, there is more to it than that. Neighbor and community resident concerns are of the utmost importance when assessing and approving or denying approval of a project. Although this project appears to be straightforward, how it affects neighbors and how it looks to residents in the area matters just as much and the rules that apply here.

**What issues do you feel will need to be investigated further?**

*Response*

Absolutely the first thing that needs to happen is to hear from the neighbors both with objections and support and why they fell the way they do. Location of the building in proximity to the direct neighbors and how close the building is to the property line and how windows affect privacy of neighbors all matter a lot and should be thoroughly understood. As a commissioner, I would also like to get more info on how "much" larger the square footage if this building is compared to its neighbors as the scenario suggests. Is it only a few feet larger or significantly larger than all other structures. Also as a two story building, where are the other two story homes on the street as compared to this one

**How would you weigh your personal observations or experience regarding neighborhood compatibility and privacy and the professional input and recommendations of Town staff and the Town consultant?**

*Response*

Any planning commissioner will of course be a resident and my assumption is that all will at some point be affected by how the commission and/or town council vote so clearly personal observations may come into play, but its clear the rules that must be followed and that town codes guide the way so that should take any precedent over personal observations. The town of Los Gatos has always hired and used top quality and professional consultants to help assist with town issues so recommendations for staff or consultants should carry significant and equal weight when making any decisions.



**Verification**

*I affirm that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I also acknowledge that I have reviewed the application deadline and interview date as specified on the Public Boards & Commissions website.*

**Yes, I so affirm.**

*Signature*

Chris Ray

*Signature Date*

02/20/2025



**Personal Information**

*First Name*

John

*Last Name*

Schwarz

*Street Address*

REDACTED

*Apt, Suite. Etc.*

REDACTED

*City*

Los Gatos

*State*

CA

*Zip Code*

95032

*Phone*

REDACTED

*Phone Type*

REDACTED

*Email*

REDACTED

*Employer*

JHS Consulting (Self Employed)

*Job Title*

President/Owner

*How long have you lived in Los Gatos?*

17 years



## Planning Commission Information

Please list what experience, education, or volunteer positions that you have held.

Thank you for considering my application. I have worked as an environmental and land use consultant for approximately 28 years, and therefore, have a strong understanding of the planning review and land use entitlement process. Because of my background and career experience, I am keenly interested in planning issues and in contributing to future land use decisions within the Town in a positive and constructive way.

As far as education, I obtained my Bachelor of Arts from UCSB in 1994 and my MBA from Santa Clara University in 1999.

I volunteered as a Lector at Holy Spirit Church in Alameda from 2009-2024. I have been on the Board of Unplanned Good, a charitable organization that promotes awareness about adoption, since 2015.



### Why are you interested in serving on the Planning Commission?

I have lived in the South Bay for most of my life and have been fortunate to live in this wonderful town for the last 17 years. I currently run a small business, which is based in downtown Los Gatos. I want to contribute and want to use my experience and skills to help preserve the beautiful, small town character of Los Gatos, while also helping to shape growth and development for the future in a positive, sensible, and straightforward way.

Before founding my own firm (JHS Consulting) in early 2016, I spent over 19 years with a leading environmental planning and CEQA consulting firm in the area. I have managed the environmental review process for all types of real estate development and infrastructure projects throughout the Bay Area and California. I have extensive experience with the land use entitlement and planning process, particularly with navigating the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the regulatory agency permitting/compliance processes.

I am also very well versed in state and federal requirements and laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, as well as with regional, state, and federal regulatory permitting agencies, such as BAAQMD, Caltrans, California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and understand how these various agencies and requirements affect local land development projects. In addition, I am familiar with California Housing Law and the Housing Element update process.

In my planning and CEQA work, I often represent parties on different sides of the table. I am often hired by a Town or local public agency to advise them or prepare CEQA documentation, and I am often hired by private applicants to help them prepare and process their application, or advise them on CEQA issues. This varied experience gives me a unique perspective. I am able to understand what the Town needs, what the applicant wants, and what the regulatory agencies need, and because of this, I am often able to find solutions and compromises to move projects forward.

**How would you define the role of a Planning Commissioner in relation to the Town Council in planning matters?**

I consider the role of a Planning Commissioner to include the following:  
-- to carefully and thoughtfully review development projects and permit requests in light of the Town's policies and objectives and in a transparent way,  
-- to find ways to make those projects better for all involved, and  
-- then to ultimately to make solid recommendations to the City Council about those projects.

In my opinion, by completing a lot of the detailed and technical project review, flagging the most important issues and looking out for the Town's interests, a solid Planning Commission can actually help streamline the City Council's review and make their job easier.

I also believe the Planning Commissioners, and all Town figures, should participate in the community and positively represent the Town in their daily lives.

**Have you ever attended or viewed a Planning Commission meeting? If yes, please note which meeting you viewed or attended and provide a summary of your observation. If not, why not?**

As an environmental/CEQA and land use consultant, I have attended and testified at numerous Planning Commission and City Council meetings in various jurisdictions throughout the Bay Area during my career. I have attended and/or viewed several Town of Los Gatos Planning Commission and City Council meetings over the years.

**How will you demonstrate impartiality in your role as a Commissioner with your personal beliefs with regards to land use and planning policies?**

As a CEQA consultant, my job has been to remain an objective and impartial reviewer of development projects. The CEQA consultant is tasked with reviewing projects in light of the CEQA requirements and the agency's policies and guidance. I am very accustomed to and comfortable putting my personal beliefs about a project to the side, and reviewing that project in an objective fashion. I would do that as a Planning Commission as well. Both in my personal and professional life, I have a the ability (and the habit) of seeing an issue from all different sides.

**The Commission is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the Town Code and its land use and planning policies. What experience do you have that would be useful on the Commission?**

As mentioned above, I have been an environmental and land use consultant for 28 years. I am familiar with the Town Code and the land use and planning policies. My career experience described above would be directly relevant and would be very useful background on the Commission.



**How would you describe your approach to planning and how it would relate to making a land use or policy determination?**

My general approach would be to look out for the best interests of the Town and its various constituents. I would start this role with a thorough understanding of the Town Code and the Town's processes. I am familiar with reading engineering/architectural plans and with planning applications and technical supporting documents, so my approach would be to carefully review the proposed project and all supporting materials in detail. I am usually able to find compromise or make suggestions that might improve the design, or alleviate some of the neighbors' concerns, so I would look for ways to do that when appropriate. My intention would be to provide constructive feedback and recommendations without bogging down the process.

**The Planning Commission meets at least twice a month and requires a significant amount of homework. Are you prepared to make the commitment to spend the amount of time required to attend regular meetings, committee meetings, do site visits, and study the packet material?**

*Response*

Yes

**You are expected to serve on at least one other Committee (General Plan Committee, Historic Preservation Committee, Conceptual Development Advisory Board). Will you have the time to serve on the additional Committee?**

*Response*

Yes



Please let us know how you heard about the recruitment:

- Town Website
- Town Newsletter
- Los Gatos Weekly Ad
- Los Gatan Ad
- Social Media
- Friend/Neighbor
- Town Meeting
- Service Group
- Chamber Of Commerce
- Kcat Ad
- Other

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*Explain if "Other"*

## Case Study #1 - Fictitious Location

**What is your initial reaction to the above referenced project?**

*Response*

In my experience lately, this is a very typical scenario in Los Gatos and many other cities. My initial reaction is that if the project meets the Town's codes and requirements, and the project has been thoroughly reviewed and studied, that the Planning Commission should acknowledge that, explain this reasoning, and recommend approval of the project.

**What issues do you feel will need to be investigated further?**

*Response*

Based on the information above, it does not sound like any additional investigation is needed. I am familiar with traffic studies and I would expect to review the details and perhaps ask a few questions about it at the hearing for everyone's understanding. I would likely ask staff or the consultant if there were any additional improvements or measures that could be implemented to alleviate the neighborhood concerns, but I would not get overly bogged down in that. If the study determined there are no impacts, and there was no need for any other detailed review, I would not recommend any further analysis. I would articulate my rationale at the hearing and clarify that this project meets the Town's policies and requirements and would vote to recommend approval.

**How would you weigh your personal observations or experience regarding traffic and the professional input and recommendations of Town staff and Town consultants?**

*Response*

As I mentioned, I am quite familiar with traffic studies, and with the different types of analyses (VMT, LOS, site specific operational/design and safety issues, queuing, etc.), so I am comfortable distinguishing between issues that might be annoying to neighbors and the professional input and recommendations of Town staff and Town consultants regarding what is required.

## Case Study #2 - Fictitious Location

What is your initial reaction to the above referenced project?

*Response*

Given that the project complies with the zoning and all objective standards and Residential Design Guidelines, and the project has been reviewed by the Town, I would say this project should also be recommended for approval.

What issues do you feel will need to be investigated further?

*Response*

I would review the plans in detail and would visit the site to check the potential privacy concerns myself. I would likely ask the applicant and neighbors if there is anything else that can easily be implemented to further alleviate the privacy concerns, and would weigh whether those options were feasible or helpful. Either way, I would then use a delicate touch to explain to the neighbors that the project meets all Town requirements and fits within the character of the street, and therefore, should not be denied.

How would you weigh your personal observations or experience regarding neighborhood compatibility and privacy and the professional input and recommendations of Town staff and the Town consultant?

*Response*

Similar to the other fictitious project, I am familiar with the differences between objective standards and zoning requirements, and what neighbors might find annoying. I would acknowledge the neighbors' concerns with compassion, but would distinguish between that and the Town's role and responsibility when a project meets all the code requirements.

## Verification

*I affirm that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I also acknowledge that I have reviewed the application deadline and interview date as specified on the Public Boards & Commissions website.*

Yes, I so affirm.

*Signature*

John Schwarz

*Signature Date*

02/24/2025

# **General Plan Committee Applications**



**Personal Information**

*First Name*

**Bent**

*Last Name*

**Jensen**

*Street Address*

**REDACTED**

*Apt, Suite. Etc.*

**REDACTED**

*City*

**Los Gatos**

*State*

**CA**

*Zip Code*

**95032**

*Phone*

**REDACTED**

*Phone Type*

**REDACTED**

*Email*

**REDACTED**

*Employer*

**Lauritzen Inc.**

*Job Title*

**Engineer**

*How long have you lived in Los Gatos?*

**24 years**



## General Plan Committee Information

Please list what experience, education, or volunteer positions that you have held.

I am an electrical engineer with experience as an engineering R&D manager in Silicon Valley since 1984. In the 1980s, I founded a social club for Danish engineers in the Bay Area, growing it to 100 members. I have also volunteered for the Belgatos HOA and served as a member of the Arts & Culture Commission from 2022 to 2024.

Why are you interested in serving on the General Plan Committee and how does this shape your vision for Los Gatos?

I want to get involved , contribute and help shape the future of Los Gatos. It will reshape how I see Los Gatos, shifting my perspective from being a resident to that of a decision-maker responsible for its long term growth and sustainability, and gaining an appreciation for maintaining the town's character while also fostering economic and residential growth.

How will you balance your personal interests with the broader role of the Committee, which requires impartiality with the rules and regulations of the Town?

Always remind myself that this role is to serve the community, not my personal or private interests. Carefully listen to different viewpoints including those that challenge my own. Base decisions on what benefits the majority while aligning with planning principles and long-term goals

Review one of the elements of the General Plan. Provide a response detailing your understanding of the element and your comments on it.

The Mobility Element outlines how we navigate the town and aims to reduce vehicle traffic to lower CO2 emissions, noise, and congestion. It encourages walking and bicycling as primary transportation methods, which are effective for shorter distances. However, it lacks alternatives for longer trips or for those who may not be able to walk or bike, such as the elderly. To create a truly functional infrastructure for walking and cycling, it must be supplemented with improved bus transportation, which is currently quite limited.

List which General Plan Element you are most interested in and why.

The Housing Element (Not updated yet to the 2023 - 2031 Housing Element version) and the Land Use Element (rescinded) remain some of the most critical and challenging aspects, requiring a balance between state mandates and preserving the town's small-town character. Additionally, I believe the Transportation Element and the Vasona Light Rail Element are not receiving enough attention, especially while promoting walking and bicycling as alternatives for residents. In light of recent wildfires in LA, I feel Los Gatos should place greater emphasis on fire safety, potentially by amending certain codes.

How would you describe your philosophy on planning?

Good planning looks beyond immediate needs to anticipate future trends in demographics, infrastructure, and land use. It needs to balance economic development, environmental sustainability, and social well-being, and it should be guided by research, data, and best practices to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

Have you discussed the role of a Committee member with anyone of the Planning staff? If yes, what did you learn?

On February 20, I met with Joel Paulson, who provided an overview of the committee's charter and its connection to other commissions, such as the Planning Commission.

What else should we know about you and your interest in serving as a Committee member?

*Response*

I am highly interested in getting involved and contributing to the town. I regularly watch council meetings and planning commission meetings on YouTube. With my engineering background, I believe I can make meaningful contributions by conducting detailed studies before making informed recommendations.

What community needs would you like to specifically represent?

*Response*

I am applying as a resident of the Town of Los Gatos.



Please let us know how you heard about the recruitment:

- Town Website
- Town Newsletter
- Los Gatos Weekly Ad
- Los Gatan Ad
- Social Media
- Friend/Neighbor
- Town Meeting
- Service Group
- Chamber Of Commerce
- Kcat Ad
- Other

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*Explain if "Other"*

**Verification**

*I affirm that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I also acknowledge that I have reviewed the application deadline and interview date as specified on the Public Boards & Commissions website.*

Yes, I so affirm.

*Signature*

Bent Torp Jensen

*Signature Date*

02/21/2015

# **Personnel Board Applications**



E-Filed  
11/14/2024  
07:38:29  
  
Filing ID:  
10505

**Personal Information**

*First Name*

John

*Street Address*

REDACTED

*City*

Los Gatos

*State*

CA

*Zip Code*

95030

*Phone*

REDACTED

*Phone Type*

REDACTED

*Email*

REDACTED

*Employer*

Retired

*Job Title*

self

*How long have you lived in Los Gatos?*

36 years



## Personnel Board Information

Please list what experience, education, or volunteer positions that you have held.

45 years Human Resources, Vestry member Los Gatos St Lukes Church, President Los Gatos Soccer, Board Member Santa Cruz Soccer, Advisor SkyDeck UC Berkeley Start Up Accelerator, Advisor to HR start ups

Why are you interested in serving on the Personnel Board?

Would like to get more involved in my community and HR was my profession

Have you ever attended a Personnel Board meeting? If yes, please provide a summary of your observation. If not, why not?

no

What do you see as the role of this Board?

partner with other board members to objectively resolve concerns

What is your experience with labor relations and unionized environments?

worked in Human Resources for over 45 years in both union and non union environments

What is your experience with personnel or human resources, specifically in regard to disciplines and appeals?

established and administered policy and procedures for investigating concerns

What knowledge or experience do you have in regard to personnel boards in other agencies?

just with public corporations

Assuming you have read the Town's Personnel Rules, what thoughts or comments do you have related to fairness and enforceability of the rules?

they appear fair as they are written



Please let us know how you heard about the recruitment:

- Town Website
- Town Newsletter
- Los Gatos Weekly Ad
- Los Gatan Ad
- Social Media
- Friend/Neighbor
- Town Meeting
- Service Group
- Chamber Of Commerce
- Kcat Ad
- Other

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*Explain if "Other"*

**Verification**

*I affirm that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I also acknowledge that I have reviewed the application deadline and interview date as specified on the Public Boards & Commissions website.*

Yes, I so affirm.

*Signature*

John Cleveland

*Signature Date*

11/14/2024