



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 12/16/2024

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: December 11, 2024
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Interview Applicants and Make Appointments to Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions

RECOMMENDATION:

Interview applicants and make appointments to Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

BACKGROUND:

The Town's Boards, Committees, and Commissions (hereafter "Commissions") advise Los Gatos elected officials on a variety of policy and community interest matters. The Town of Los Gatos had an open recruitment for all Boards, Commissions, and Committees that had either existing vacancies or expiring terms, including the Finance Commission. Only Commissions with qualified applicants are included in the recommended action. Commission members are appointed by the Town Council with the exception of the Finance Commission. Per Los Gatos Municipal Code Section 2.50.205(c)(4), each member of the Town Council shall appoint one Citizen Appointee to the Finance Commission.

This recruitment period opened on November 5, 2024, and closed on December 9, 2024. Current Commissioners were notified of their term expiration and asked to submit an application if they wished to be reappointed. Individuals interested in serving on a Town Board, Committee, or Commission were asked to complete the appropriate application and submit it using the Boards, Commissions, and Committees application portal during the designated recruitment period. However, the Clerk's office received one application, which was completed using an active application link that remained accessible after the official deadline and submitted via email. The link was on a webpage that did not provide clear deadline information, and the link itself suggested the recruitment period was still active. Given these circumstances, we have included this application for your review and consideration.

PREPARED BY: Wendy Wood
Town Clerk

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Attorney

SUBJECT: Boards and Commissions Interviews and Appointments

DATE: December 11, 2024

Notices for the recruitment were published in the local newspaper, shared on various social media platforms, and included in the Town's newsletter. The notice was posted in the Clerk's Office, the Community Development posting board, within the Library, advertised on KCAT Channel 15, and displayed on the Town's official website. Emails and text notifications were sent on November 5, 2024, and again on December 5, 2024, to approximately 46 subscribers who had requested updates on Boards, Commissions, and Committee recruitments.

DISCUSSION:

On December 16, 2024, Council will interview applicants for the vacant and expiring Commission positions. Following the interviews, each Council Member will complete a written ballot with their respective selections. The Town Clerk will tally the votes and issue runoff ballots if needed. Applicants are appointed with a majority vote. Upon completion of the appointment process, the Town Clerk will announce the votes.

All applicants will receive a notification regarding the appointments. The Town Clerk will advertise any unfilled positions and welcomes any additional direction from the Town Council. The next recruitment process is scheduled to open in March, with interviews to be conducted in May or June of 2025, or as directed by the Town Council at this meeting.

The number of vacancies and applications received for each Commission are listed below. Names with an asterisk indicate they were appointed to fill an unexpired vacancy and therefore did not serve an entire term. The order of Commission interviews has been changed and will not be taken in alphabetical order as in previous recruitments. The order of the interviews will be as follows:

LIBRARY BOARD (LIB)

Two (2) seats are expiring December 31, 2024.

Applicants (5):

Steve Curry
Helena Fontenelle
Gayle Gordon
Deborah Lowe
Katharine Vieceli

Expiring Terms (2):

Deborah Lowe*
Leticia Ramos Madeiros

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

One (1) seat is expiring December 31, 2024; and one (1) short term seat expiring December 31, 2027.

Applicants (5):

Kyle Bohigian
Kendra Burch
Rasha Lashin
Salma Mojaddidi
Rob Stump

Expiring Terms (1) and Vacant Term (1):

Vacant
Vacant (expiring December 2027)

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION (ACC)

Two (2) seats are expiring December 31, 2024; and one (1) short term seat expiring December 31, 2026.

Applicants (5):

Shantik Azima-Taylor
Danielle Hinsche
Rebecca Navid
Thomas Spilsbury
Janet Wolf

Expiring Terms (2) and Vacant Term (1):

Bent Jensen*
Thomas Spilsbury*
Vacant (expiring December 2026)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (HPC)

One (1) seat is expiring December 31, 2024.

Applicants (2):

Susan Branch
Alan Feinberg

Expiring Term (1):

Barry Cheskin

PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Two (2) seats are expiring December 31, 2024.

Applicants (6):

Brant Corenson
Malcolm Gordon
Suresh Mohan
Reza Navid
Kim Vrijen
Janet Wolf

Expiring Terms (2):

Brant Corenson
Matthew Ober

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COMPLETE STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (CSTC)

Two (2) seats are expiring December 31, 2024; and one (1) short term seat expiring December 31, 2025.

Applicants (3):

Pradeep Khanal

Alice Miano

Elisabeth Tabinski

Expiring Terms (2) and Vacant Term (1):

Alice Miano

Jeff Thompson

Vacant (expiring December 2025)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMISSION (DEIC)

Two (2) seats are expiring December 31, 2024; and one (1) short term seat expiring December 31, 2025.

Applicants (0):

Seat Town of Los Gatos Business Owner or Employee Vacant Term (1)

Vacant (expiring December 2025)

Applicants (2):

Tooba Ahmed

Folake Phillips

Seat Town of Los Gatos Non-Profit Employee (1)

Folake Phillips*

Applicants (1):

Nora Rousso

Gordon Yamate

Seat Town of Los Gatos Residents Expiring Term (1)

Gordon Yamate*

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION (CHSSC)

Two (2) seats are expiring December 31, 2024.

Applicants (3):

Gregory Gentile

Becky Gore

Eleanor Yick

Expiring Terms (2):

Eleanor Yick

Pradeep Khanal*

GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE (GPC)

One (1) seat is expiring December 31, 2024; and one (1) short term seat expiring December 31, 2025.

Applicants (1):

Joseph Mannina

Expiring Terms (1) and Vacant Term (1):

Joseph Mannina

Vacant (expiring December 2025)

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS:

At the conclusion of the interviews, the Council will make appointments based on a majority vote by ballot.

PAGE 5 OF 5

SUBJECT: Boards and Commissions Interviews and Appointments

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After the ballots have been tallied the Town Clerk will announce the appointments. Staff also welcomes Council direction on the timing of a recruitment to fill any remaining and/or newly created vacancies based on the appointments.

COORDINATION:

The preparation of this report was coordinated with the Town Manager and Town Attorney.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the appointments.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachments:

1. Applications
2. Council Policy 2-11: Commissions Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum
3. Letter from Incumbent