



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE AGENDA
FEBRUARY 28, 2023
TELECONFERENCE
5:00 PM**

*Rob Moore, Chair
Mathew Hudes, Vice Chair*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This meeting is being conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with Government Code Section 54953, as Amended by Assembly Bill 361, in response to the state of emergency relating to COVID-19 and enabling teleconferencing accommodations by suspending or waiving specified provisions in the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code § 54950 et seq.). Consistent with AB 361 and Town of Los Gatos Resolution 2021-044, this meeting will not be physically open to the public and the Council will be teleconferencing from remote locations. Members of the public can only participate in the meeting by joining the Zoom webinar (log in information provided below).

PARTICIPATION

To provide oral comments in real-time during the meeting:

- **Zoom webinar.** Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: Please click this URL to join: <https://losgatosca.gov.zoom.us/j/83046365193?pwd=ckFQUVBdWEVNZTBQZXhFbjhDL3B1QT09> Passcode: 812858. You can also type in 830 463 65193 in the “Join a Meeting” page on the Zoom website at <https://zoom.us/join>.
- **Join by telephone.** Dial: USA 877 336 1839 US Toll-free or 636 651 0008 US Toll. Conference code: 686100

When the Chair announces the item for which you wish to speak, click the “raise hand” feature in Zoom. If you are participating by phone on the Zoom app, press *9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand. If you are participating by calling in, press #2 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand.

When called to speak, you will be asked to provide your full name and your town/city of residence. This identifying information is optional and not a requirement for participation. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes, or such other time as the Chair may decide, consistent with the time limit for speakers at a Council Policy Committee meeting. If you wish to speak to an item or items on the Consent Calendar, please state which item number(s) you are commenting on at the beginning of your time.

If you are unable to participate in real-time, you may email to PublicComment@losgatosca.gov the subject line “Public Comment Item #__” (insert the item number relevant to your comment). Comments received by 11:00 a.m. the day of the meeting will be reviewed and distributed before the meeting. All comments received will become part of the record.

RULES OF DECORUM AND CIVILITY

To conduct the business of the community in an effective and efficient manner, please follow the meeting guidelines set forth in the Town Code and State law.

The Town does not tolerate disruptive conduct, which includes but is not limited to:

- Addressing the Committee without first being recognized;
- Interrupting speakers, Committee Members, or Town staff;
- Continuing to speak after the allotted time has expired;
- Failing to relinquish the microphone when directed to do so;
- Repetitiously addressing the same subject.

Town Policy does not allow speakers to cede their commenting time to another speaker. Disruption of the meeting may result in a violation of Penal Code Section 403.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

CONSENT ITEMS *(Items appearing on the Consent Items are considered routine Town business and may be approved by one motion. Any member of the Committee may request to have an item removed from the Consent Items for comment and action. Members of the public may provide input on any or multiple Consent Item(s) when the Chair asks for public comments on the Consent Items. If you wish to comment, please follow the Participation Instructions contained on Page 2 of this agenda. If an item is removed, the Chair has the sole discretion to determine when the item will be heard.)*

1. Approve Draft Minutes of the January 23, 2023 Council Policy Committee Meeting.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS *(Members of the public are welcome to address the Policy Committee on any matter that is not listed on the agenda. To ensure all agenda items are heard and unless additional time is authorized by the Chair, this portion of the agenda is limited to 30 minutes and no more than three (3) minutes per speaker. In the event additional speakers were not able to be heard during the initial Verbal Communications portion of the agenda, an additional Verbal Communications will be opened prior to adjournment.)*

OTHER BUSINESS *(Up to three minutes may be allotted to each speaker on any of the following items.)*

2. Confirm 2023 Work Plan Items for the Council Policy Committee.
3. Discuss and Provide Direction to Potentially Modify Town Council Policy 2-04: Town Council Code of Conduct, Town Council Policy 2-05: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures, Town Council Policy 2-11: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum, and the Commissioner Handbook.

ADJOURNMENT



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE: 02/28/2023

ITEM NO: 1

**DRAFT
Minutes of the Town Council Policy Committee Meeting
January 23, 2023**

The Town Council Policy Committee of the Town of Los Gatos conducted a special meeting utilizing teleconference and electronic means consistent with Government Code Section 54953, as Amended by Assembly Bill 361, in response to the state of emergency relating to COVID-19 and enabling teleconferencing accommodations by suspending or waiving specified provisions in the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code § 54950 et seq.) and Town of Los Gatos Resolution 2021-044 on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rob Moore, Matthew Hudes

Staff Present: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager; Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney; Wendy Wood, Town Clerk; Joel Paulson, Community Development Department Director; Jennifer Armer, Planning Manager.

APPOINT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Rob Moore was appointed Chair and Matthew Hudes was appointed Vice Chair by unanimous vote of the Committee.

CONSENT ITEMS (TO BE ACTED UPON BY A SINGLE MOTION)

1. Approve Draft Minutes of the September 17, 2022 Council Policy Committee.
2. Approve the Town Council Policy Committee Meeting Schedule for 2023.

Approved.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

3. Recommend to the Town Council Modifications to Town Council Policy 2-01: Agenda Format and Rules Regarding Town Remote Attendance for Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager, presented the staff report.

Opened public comment.

Cindy Walker from the Complete Streets and Transportation Committee commented in favor of hybrid meetings for all Boards, Commissions, and Committees due to concerns regarding Committee members being unable to attend in person and to increase the opportunity for public participation.

Susan Burnett from the Planning Commission asked for clarification regarding the discussion and commented in favor of in-person and video meetings, and not in support of audio only meetings.

Closed Public Comment.

After discussion, the Committee was split with Vice Chair Hudes recommending the Council approve the proposed changes with the exception of conducting hybrid meetings for the Planning Commission and Finance Commission. Chair Moore requested that Council consider the staff recommendation as well as additional information regarding the feasibility and cost of options for audio only and audio with video hybrid meetings for all Board, Commission, and Committee meetings.

4. Identify Future Work Plan Items for the Council Policy Committee.

Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager, presented the staff report.

Opened public comment.

None.

Closed Public Comment.

After discussion, the Committee approved the proposed 2023 Work Plan with the following additions:

- Review of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies.

- Review Policies for Commission, Board, Committee, and Council Recusal.
- Review the Brown Act and Council Communications with Regards to Forums such as Democracy Tent.
- Review Conflicts of Interest for Political Endorsements from Organizations Funded by the Town.
- Reexamine the Policy Committee's Enabling Resolution.
- Consider a Capital Improvement Equity Policy.
- Consider a Commercial Rent Control Policy.

And the following deletions, recognizing that the other Commissions should be the recommending body to Town Council:

- Consider the Creation of a Reorganization Policy.
- Potential Amendments to the Story Pole and Netting Policy.
- Consider a Los Gatos Election Policy.
- Consider Home Occupancy Permit Criteria and Limitations.
- Discuss Guidelines for Tree Planting In-Lieu Fees When Additional Trees Would Conflict with Maintaining Defensible Space.
- Discuss Transportation Impact Mitigation Policy and Fees.
- Consider the Definition of "Specialty Retail."
- Review Zoning Requirements for Banks in the Downtown District.
- Continue to Consider Land Use Streamlining Modifications and Review of Items in the Land Use Policies Binder.

The Committee asked staff to return with a revised Work Plan for review based on their input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting as approved by the Town Council Policy Committee.

Holly Young, Senior Management Analyst



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 02/28/2023

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: February 28, 2023
TO: Council Policy Committee
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Confirm 2023 Work Plan Items for the Council Policy Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

Confirm 2023 work plan items for the Council Policy Committee.

REMARKS:

On January 23, 2023, the Council Policy Committee discussed a proposed 2023 Work Plan. The Committee provided input on the proposed Plan including requesting various items be added and deleted. The Committee asked staff to return with a revised Work Plan for review based on the discussion (see Attachment 1).

The revised Work Plan is arranged loosely in priority order. The Work Plan also includes two items directed by the Town Council:

- An evaluation of remote participation for Boards, Committees, and Commissions later in 2023; and
- Modifications to Town Policies to address Commissioner discipline.

COORDINATION:

The preparation of this report was coordinated with the Town Manager's Office (including Economic Vitality and the Clerk Department), Community Development Department, Parks and Public Works Department, and the Town Attorney's Office.

PREPARED BY: Holly Young
Senior Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Town Manager and Town Attorney

PAGE 2 OF 2

SUBJECT: 2023 Work Plan Items

DATE: February 28, 2023

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no associated fiscal impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under the California Environmental Quality Act, and no further action is required.

Attachment:

1. Revised 2023 Draft Work Plan

2023 Town Council Policy Committee Work Plan Items (Revised)

- Determine Modifications to Town Policies to Address Commissioner Discipline.
- Consider an Emergency Procurement Policy.
- Consider Legislative Advocacy Priorities/Principles (Building from Existing Legislative Policy).
- Consider Finance Commission Recommendation to Create a Public Input and Outreach in Labor Negotiations Policy Modeled after Menlo Park.
- Consider Finance Commission Recommendation for Council Not to Engage in Confidential Agreements with Bargaining Units that Would Prevent Disclosure that Would Otherwise be Properly Disclosed under the Brown Act.
- Review of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies.
- Review Policies for Commission, Board, Committee, and Council Recusal.
- Review the Brown Act and Council Communications with Regards to Forums, such as Democracy Tent.
- Review Conflicts of Interest for Political Endorsements from Organizations Funded by the Town.
- Consider a Capital Improvement Equity Policy.
- Consider a Commercial Rent Control Policy.
- Reexamine the Policy Committee's Enabling Resolution.
- Evaluate the Remote Participation Provisions for Boards, Committees, and Commissions as Contained in the Agenda Format and Rules Policy.



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/28/2023

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: February 17, 2023

TO: Council Policy Committee

FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Discuss and Provide Direction to Potentially Modify Town Council Policy 2-04: Town Council Code of Conduct, Town Council Policy 2-05: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures, Town Council Policy 2-11: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum, and the Commissioner Handbook

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and provide direction to potentially modify Town Council Policy 2-04: Town Council Code of Conduct, Town Council Policy 2-05: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures, Town Council Policy 2-11: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum, and the Commissioner Handbook.

BACKGROUND:

Currently the Town has a patchwork of Town Council Policies that are used to evaluate a potential disciplinary issue with a Commissioner. The Commissioner Handbook states that for enforcement:

If a member of a Town Board, Commission, or Committee does not follow the Commissioner's Handbook, the Mayor or his/her designee will counsel that member regarding the rules and their importance to the Council and the Town (see Resolution 1999-167 and Town Council Code of Conduct Policy).

Town Council Policy 2-04: Town Council Code of Conduct has a specific disciplinary process that has been used for Commissioners (see Attachment 1).

In addition, Town Council Policy 2-11: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum states the grounds for dismissal of a Commissioner (see Attachment 2, page 7). Since this Policy does not provide a process for evaluating a policy violation, the Town's practice has been to follow the procedure in the Code of Conduct.

Reviewed by: Town Manager and Town Attorney

SUBJECT: Discuss and Provide Direction on Potential Modifications to Several Council Policies and the Commissioner Handbook

DATE: February 17, 2023

BACKGROUND (continued):

After a recent disciplinary proceeding, the Town Council asked the Council Policy Committee to review the applicable Policies and make recommendations to improve the procedure to discipline Commissioners.

DISCUSSION:

This agenda item provides the Policy Committee an opportunity to provide direction to staff to improve the procedure. The Committee may want to consider the following questions in its deliberations:

- Should the discipline procedure in the Code of Conduct Policy in its entirety apply to Commissioners?
- If not, are there any elements of the discipline procedure from the Code of Conduct that should apply? For example:
 - Should the evaluation committee consist of the same members?
 - Should the same Minor and Major distinction apply?
 - Under what circumstances should a third party conduct an initial interview with the subject Commissioner and report the findings to the evaluation committee?
 - What discipline options should be available for Commissioners?
- What other procedural steps would the Committee recommend?
- What other guidance should be contained in Town Policies regarding this matter?

In addition to the above referenced Policies, the Planning Commission Policy is contained in Attachment 3.

Based on the direction of the Committee, staff will return at a subsequent meeting with draft language for the Committee's review. Once the Committee has completed its work, the matter will go before the entire Council for final consideration and action.

CONCLUSION:

Staff looks forward to the Committee's discussion and direction. Based on the direction, staff will return to subsequent Policy Committee meetings to review draft specific redline modifications.

COORDINATION:

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

PAGE 3 OF 3

SUBJECT: Discuss and Provide Direction on Potential Modifications to Several Council Policies and the Commissioner Handbook

DATE: February 17, 2023

FISCAL IMPACT:



Potential modifications to Council Policies and the Commissioner Handbook have no fiscal impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under the California Environmental Quality Act, and no further action is required.

Attachments:

1. Town Council Policy 2-04: Town Council Code of Conduct
2. Town Council Policy 2-11: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum
3. Town Council Policy 2-05: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures

 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <p>TOWN OF LOS GATOS CALIFORNIA</p> </div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> <p>COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL</p> <p><i>Small Town Service Community Stewardship Future Focus</i></p> </div>	
TITLE: Town Council Code of Conduct	POLICY NUMBER: 2-04
EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/3/2004	PAGES: 8
ENABLING ACTIONS: 2004-059; 2006-111; 2021-047	REVISED DATES: 12/17/2012; 3/3/2015; 12/17/2019; 11/2/2021; 10/4/2022
APPROVED: 	

I. Preamble

The legal responsibilities of the Los Gatos Town Council are set forth by applicable state and federal laws. In addition, the Town Council has adopted regulations, including this Code of Conduct Policy, that hold Council Members to standards of conduct above and beyond what is required by law. This Policy is written with the assumption that Council Members, through training, are aware of their legal and ethical responsibilities as elected officials. These expectations of conduct also apply to all members of the Town's Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

II. Form of Government

The Town of Los Gatos operates under a Council-Manager form of government as prescribed by Town Code, Section 2.30.305. Accordingly, members of the Council are elected at-large, provide legislative direction, set Town policy, and ultimately answer to the public. The Town Manager serves as the Town's chief administrative officer and is responsible for directing the day-to-day operations of the Town and implementing policy direction.

III. Town Council Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Town Council is to act as a legislative and quasi-judicial body. Through its legislative and policy authority, the Council is responsible for assessing and achieving the community's desire for its present and future and for establishing policy direction to achieve its desired outcomes. All members of the Town Council, including those who serve as Mayor and Vice Mayor, have equal votes.

Members of the Town Council fulfill their role and responsibilities through the relationships they have with each other and the public. Town Council Members should approach their work, each other, and the public in a manner that reflects ethical behavior, honesty and integrity. The commitment of Town Council Members to their work is characterized by open constructive communication, innovation, and creative problem solving.

TITLE: Town Council Code of Conduct	PAGE: 2 of 9	POLICY NUMBER: 2-04
--------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

IV. Mayoral and Vice Mayoral Selection Process

Per Town Municipal Code, Section 2.20.035, the selection of the Mayor and Vice Mayor occurs annually at a special meeting in December by majority vote of the Town Council. The Mayor and Vice Mayor serve at the pleasure of the Town Council and may be replaced by a majority vote of the Council.

V. Mayoral and Vice Mayoral Roles, Responsibilities, Relationships

The following outlines some of the key roles, responsibilities, and relationships as they relate to the positions of Mayor and Vice Mayor:

Mayor

- A. The Mayor is the presiding officer of the Town Council. In this capacity, the Mayor is responsible for developing Council agendas in cooperation with the Town Manager and leading Council meetings.
- B. The Mayor recommends various standing committee appointments to the Council for approval.¹ This will be done at a Council meeting in December of each year. When making committee recommendations, the Mayor should attempt to balance shared responsibilities and opportunities among Council Members. The Mayor may also appoint citizens to committees not established by Town ordinance or resolution as s/he deems appropriate.
- C. The title of Mayor carries with it the responsibility of communicating with the Town Council, Town Manager, members of the public, and the media regarding decisions made by a majority of the Town Council. The Mayor also represents the Council at official and ceremonial occasions.
- D. The Mayor performs special duties consistent with the Mayoral office, including, but not limited to: signing of documents on behalf of the Town, issuing proclamations, serving as the official voting delegate for various municipal advocacy groups, and delivering the State of the Town Address at his or her discretion.² The Town Council will determine any additional authority or duties that the Mayor shall perform.
- E. Special duties consistent with the Mayoral office may be delegated to the Vice Mayor or any other member of the Town Council.
- F. In the event that one or more members of a Town Board, Commission, or Committee acts in a manner contrary to approved Board/Commission policies and procedures, the Mayor may counsel those members about the rules set forth in the Town Commissioner Handbook.³

¹ Council Agenda Format and Rules Policy

² Council Commendation and Proclamation Policy

³ Resolution 1999-167

TITLE: Town Council Code of Conduct	PAGE: 3 of 9	POLICY NUMBER: 2-04
--------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

Vice Mayor

- A. In the Mayor's absence, the Vice Mayor shall perform the formal duties of the Mayor.⁴
- B. When the Vice Mayor performs the duties of the Mayor in his/her absence, the Vice Mayor also carries the responsibility of communicating with the Town Manager, Town Council, and members of the public.

VI. Council Conduct in Public Meetings

To ensure the highest standards of respect and integrity during public meetings, Council Members should:

- A. *Use formal titles.* The Council should refer to one another formally during Council meetings such as Mayor, Vice Mayor or Council Member or Mr., Mrs., or Ms., followed by the individual's last name.
- B. *Practice civility and decorum in discussions and debate.* Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of free democracy in action. During public discussions, Council Members should be respectful of others and diverse opinions and allow for the debate of issues.
- C. *Honor the role of the presiding officer in maintaining order and equity.* Respect the Mayor/Chair's efforts to focus discussion on current agenda items.
- D. *Council decisions should be reserved until all applicable information has been presented.*
- E. *Conduct during public hearings.* During public testimony, Council Members should refrain from engaging the speaker in dialogue. Speakers at public meetings will be asked to provide their full name and to state whether they are a resident of the Town of Los Gatos. This information is optional but not required. For purposes of clarification, Council Members may ask the speaker questions. Council comment and discussion should commence upon the conclusion of all public testimony

VII. Maintaining Civility at Council Meetings

The public is welcome to participate at Town Council meetings and the Mayor should remind the public of the Town's expectations for civility in order for the business of the Town to be completed efficiently and effectively. These expectations include and are not limited to:

- A. For the benefit of the entire community, the Town of Los Gatos asks that all speakers follow the Town's meeting guidelines by treating everyone with respect and dignity. This is done by following meeting guidelines set forth in State law, in the Town Code, and on the cover sheet of the Council agenda.
- B. The Town embraces diversity and strongly condemns hate speech and offensive, hateful language or racial intolerance of any kind at Council Meetings.

⁴ Council Agenda Format and Rules Policy

TITLE: Town Council Code of Conduct	PAGE: 4 of 9	POLICY NUMBER: 2-04
--------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

- C. Town Council and staff are well aware of the public's right to disagree with their professional opinion on various Town issues. However, anti-social behavior, slander, hatred, and bigotry statements are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form at Town Council meetings.
- D. All public comments at the Town Council meeting must pertain to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Town and shall not contain slanderous statements, hatred, and bigotry against non-public officials.
- E. The Town will go through the following steps if a disturbance results from a member of the public not following these rules:
 - 1. If participating remotely, Town staff may mute the individual with an explanation for the record of why muting occurred consistent with this Policy.
 - 2. If participating in-person, the Mayor may call a recess for violation of this Policy, resulting in the immediate cessation of the audio and video recording and the Council exiting the Chamber. Staff will determine if the individual should be removed or if all members of the public should leave depending on the extent of the disturbance. In the event that all public members exit, only the press would be allowed back in the meeting. Once the individual(s) leave, the Council would return to the Chamber and the Mayor would resume the meeting.
 - 3. Persons disrupting a Council meeting may be cited for violation of the California Penal Code Section 403.

VIII. Legal Requirements

The Town Council operates under a series of laws that regulate its operations as well as the conduct of its members. The Town Attorney serves as the Town's legal officer and is available to advise the Council on these matters.

A. Training

Biannual training in the following areas shall be provided by staff to Council Members:

- 1. The Ralph M. Brown Act
- 2. Town / CA State Law on Conflict of Interest (AB 1234)
- 3. Government Section 1090
- 4. Incompatible Offices
- 5. The Fair Political Practices Commission Forms
- 6. Bias
- 7. Town / CA State Law on Harassment (SB 1343)

B. Procurement

Unless authorized by the Town Council, Council Members shall not become involved in administrative processes for acquiring goods and services.

TITLE: Town Council Code of Conduct	PAGE: 5 of 9	POLICY NUMBER: 2-04
--------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

C. Land Use Applications

The merits of an application shall only be evaluated on information included in the public record. Council Members shall disclose ex parte communication and any information obtained outside of the public record that may influence his/her decision on a matter pending before the Town Council. Council disclosure shall occur after the Public Hearing section of the agenda, and before Council deliberations.

D. Code of Conduct Policy

Newly elected Council Members are strongly encouraged to sign a statement affirming they have read and understand the Town of Los Gatos Council Code of Conduct Policy.

E. Non-Profit Organizations

Council Members may not sit on boards of directors of non-profit organizations which receive funding or in-kind contributions from the Town, unless the role serves a legitimate Town purpose, such as the League of California Cities, and the participation is approved by the full Council.

IX. Council Participation in Boards, Commissions and Committees, and Reporting Requirements

There are several committees that Town Council Members have been appointed to or have an interest in, including but not limited to: Town Council standing and ad hoc committees, Town boards and commissions, regional boards and commissions, and community-generated committees.

Primary Council representatives should update the Council about board, commission, and committee activities. When serving as the primary Council representative on any board, commission, or committee, Council Members should periodically provide updated reports to the Council during the "Council Matters" opportunity on the Council meeting agenda.

Recommended actions by Council Committees should be reported to the Council. When serving on a Council Committee, whether standing or ad hoc, all work undertaken by the Committee must be directed by the Council, and all recommended actions of a Council Committee shall be reported to the Council.

X. Council Relationship with Town Staff

The Town Council has adopted a Council-Manager form of government. The Town Manager's powers and duties are outlined in the Town Code, Section 2.30.295.

Council Conduct and Communication with Town Staff

To enhance its working relationship with staff, Council should be mindful of the support and resources needed to accomplish Council goals. When communicating and working with staff, Council should follow these guidelines:

TITLE: Town Council Code of Conduct	PAGE: 6 of 9	POLICY NUMBER: 2-04
--------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

- A. *Council Members should treat staff as professionals.* Clear, honest communication that respects the abilities, experience, and dignity of each individual is expected. As with Council colleagues, practice civility and decorum in all interactions with Town staff.
- B. *Council Members should direct questions about policy, budget, or professional opinion to the Town Manager, Town Attorney or Department Directors.* Council Members can direct questions and inquiries to any staff for information that is readily available to the general public or easily retrievable by staff.
- C. *The Town Manager and staff are responsible for implementing Town policy and/or Council action.* The processing of Council policy and decisions takes place with the Town Manager and staff. Council should not direct policy/program administrative functions and implementation; rather it should provide policy guidance to the Town Manager.
- D. *Council Members should attempt to communicate questions, corrections, and/or clarifications about reports requiring official action to staff prior to Council meetings.* Early feedback will enable staff to address Council questions and incorporate minor corrections or changes to a Council report, resulting in a more efficient Council meeting discussion; however, this does not preclude Council Members from asking questions at Council Meetings.
- E. *Council Members should not direct the Town Manager to initiate any action, change a course of action, or prepare any report without the approval of Council.* The Town Manager's responsibility is to advise on resources available and required for a particular course of action as it relates to the direction of the majority of the Council.
- F. *Council Members should not attend department staff meetings unless requested by the Town Manager.*
- G. *All Council Members should have the same information with which to make decisions.* Information requested by one Council Member will be shared with all members of the Council.
- H. *Concerns related to the behavior or work of a Town employee should be directed to the Town Manager.* Council Members should not reprimand employees.
- I. *Per California Government Code, Sections 3201-3209, Council Members should not solicit financial contributions from Town staff or use promises or threats regarding future employment.* Although Town staff may, as private citizens with constitutional rights, support political candidates, such activities cannot take place during work hours, at the workplace, or in uniform.

XI. Council Communication with the Public and other Council Members

The Public has a reasonable expectation that it may engage its Council Members on matters of community concern. In response, Council Members may express a preliminary opinion on general issues or policies that are in the development phase. Any such preliminary statement shall not indicate that a decision has been reached before the public hearing or create a presumption of bias on any quasi-adjudicatory decision such as a land use approval. In addition, Council Members may from time to time express opinions regarding broad policy matters which may be in conflict with currently adopted Council policies or explain an individual vote. Such

TITLE: Town Council Code of Conduct	PAGE: 7 of 9	POLICY NUMBER: 2-04
--------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

statements are permissible if clearly characterized as personal opinion or policy change objectives rather than the opinion of the full Town Council.

XII. Enforcement

A. Purpose

The Council Code of Conduct Policy establishes guiding principles for appropriate conduct and behavior and sets forth the expectations of Council Members. The purpose of the policy language is to establish a process and procedure that:

1. Allows the public, Town Council, and Town employees to report Code of Conduct policy violations or other misconduct.
2. Provides guidelines to evaluate Code of Conduct policy violations or other misconduct and implement appropriate disciplinary action when necessary.

B. Procedures

1. Reporting of Complaints

The following section outlines the process for reporting Council Member Code of Conduct Policy violations or other misconduct:

- a. Complaints made by members of the public, the Town Manager, and Town Attorney should be reported to the Mayor. If a complaint involves the Mayor, it should be reported to the Vice Mayor.
- b. Complaints made by Council Members should be reported to the Town Manager or Town Attorney to adhere to Brown Act requirements.
- c. Complaints made by Town employees should be reported to the Town Manager, who will direct them to the Mayor or Vice Mayor.

2. Evaluation of Complaints Alleging Violations

Upon report of a written complaint, the Town Manager and Town Attorney will join the Mayor or Vice Mayor as an evaluation committee to determine the validity of the complaint and, if appropriate, an initial course of action as discussed below. If the Town Manager or Town Attorney is the complainant, the longest serving uninvolved Council Member will replace the Town Manager or Town Attorney on the evaluation committee.

Within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the complaint by the Mayor or Vice Mayor, the Council Member in question shall be notified of the reported complaint by the Mayor or his/her designee. The notification shall include a copy of the written complaint and supporting documentation, if any, the identity of the complainant and nature of the complaint.

3. Unsubstantiated or Minor Violations

If the majority of the Committee agrees that the reported violation is without substance, no further action will be taken. If the reported violation is deemed valid but minor in nature, the Mayor or Vice Mayor shall counsel and, if appropriate, admonish the Council Member privately to resolve the matter. Admonishment is considered to be a reproof or warning directed to a Council Member about a particular type of behavior that violates Town policy.

4. Allegations of Major Violations

If the reported violation is considered to be serious in nature, the matter shall be referred to outside legal counsel selected by the Committee for the purpose of conducting an initial interview with the subject Council Member. The outside counsel shall report his/her initial findings back to the Committee.

If the Committee then determines that an investigation is warranted, the Committee shall direct the outside legal counsel to conduct an investigation. The investigation process would include, but is not limited to, the ascertainment of facts relevant to the complaint through interviews and the examination of any documented materials.

5. Report of Findings

At the conclusion of the investigation, outside legal counsel shall report back to the Committee in writing. The report shall either (1) recommend that the Council Member be exonerated based on a finding that the investigation did not reveal evidence of a serious violation of the Code of Conduct, or (2) recommend disciplinary proceedings based on findings that one or more provisions of the Code of Conduct or other Town policies have been violated. In the latter event, the report shall specify the provisions violated along with the facts and evidence supporting each finding.

The Committee shall review the report and its recommendations. If the consensus of the Committee is to accept the report and recommendations, the Committee shall implement the recommendations. Where the recommendation is exoneration, no further action shall be taken. Where the recommendation is to initiate disciplinary proceedings, the matter shall be referred to the Council. Where there is no consensus of the Committee regarding the recommendations, the matter shall be referred to the Council.

The subject Council Member shall be notified in writing of the Committee's decision within 72 hours. Where the decision is to refer the matter to the Council, a copy of the full report, including documents relied on by the investigator shall be provided with the notification, and a copy of both shall be provided to the whole Council.

6. Proceedings

Investigative findings and recommended proceedings and disciplinary action that are brought forward to Council as a result of a significant policy violation shall be considered at a public hearing. The public hearing should be set far enough in advance to allow the Council Member in question reasonably sufficient time to prepare a response.

Investigative findings shall be presented to the Town Council at a public hearing. The rules of evidence do not apply to the public hearing. It shall not be conducted as an adversarial proceeding.

C. Disciplinary Action

1. Considerations in Determining Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action may be imposed by Council upon Council Members who have violated the Council Code of Conduct Policy. Disciplinary action or sanctions are considered when a serious violation of Town policy has occurred by a Council Member. In determining the type of sanction imposed, the following factors may be considered:

- a. Nature of the violation
- b. Prior violations by the same individual
- c. Other factors which bear upon the seriousness of the violation

2. Types of Sanctions

At the discretion of the Council, sanctions may be imposed for violating the Code of Conduct or engaging in other misconduct. These actions may be applied individually or in combination. They include, but are not limited to:

- a. *Public Admonishment* – A reproof or warning directed to a Council Member about a particular type of behavior that violates Town policy.
- b. *Revocation of Special Privileges* – A revocation of a Council Member's Council Committee assignments, including standing and ad hoc committees, regional boards and commissions, and community-generated board/committee appointments. Other revocations may include temporary suspension of official travel, conference participation, and ceremonial titles.
- c. *Censure* – A formal statement or resolution by the Council officially reprimanding a Council Member.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney



TOWN OF
LOS GATOS
CALIFORNIA

COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

Small Town Service Community Stewardship Future Focus

TITLE: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum

POLICY NUMBER: 2-11

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/28/1990

PAGES: 7

ENABLING ACTIONS:

REVISED DATES: 6/13/1994; 6/16/2014;
4/7/2015; 10/18/2016; 2/21/2017;
2/6/2018; 3/19/19; 9/3/2019; 6/1/2021;
12/7/21, 3/15/22, 8/2/22; 09/20/22

APPROVED:

PURPOSE

To establish a policy to encourage participation by the Town's residents on Town Boards, Commissions and Committees (hereinafter referred to as "Commissions"). The Town of Los Gatos is committed to inclusivity. We value all our community members, regardless of religion, immigration status, ethnicity, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Town will encourage residents to participate on Commissions by advertising vacancies on Commissions for at least 30 days, preparing easily understood applications, maintaining clear descriptions of the role of each Board, Commission, and Committee and its respective members, providing current meeting schedules, and conducting public interviews of all Commission applicants, except as provided by this Policy.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all applicants to Town Boards, Commissions and Committees.

POLICY

The Town Council encourages public participation in all decision-making and to be successful residents must be assured both that the participation is meaningful and that their input will be valued. The widest representation from the community can only be achieved if vacancies are well advertised so that anyone interested will have the opportunity to apply. Interviews of the applicants conducted in public by the Town Council demonstrates that it values these appointments and that all have an equal opportunity to be appointed. Applicants may apply to more than one Commission, and shall rank their choices in their preferred order, during each recruitment cycle.

TITLE: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum	PAGE: 2 of 7	POLICY NUMBER: 2-11
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

To ensure the greatest possible participation by the public, it is the Town's policy that no person shall be appointed to more than one Commission except in those cases where they are ex-officio members of other Boards, Commissions and Committees. This Policy does not apply to Commission members serving as representatives of their Commission who have been appointed by the Town Council.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Residency within the incorporated municipal limits of the Town of Los Gatos, California is required for appointment and continued membership on all Town of Los Gatos Boards, Commissions, and Committees, with the exception of the Youth Commission.

Youth Commission:

The members shall be students who are entering grades 8 through 12 in the fall.

Membership for the students requires either residency in the incorporated limits of the Town of Los Gatos or residency in the unincorporated areas of the County of Santa Clara, which have a Los Gatos mailing address.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. All members of all appointive Town Advisory Bodies should attend all regular and special meetings of said Advisory Bodies.
2. Any member not in attendance at a regular meeting of said Advisory Body for at least 70% of the meeting shall be considered absent.
3. Any member of an appointive Town Advisory Body who is absent from the number of regular meetings listed below appropriate to his or her Advisory Body shall, as a result, surrender his or her office on the Advisory Body and the office shall be considered vacant.
 - a. For an Advisory Body which holds six (6) or more regular meetings per a consecutive twelve (12) month period: three (3) regular meetings.
 - b. For an Advisory Body which holds five (5) or fewer regular meetings per a consecutive twelve (12) month period: two (2) regular meetings.
 - c. For an Advisory Body which holds sixteen (16) or more regular meetings per a consecutive twelve (12) month period: eight (8) regular meetings.
4. Consistent with the Family Medical Leave Act and the California Family Rights Act, absences of up to 12 weeks due to parental leave constitute excused absences.
5. The vacant position shall be filled by appointment by a majority vote of the Town Council, for a term equal to the unexpired portion of the office vacated. Any member removed from office due to non-attendance may re-apply to serve on a Town Advisory Body but will not be treated as an incumbent in any subsequent application to the same Advisory Body.
6. If a Youth Commissioner liaison misses three meetings of a liaison Commission during a consecutive twelve (12) month period*, the Youth Commission shall appoint a different Youth Commissioner as liaison.

*Consecutive twelve (12) month period is defined as any consecutive twelve-month period beginning with the first absence. A regular meeting shall not be cancelled and replaced with a special meeting in order to alleviate an absence by an advisory body member.

QUORUM REQUIREMENTS

The number of members needed to constitute a quorum on any Town Advisory Body shall be a majority of the total number of filled seats.

PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be followed by the applicant, the Town Clerk, and the Town Council for the appointment of applicants to Town Commissions:

Responsibility and Actions: Town Clerk

A. Annual Recruitments

Adult Commission members' terms begin on January 1st and end December 31st, Youth Commissioners' terms follow the academic year and begin on August 1st and end on June 30th. The Town Clerk shall perform the following duties in conducting an annual recruitment for Commission members:

1. Notify Town Council of vacancies on Commissions by indicating the names of the Commissions, the number of terms expiring or being vacated, names of individual(s) with expiring terms or vacating seats, advertising periods (at least 30 days) and the date of interview.
2. Advertise the vacancies, including the application deadline and the interview date. Interviews and appointments for Adult Commissioners shall occur after annual Mayor and Vice Mayor selection, and in the case of election years, after new Council Members have been seated. Interviews and appointments for Youth Commissioners shall occur by the fourth Wednesday in May, no earlier than 4:00 p.m.
3. Prepare and maintain easily understood applications for appointment to Commissions. Applications shall include the following policy information:
 - a. Prior to initial appointment to any Commission, non-incumbent applicants must be interviewed by the Town Council. The applications of those not appearing will be held for the next recruitment.
 - b. If an incumbent Commissioner is requesting reappointment to the same Commission, the incumbent may submit a request to be interviewed by telephone, with their application, instead of attending the interview or must submit a letter prior to the interviews, describing the reason why the applicant cannot be present telephonically or in person for the interview, and why the applicant should be reappointed to the Commission.

TITLE: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum	PAGE: 4 of 7	POLICY NUMBER: 2-11
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

c. Submissions deadlines are mandatory; no exceptions are permitted.

4. Applications:

- a. *For adult applicants* — Accept applications, verify eligibility, and distribute copies of the applications of eligible applicants to the Town Council prior to the interviews for appointment.
- b. *For student applicants* — Accept applications, verify eligibility, and distribute copies of the applications of eligible applicants to the Town Council Selection Committee, consisting of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Police Chief, and Youth Commission Chair (if not reapplying), prior to the interviews for appointment.

5. Notify the applicant by letter or email as to the date and time of the interview and provide the option for an in person or teleconference interview.

6. Facilitate the Council voting process set forth below by informing Council as to how many votes are possible on each Commission, calling out applicants' names, and identifying the applicants receiving sufficient votes for appointment. This process does not apply to student applicants.

7. Applicants:

- a. *For adult applicants* — After the interviews and Council vote are completed, notify all applicants of the Council's action, and explain Town policy of keeping application active for one year with notification of subsequent openings on that Commission to the interested applicants.
- b. *For student applicants* — After the interviews are completed, notify all applicants of the Council Committee's action, and prepare a staff report for the Town Council to ratify the Committee's appointment at the first Town Council meeting in June.

Interview Process

To ensure the interview process is consistent, fair, and equitable, each applicant shall be asked the same standard questions, as provided below. Notwithstanding, no Council Member shall be prevented from asking appropriate questions of applicants.

1. If appointed, what ideas would you like to see the Commission explore?
2. Please expand beyond the written response on your application: your experience, interest, and/or expertise that you feel would be most useful to the Commission.
3. Please elaborate on any written response provided in the application to assist the Council learn more about you.
4. If you did not answer any of the questions on the application, please explain why.

The standard questions are limited in number to allow an applicant sufficient time to respond. While the intent is for each Council Member to be able to ask one question of each applicant, the Council may decide not to ask all of the provided questions, change the order of the questions, or rotate which Council member asks a specific question. Interview questions will be reviewed annually by the Town Council in advance of the interview process for any potential modifications.

Balloting Process

Unless determined otherwise, the Council shall conduct a ballot vote for the appointment of individuals to fill the vacancies for each Commission. Such ballot vote may be conducted at either a regular, adjourned, or special meeting of the Town Council. The ballot vote process shall be conducted as follows:

1. The Town Clerk shall provide a ballot to each Town Council member listing the names of all applicants and “None of the above” for each respective Commission. Prior to the vote, the Town Clerk shall publicly announce the position vacancy and all applicant names that are listed on the ballot.
2. Each Council member may vote for the same number of applicants as there are current vacancies on the respective Commission. In no case, can a Council Member cast more votes than there are vacancies; or vote for the same candidate more than once on each ballot (i.e. cumulative voting – e.g. where there are three vacancies, a Council member may not give all three votes to the same candidate). A Council Member is not required to vote for any of the candidates or for the total number of vacancies available.
3. The Town Clerk shall collect all ballots and shall publicly announce the name of each Town Council member and how that Council member cast his or her vote. In the case of a tie vote, the Town Clerk will announce that there is a tie and that a run-off vote shall be conducted but will not announce the names of the applicants in the run-off. Once all voting is concluded and a decision made, the votes will be made public. The run-off ballot will also include a “None of the above” option.
4. Applicants receiving a majority number of votes shall be deemed appointed to the Commission. In the event of a tie, a run-off vote shall be conducted among the applicants receiving the highest number of votes from the previous round. This shall continue until a majority consensus on an applicant(s) is reached for the number of vacancies to be filled. In the event of an unbreakable tie, the Council may determine an alternative method for selecting the appointee(s) or direct the Town Clerk to re-advertise the vacancy.
5. If an applicant(s) is appointed to an Advisory Body which has vacancies for both full and partial, unexpired terms, the length of the appointee’s term will be determined by the Mayor.

B. Mid-Term Recruitments

During the year, Commissions may experience vacancies that drop the number of filled seats to a number of members that is not sufficient to conduct Commission business. The Commission may request the Council to conduct a mid-term recruitment to fill seats. To the extent possible, the Town Clerk will consolidate mid-term recruitments to minimize the number of recruitments occurring throughout the year. In the event of a vacancy on the Planning Commission, the Town will automatically conduct a mid-term recruitment. Mid-term recruitments will not be conducted for Youth Commissioners. The Town Clerk shall advertise mid-term vacancies on Commissions for at least 15 days.

TITLE: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum	PAGE: 6 of 7	POLICY NUMBER: 2-11
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

Responsibility and Action: Applicant

1. Read the Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum Policy, complete and submit to the Town Clerk the application for appointment to a Town Commission by the advertised deadline date and time.
2. *For adult applicants:* Attend the Council meeting to be interviewed for Commission appointment. The applicant is required to notify the Town Clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. the Friday before the scheduled interview date whether they will attend in person or via teleconference.
3. *For student applicants:* Attend the Council Selection Committee interview session. The applicant is required to notify the Town Clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. the Friday before the scheduled interview date whether they will attend in person or via teleconference.
4. If an incumbent Commission member is requesting reappointment to the same Commission and is not available on the date of the interview, the incumbent must submit a letter by 4:00 p.m. the Friday prior to the interviews, describing the reason why the applicant cannot be present telephonically or in person for the interview, and why the applicant should be reappointed to the Commission.
5. If appointed, prior to starting the Commission term, appointees are required to attend a Commissioner Orientation and take the "Oath of Office."
6. Attend Advisory Body meetings once term begins.
7. Read the Commissioners' Handbook. Hard copies of the Handbook are to be returned to the Town Clerk when the term is complete.

Responsibility and Action: Town Council

1. Review applications.
2. *For adult applicants* – Interview applicants individually by Commission at a public meeting with all applicants present.
For student applicants – Town Council Selection Committee interviews applicants.
3. Determine if the incumbents not in attendance and having submitted a letter pursuant to this Policy should be considered for reappointment.
4. If there are limited applications for any vacancy to a Commission, the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, may request that the Town Clerk re-advertise the vacancy, reschedule the interviews, and notify all applicants of the new interview date.

COMPLIANCE - GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL

A member may be removed from the Advisory Body prior to the end of his or her term by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the Town Council and may not be reappointed for the following reasons:


1. Failure to attend Advisory Body meetings.
2. Failure to file the following documents required by the Fair Political Practices Commission (Adult Commissioners):
 - a. Form 700 – Assuming Office, Annual, and Leaving Office when term is complete.
 - b. Planning Commissioners are also required to complete AB 1234 Ethics Training and file the original certificate with the Town Clerk every two years.
3. Failure to comply with all Town Policies, Guidelines, and Handbooks.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under the Fair Political Practice Act, an advisory board member has a disqualifying conflict of interest in a governmental decision if it is foreseeable that the decision will have a financial impact on his or her personal finances or other financial interests. In such cases, there is a risk of biased decision-making that could sacrifice the public's interest in favor of the official's private financial interests. To avoid actual bias or the appearance of possible improprieties, the public official is prohibited from participating in the decision.

The Fair Political Practice Act does not prohibit an advisory board member from participating in a decision simply by virtue of holding a position as a board member, director, officer, or employment with a nonprofit corporation. However, the Town strongly encourages that in the event that a decision concerns a nonprofit corporation for which an advisory board member is a board member, director, officer, or employed with that nonprofit corporation, the person should recuse him or herself and at a minimum shall disclose the potential conflict of interest before any discussion and decision.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney



Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures

Policy Number: 2-05

Effective Date: 1983

Pages: 11

Enabling Actions:

Revised Date: 5/8/1985; 11/18/1987;
9/22/93; 11/16/1998; 4/16/2001;
12/6/2010; 4/21/2015; 9/20/2016;
8/20/2019

Approved:

PURPOSE

This Policy is to inform Planning Commission Members of their roles, responsibilities, and functions, as well as operating procedures for meetings.

SCOPE

Since 1983, the Town Council has adopted Planning Commission Policies and Procedures. The Procedures address topics including the agenda format, Commissioner conduct at Planning Commission meetings, absences, evidence outside of formal hearings, findings, voting, and other issues. Periodically, the Town Council adopts revisions to the Procedures.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. ORGANIZATION, OFFICERS, DUTIES

1.1 Organization.

The Planning Commission consists of seven voting members and shall be organized as prescribed by Town Code Section 29.20.750 and the Town Council. All Planning Commissioners shall be appointed by the Town Council. Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the Town Council and may be removed prior to the end of his or her term by a four-fifths vote of the Town Council.

1.2 Officers.

A Chairperson (hereinafter Chair) and Vice-Chairperson (hereinafter Vice Chair) shall be elected annually from among the Commission's membership at the first meeting in January, to serve at the pleasure of the Commission for a term of office of one year.

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 2 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

The Chair shall:

- a) Preside at all meetings of the Commission.
- b) Sign documents of the Commission.
- c) Determine meeting schedule and agenda items consistence with state law noticing requirements.

During the absence, disability or disqualification of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform all the duties and be subject to all the responsibilities of the Chair.

The Vice-Chair shall succeed the Chair if he or she vacates the office before his or her term is completed and shall serve the unexpired term of the vacated office. (A new Vice-Chair shall be elected at the next regular meeting.)

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, any other Commissioner shall call the Commission to order whereupon a Chair pro tem shall be elected from the Commissioners present to preside.

1.3 Duties.

The functions, powers and duties of the Planning Commission shall consist of all those functions, powers and duties of a Planning Commission as provided in Chapters 3 and 4 of Title 7, commencing with Section 65100 of the California Government Code (Planning and Zoning Law) and as the same may be hereafter amended. The Planning Commission shall perform such other duties and functions as may be designated in Town Code and by the Town Council.

1.4 Support.

The Secretary of the Planning Commission is the Community Development Director or designee. The Chair shall set the Agenda in consultation with the Secretary.

2. LEGAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS

Planning Commissioners must serve as a model of leadership and civility to the community and treat all members of the public, each other, and the issues before them with respect to ensure open and effective government.

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 3 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

To ensure the highest standards of respect and integrity during public meetings, Planning Commissioners shall:

1. Use formal titles. The Commissioners shall refer to one another formally during Commission meetings such as Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioner, or Mr., Mrs., or Ms., followed by the individual's last name.
2. Practice civility and decorum in discussions and debate. Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of free democracy in action. This does not allow, however, Commissioners to make abusive, slanderous, and personal comments, and/or physical actions that could be construed as threatening. During public discussions, Commissioners shall be respectful of others and diverse opinions, practice objectivity, and allow for the debate of issues.
3. Honor the role of the Chair in maintaining order and equity, and respect the Chair's efforts to focus discussion on current agenda items. Objections to the Chair's actions should be voiced politely and with reason.
4. Demonstrate effective problem-solving approaches. Commissioners are role models for residents, business people, and other stakeholders involved in public debate.
5. Base decisions on the -written evidence, arguments or testimony and decisions should be made objectively and based upon the merits and substance of the matter at hand, not through established coalitions or well-defined voting blocks. Judgment of decisions should be reserved until all applicable information has been presented.
6. Be prepared and knowledgeable. To effectively lead and inform the public, Commissioners shall be prepared and informed about issues on the agenda.
7. Be respectful of other people's time. Commissioners should stay focused, listen attentively, and act efficiently during public meetings. During public testimony, Commissioners should refrain from engaging the speaker in dialogue; however, for purposes of clarification, Commissioners may ask the speaker questions. Commission comment and discussion should commence upon the conclusion of all public testimony.

3. MEETINGS, STUDY SESSIONS, AGENDAS, AND STAFF REPORTS

3.1 Quorum and Attendance at Meetings.

A quorum to conduct business shall consist of a majority of the total number of filled seats consistent with Town Council Resolution 2014-041. For example, if all seven Commissioners are seated, then a quorum consists of a minimum total of four members of the Commission. A quorum is not required for workshops.

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 4 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

Requests by Commissioners to attend a Commission meeting via telephonic appearance are actively discouraged. Telephonic attendance shall only be permitted in the event of extraordinary events such as a medical, family, or similar emergency requiring a Commissioner's absence or in the event the Commissioner is out of the area on official Town business. In addition, at least a quorum of the Commission must participate from a location within the Town.

3.2 Public Meetings.

All meetings shall be held in full compliance with the provisions of state law, ordinances of the Town, and these Policies and Procedures.

3.3 Regular Meetings.

Regular meetings of the Commission shall be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in Town Council Chambers at 110 E. Main Street, Los Gatos, unless otherwise determined by the Commission. All regular meetings of the Commission will be called to order at 7:00 p.m., unless advertised otherwise, canceled, or rescheduled.

The Commission with the consent of the majority of the Commission, adjourn its meetings on or before 11:30 p.m. with any unfinished business being continued to the next regular, adjourned, or special meeting, unless the Commission votes to extend the meeting. At approximately 11:15 p.m., the Chairperson will call for review of any remaining agenda items to consider whether they will likely be completed by 11:30 p.m., or whether continuances should be considered. The Secretary of the Planning Commission, or designee, will post notice of any continued hearing or other unfinished business, as required by law.

3.4 Special Meetings.

A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairperson of the Commission, or by a majority of its membership on its own motion, or at the direction of the Town Council. Notice shall be sent in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code section 54950, *et seq.* ("Brown Act") and the Los Gatos Town Code.

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 5 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

3.5 Adjourned Meetings.

The Commission may adjourn any regular or special meeting to a time and place specified pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Brown Act.

3.6 Workshops/Study Sessions.

The Commission may hold a workshop as part of a regular or special meeting. When a matter is set for a workshop, public testimony on each item will generally be limited to three (3) minutes per person, at the discretion of the Chair. A workshop shall be for discussion only and the Commission will take no action on the workshop item.

3.7 Agendas.

At least seventy-two (72) hours before a regular meeting, copies of the Commission's agenda shall be posted in a location that is available for viewing by the public and made available on the Town website and at the Community Development Department. In accordance with the Brown Act, the Commission may not take action on any item that did not appear on the posted agenda, unless an exception is made as permitted under Government Code section 54954.2. The Chair may rearrange the order of presentation of items appearing on the agenda as he or she may deem necessary or desirable for the conduct of the meeting. No person shall be entitled to rely upon the order in which public hearing items appear on the posted agenda, and any public hearing on any agenda may commence immediately upon the time the meeting is called to order.

3.8 Staff Reports.

Staff Reports shall be made public whenever they are distributed to the Commission, except in the case of attorney/client privilege memoranda. Staff reports will usually be prepared with recommendations and shall include the basis for these recommendations and included in the hearing record on any application.

If, in reviewing a staff report, a Commissioner sees omissions, has questions, or is looking for specific information, it is advisable that the Commissioner contact the Community Development Director or designee prior to the hearing.

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 6 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

3.9 Order of Meetings.

The Order of Business shall be as follows subject to the Chairperson's final approval:

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Written Communications
4. Requested Continuances
5. Sub-Committee Reports
6. Verbal Communications
7. Consent Calendar
8. Continued Public Hearings
9. New Public Hearings
10. Continued Other Business
11. New Other Business
12. Adjournment

3.10 Chair's Rules of Order.

After issuing a warning, the Chair may order from the meeting location any person(s) who commit the following acts with respect to a regular or special meeting of the Commission:

1. Disorderly, contemptuous or insolent behavior toward the Commission, or any member thereof, which interrupts the due and orderly course of said meeting.
2. A breach of the peace, boisterous conduct or violent disturbance which interrupts the due and orderly course of said meeting.

After a warning by the Chair, if more than one individual at a given meeting continues to engage in disruptive or unruly behavior to the extent that it is preventing Commissioners from adequately participating in the meeting, the Chair may order that the meeting location be cleared of all members of the public (with the exception of members of the press who are not participating in the disruption), and/or (c) adjournment of the meeting to another time or place so that the meeting may continue uninterrupted.

Any Commissioner may move to require the Chair at the meeting to enforce the rules, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present shall require him or her to so act.

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 7 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

4. PRESENTATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Minutes and Recording.

Commission meetings are recorded and the recording is permanently preserved by the Town. The recording of the meeting is used by the Secretary of the Commission to prepare minutes of the hearing which must be approved by the Commission. The minutes of the Commission's proceedings shall show the vote of each Commissioner, including if they were absent or failed to vote on a matter considered.

4.2 Order of Presentation.

The order of the presentation shall be as follows:

1. The Chair shall announce the subject of the agenda item.
2. Presentation of staff report, including any environmental analysis or recommendation.
3. Questions of staff by Commissioners.
4. Public hearing opened.
5. Presentation of the applicant(s) or appellant(s).
6. Public comment.
7. Rebuttal comments by the applicant(s) or appellant(s).
8. Public hearing closed.
9. Commission discussion and action.

4.3 Public Participation.

The Commission welcomes participation and comment on any matter within its subject matter jurisdiction. It is the Commission's intent to create and maintain an environment where people feel comfortable participating in the public process and an atmosphere of respect for all who participate in the Town's public meetings. To maintain civility and respect and to allow the Commission to complete its work in a timely manner, the Commission requests that all attendees and participants show respect for every speaker regardless of his or her viewpoint, and to refrain from conduct that may inhibit others from addressing the Commission. Disrespectful conduct, such as hissing, booing, whistling, cheering, chanting, and judgmental hand gestures, are all inappropriate. The Commission also discourages profane remarks or personal attacks or insults to any member of the Commission, staff, other attendees or speakers, or the general public. Accordingly, the Commission requests the cooperation of all in maintaining a meeting

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 8 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

environment where persons can feel comfortable participating in the public process and expressing their views and opinions, and an atmosphere of respect for all.

4.4 Rules of Evidence.

Hearings and meetings before the Commission need not be conducted according to formal rules of evidence. Any relevant evidence may be considered if it is the sort of evidence upon which reasonable persons are accustomed to rely on in the conduct of serious affairs.

4.5 Written Evidence.

Written evidence that members of the public wish to submit to the Commission in advance of a Commission agenda item should be submitted by 11:00 a.m. on the Wednesday one week prior to the Commission meeting in order for such evidence to be provided to the Commission with its agenda packet in advance of the meeting. Any written evidence submitted after this day and time but prior to 11:00 a.m. on the day of the hearing will be distributed to the Commission in an Addendum or Desk Item.

Written or pictorial evidence distributed to the Commission at the meeting may not be effective, as the Commission may not have enough time to absorb its content. Although late correspondence is highly discouraged for this reason, any participant may submit written and pictorial evidence to the Commission during the public hearing on an item.

4.6 Oral Evidence, Time Limits, and Number of Speakers.

A speaker's card to speak on an item should be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission or designee.

The Chair's instructions to the audience will generally follow these guidelines:

1. Any person desiring to speak must first be recognized by the Chair.
2. All participants must speak from the podium.
3. All speakers are requested to first state their full name and full address, and to speak into the microphone as all meetings are recorded. To ensure correct spelling of names and addresses, all speakers are encouraged to submit a speaker's card to the Secretary of the Commission or designee.

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 9 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

4. All comments shall be directed to the Commission as a body, and not to any particular Commissioner, staff person or audience. No person, other than Commissioners, staff, and the person having the floor shall be permitted to enter into the discussion. Commissioners shall only ask questions of the speakers through the Chair. Each applicant and appellant shall be limited to a five (5) minute presentation at the start of the public hearing and a three (3) minute rebuttal after all other speakers have been heard. All members of the applicant's or appellant's team shall be heard as a group within these time limits. Questions by the members of the Commission do not count against the time. Members of the public who wish to speak on any items will be limited to up to 3 minutes each. No person shall be allowed to speak a second time per item. In order to assure the opportunity for all those desiring to speak before the Commission, there is no yielding of time to another speaker. The Chair, at his or her discretion, may allocate more or less time for speakers due to the complexity of the issues and/or due to a large number of speakers on a particular item. Except for the applicant or appellant, all speakers shall be limited to the same amount of time to speak.

4.7 Evidence Received Outside a Hearing.

Applications before the Planning Commission involve quasi-judicial matters, legislative matters and matters that have attributes of each. On quasi-judicial matters California law requires decisions to be based on findings, and findings to be based on evidence presented at the hearing. Accordingly, the actual decision of the Commission on a quasi-judicial matter must be supported by evidence presented at the hearing, i.e. the staff report, testimony given during the hearing and comments from other Commissioners. A Commissioner may not state or predetermine his or her decisions on an application prior to the hearing.

In order to avoid the appearance of bias or impropriety, individual Commissioners are prohibited from discussing, outside of the public hearing process, the substance of any project with project proponents, opponents and member of the public. This prohibition shall apply to all projects, whether conceptual or proposed, that can be considered by the Commission in reviewing an application, on appeal or on remand. Study sessions may be used as a means of facilitating informal communication. Individual Commissioners who have engaged in prohibited discussions shall recuse themselves from consideration of the project.

Incidental contacts that do not address the substance of any project are not prohibited. Incidental contacts are those that are not reasonably understood to influence a Commissioner's decision and include speaking with an interested party to obtain approval to enter a property and to

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 10 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
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obtain information intended to orient the Commissioner about the physical aspects of the property or a project.

5. MOTIONS

Action upon an order, resolution, ordinance, or any other action of the Commission may be proposed by any Commissioner by a motion. Before a motion can be considered or debated it must be seconded, at which time it shall be on the floor and must be considered. If not seconded, the motion dies for lack of a second and shall be so declared by the Chair. Substitute motions and other parliamentary procedures shall follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Pursuant to Planning Commission Resolution No. 78-4, adopted May 10, 1978, the Planning Commission will not accept requests for continuances from applicants after 12:00 noon of the Friday preceding any Commission meeting, provided, however, that the Commission retains the right to make exceptions when it finds that a genuine emergency exists which was not known to the applicant.

A motion to adopt or approve staff recommendations or simply to approve the action under consideration shall, unless otherwise particularly specified be deemed to include adoption of all proposed findings and execution of all actions recommended in both the written staff report on file on the matter, any verbal staff report, and other evidence presented during the hearing.

6. VOTING AND ABSENTEES

Voting of not less than three (3) votes shall be required to carry a motion, unless a larger number of votes is required by applicable ordinance or other law.

If a Commissioner is not eligible to participate in the consideration of an item due to a conflict of interest, the Commissioner shall be disqualified and shall recuse him or herself from the voting, in which case the Commissioner cannot be included in the quorum. Prior to consideration of the matter, the conflicted Commissioner shall recuse on the record, stating the basis for the recusal, and shall then leave the room, unless legally entitled to remain under applicable law.

If a majority of the Commission shall be disqualified to vote on a matter by reason of actual or apparent conflict of interest, the Commission shall select by lot, or other means of random

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 11 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
-----------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------

selection, that number of disqualified Commissioners which, when added to the Commissioners eligible to vote, shall constitute a quorum.

A Commissioner who expects to be absent should notify the Chair and the Community Development Department prior to the meeting.

Pursuant to Resolution 2011-012, any Commissioner who is absent from eight (8) regular meetings held in a twelve (12) consecutive month period, shall, as a result, surrender his or her office on the Planning Commission and the office shall be considered vacant.

A Commissioner who is absent from any portion of a hearing conducted by the Commission may vote on the matter at the time it is acted upon, provided that he or she viewed the video recording of the entire portion of the hearing from which he or she was absent, and he or she has examined all of the staff reports and minutes presented during the portion of the hearing from which he or she was absent; and he or she states for the record before voting that the Commissioner deems himself or herself to be as familiar with the record and with the evidence presented at the hearing as he or she would have been had he or she personally attended the entire hearing.

7. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Planning Commission operates under a series of laws that regulate its operations as well as the conduct of its members. The Town Attorney serves as the Town's legal officer and is available to advise the Commission on these matters.

The Ralph M. Brown Act requires that meetings of the Planning Commission be open and public. "Meetings" occur whenever four (4) or more members of the Commission hear, discuss, or deliberate on any matter that is relevant to the Town. This includes discussions that occur face to face, serially, through third parties, or through written, telephonic, or e-mail communications.

The Political Reform Act controls conflicts of interests through disclosure of financial interests and prohibition in participating in decision making. Commissioners are prohibited from making, participating in or in any way attempting to use their official position to influence a governmental decision in which they know or have reason to know they have a financial interest. Financial interests can arise out of property ownership, business investment, leadership in a business entity, and receipt of money or gifts.

Title: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures	Page: 12 of 12	Policy Number: 2-05
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8. CONSTRUCTION AND EFFECT

These Policies and Procedures shall be construed and applied so as to ensure a full and fair hearing of relevant evidence which is offered on a land use matter and to facilitate an orderly analysis of evidence and issues by the Commission. Failure to comply with the strict provisions of these Policies and Procedures shall not necessarily invalidate any action taken by the Commission.

9. RULES OF ORDER.

Except as otherwise provided in these Policies and Procedures, Roberts Rules of Order shall be used as a guide for the conduct of the meetings of the Planning Commission. No omission to conform to said rules of order shall in any instance be deemed to invalidate any action taken by the Commission.

10. AMENDMENT.

These Policies and Procedures may only be amended by the Town Council.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



 Robert Schultz, Town Attorney