



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 04/06/2021

ITEM NO: 4

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DATE: April 6, 2021  
TO: Mayor and Town Council  
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager  
SUBJECT: Appoint Jen Siraganian to the Honorary Position of Town Poet Laureate for a Term Beginning April 2021 and Concluding December 2023

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Appoint Jen Siraganian to the honorary position of Town Poet Laureate for a term beginning April 2021 and concluding December 2023

**BACKGROUND:**

The Town Poet Laureate is an honorary position established in 2010 to further the appreciation and advancement of poetry and literary arts in Los Gatos. Since the establishment of this position, Council has appointed four individuals to serve: Parthenia Hicks served from 2010 through 2012, Erica Goss served from 2013 through 2015, Stan Garber served from 2016 through 2018, and Michael Haley McCullough served from 2019 through 2020.

To determine the next Town Poet Laureate, a selection committee was formed consistent with Town Council Policy 2-06: Town Poet Laureate Selection. The committee was composed of Mayor Sayoc, Arts and Culture Commissioner Amy Fasnacht, and Library Board Commissioner Lyn Dougherty. Poet Laureate applications were announced and released on December 9, 2020 via Town and Library social media channels, websites, and press release.

By the deadline of January 22, 2021, three qualified applications were received. The committee interviewed all candidates on March 10, 2021. After discussion, the committee unanimously decided to recommend Jen Siraganian for the position of Town Poet Laureate.

**PREPARED BY:** Ryan Baker  
Library Director

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

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SUBJECT: Poet Laureate

DATE: April 6, 2021

DISCUSSION:

Jen Siraganian is a writer, educator, and literary organizer. She has served as Managing Director for Litquake: San Francisco's Literary Festival, been nominated for a Ruth Lilly Fellowship and a Pushcart Prize, earned scholarships from Community of Writers at Squaw Valley and Napa Valley Writers' Conference, and authored a poetry chapbook titled "Fractured." Her writing has appeared in Best New Poets 2016, Cream City Review, Mid-American Review, Smartish Pace, Barrow Street, Southwest Review, Not Somewhere Else But Here: A Contemporary Anthology of Women and Place, and other literary journals and anthologies.

If the Town Council appoints Jen Siraganian as the Town Poet Laureate, her term of appointment will begin on April 6, 2021 and end on December 31, 2023. Town staff will work with her as needed to facilitate programs and collaborate on projects to ensure a successful term.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with the appointment of the Town Poet Laureate and its programs or projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

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

Attachments:

1. Sample of Jen Siraganian's poems