



CITY OF PALO ALTO OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

November 17, 2015

The Honorable City Council
Palo Alto, California

Interview of Applicants for the Parks and Recreation Commission

On Monday, November 2, 2015 City Council selected the following applicants to interview for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Portions of the Palo Alto Municipal Code describing requirements for serving on each body are included for reference.

Parks and Recreation Commission

[2.25.010 Membership.](#)

There is created a Parks and Recreation Commission composed of seven members who shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council, but who shall not be Council Members, officers or employees of the city of Palo Alto. Each member of the Commission shall have a demonstrated interest in parks, open space and recreation matters. All members of the Commission shall at all times be residents of Palo Alto.

(Ord. 4587 § 2 (part), 1999)

There are three open terms ending December 15, 2018 on the Parks and Recreation Commission. The six applicants to be interviewed are as follows: 10 minute interviews.

Jim Cowie	5:00 p.m.
Anne Cribbs	5:10 p.m.
Judith Fields	5:20 p.m.
Cybele LoVuolo-Bhushan	5:30 p.m.
David Moss	5:40 p.m.
Victoria Thorp	5:50 p.m.

Copies of all applications are attached. Some applications may be redacted at the request of the applicant. A full set of non-redacted applications will be emailed to Council Members directly.

The City Council is scheduled to vote to appoint candidates for the Parks and Recreation Commission on Monday, November 30, 2015.

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Attachment1.a:** Attachment A: PARC Cowie, Jim (PDF)
- **Attachment1.b:** Attachment B: PARC Cribbs, Anne (PDF)
- **Attachment1.c:** Attachment C: PARC Fields Judith (PDF)

- Attachment1.d: Attachment D: PARC LoVuolo-Bhushan, Cybele (PDF)
- Attachment1.e: Attachment E: PARC Moss, David (PDF)
- Attachment1.f: Attachment F: PARC Thorp, Victoria (PDF)

Department Head: Beth Minor, City Clerk

Personal Information

Name:

Address:

Cell Phone:

___ Home / ___ Office Phone:

E-mail:

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? ___ **Yes** ___ **No**

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? ___ **Yes** ___ **No**

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? ___ **Yes** ___ **No**

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you have an investment in, or do you serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

- 1) engage in business with the City,
- 2) provide products or services for City projects, or
- 3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? ___ **Yes** ___ **No**

Excluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? ___ **Yes** ___ **No**

How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission?

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| ___ Community Group | ___ Daily Post |
| ___ Email from City Clerk | ___ City Website |
| ___ Palo Alto Weekly | ___ Flyer |

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

Attachment1.a: Attachment A: PARC Cowie, Jim (6202 : Interview Applicants for PARC)

Employment

Present or Last Employer:

Occupation:

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

1. What is it about the Parks and Recreation Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#).

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Parks and Recreation Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

4. Parks and Recreation Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan:

Community Services and Facilities Element [LINK](#)

Natural Environment Element [LINK](#)

Baylands Master Plan [LINK](#)

Park Dedication Ordinance (Municipal Code) [LINK](#)

Bicycle - Pedestrian Transportation Plan [LINK](#)

Youth Master Plan [LINK](#)

Foothill Park Fire Management Plan [LINK](#)

Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Report [LINK](#)

I am somewhat familiar with the Baylands Master Plan and the Youth Master Plan but I would not claim to be experienced with any of these plans today.

Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

California Government Code Section 6254.21 states, in part, "No state or local agency shall post the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official on the Internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual." The full code is attached. *This consent form will not be redacted and will be attached to the Application and posted to the City's website.*

The full code can be read here: [LINK](#)

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

☒ I give permission for the City of Palo Alto to post to the City's website the attached Board and Commission Application intact. I have read and understand my rights under Government Code Section 6254.21. I may revoke this permission at any time by providing written notice to the Palo Alto City Clerk.

OR

☐ I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City's website. I am providing the following alternate information and request that they use the following contact information instead.

Address:

Cell Phone:

☐ Home / ☐ Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: _____

J. Cowie

Date: _____

10-4-15

Personal Information

Name: Anne Warner Cribbs

Address: 2450 Agnes Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Cell Phone: 415.264.2067

☐ Home / ☒ Office Phone:

E-mail: cribbsaw@pacbell.net

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ NoDo you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? ☐ Yes ☒ NoAre you available and committed to complete the term applied for? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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Do you have an investment in, or do you serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

- 1) engage in business with the City,
- 2) provide products or services for City projects, or
- 3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Excluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? ☐ Yes ☒ No**How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission?**☐ Community Group☐ Daily Post☐ Email from City Clerk☐ City Website☒ Palo Alto Weekly☐ Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

1. BS Stanford 1999 - Social Sciences
2. President 2009 Summer National Senior Games

CITY OF PALO ALTO, CA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

15 AUG 31 PM 12:38

Attachment 1.b: Attachment B: PARC Cribbs, Anne (6202 : Interview Applicants for PARC)

Employment

Present or Last Employer: San Francisco Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee

Occupation: President & CEO

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

1. Board member Rich May Foundation, building soccer. Rugby field in East Palo Alto
2. Board member San Jose Sports Authority
3. member - past Stanford Athletic Board
4. PAST Board member + Goal Score leader, PAST Swimming and Soccer coach
5. Advisory Board America Sures Bay Area

1. What is it about the Parks and Recreation Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

Interest in lifelong health and fitness and opportunities for all residents to enjoy and have access to park + recreational facilities. Investment in parks & recreation is critical to maintaining quality of life.

I have been involved in all kinds of athletic events for all ages and have raised funds for many sports based initiatives.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#).

1. FIELD & FACILITIES use. AS THERE IS MORE pressure on fields + facilities from user groups, PA, the city should continue to develop partnerships to ensure there are facilities.
2. Creating a culture of LIFELONG fitness + health in AN OAKLAND CITIZENS

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Parks and Recreation Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

1. Work WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS on vision for CLEVELAND community center
2. continue to establish partnerships WITH community to support parks AND recreation programs.

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Natural Environment Element [LINK](#)

Baylands Master Plan [LINK](#)

Park Dedication Ordinance (Municipal Code) [LINK](#)

Bicycle - Pedestrian Transportation Plan [LINK](#)

Youth Master Plan [LINK](#)

Foothill Park Fire Management Plan [LINK](#)

Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Report [LINK](#)

I had experience with the first Cubberley master plan. I worked for Palo Alto Recreation from 1985-1991 and created many special events and programs.

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Address:

Cell Phone:

☐ Home / ☐ Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: Aune W. Cushman Date: 8/26/15



Personal Information

Name: Judith Fields

Address: 2581 Park Blvd, Y103, Palo Alto 94306

Cell Phone:

☒ Home / ☐ Office Phone: 650-322-1441

E-mail: judith2468@gmail.com

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? ☒ Yes ☐ No
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their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest, Form 700.

Do you have an investment in, or do you serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

- 1) engage in business with the City,
 - 2) provide products or services for City projects, or
 - 3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- Excluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? ☐ Yes ☒ No

How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission? friend

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration: No education or training specific to parks and recreation

Page 1 Parks & Recreation Commission

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Occupation: VSO (Volunteers Serving Overseas); now retired.

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

I volunteer for Theatre Works. Before I went overseas, I tutored high school youngsters in continuation school. At a different time I tutored twins from Ghana to help them with English. I am looking to get involved with the community. I volunteered for six years in three Asian countries.

1. What is it about the Parks and Recreation Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why? I am a regular user of four parks. I

believe that recreation is vital to health and enjoyment of life. I believe in fairness.. I am a reasonably educated and thinking person. I want to help.

Page 2 Parks & Recreation Commission

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#). I come to the commission with my own issue—a more equal allocation of resources to the different parks. I go to four parks regularly—Peers Park, Hoover, Boulware and the park on Alma opposite the train station. All have working fountains except Boulware. It has been useless for over two years, full of sand. Two have bathroom facilities. Only one does not have a watered playing field, Boulware.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Parks and Recreation Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

I would want to set up some kind of monitoring to evaluate the state of the parks as they exist today, what's needed, and set priorities. I realize that this overlaps with your study.

I would like to set up a liaison with the Police Department. There are many homeless people at the Boulware Park entrance and around the neighborhood. They create hygiene problems—use of the park as a bathroom and their proximity to the small children's play ground (about 12 to 14 feet). Sometimes trash.

Neighbors tell me that this park was known as the “Ghetto Park” because the area was once predominately black. They wonder if this park suffers from benign neglect. They also believe that the police department “herds” the vans and campers to the park's area because it is a mixed residential/commercial area. And not like the most affluent areas where the homeless are not tolerated. If this is true—the herding—then we need to make it a priority to provide bathrooms and fix the water fountain. For everybody.

Page 3 Parks & Recreation Commission

4. Parks and Recreation Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection. None. But I learn fast.

Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan:

Community Services and Facilities Element [LINK](#) Natural Environment Element [LINK](#)

Baylands Master Plan [LINK](#)

Park Dedication Ordinance (Municipal Code) [LINK](#) Bicycle - Pedestrian Transportation Plan [LINK](#)

Youth Master Plan [LINK](#)

Foothill Park Fire Management Plan [LINK](#)

Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Report [LINK](#)

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OR

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Address:

Cell Phone:

___ Home / ___ Office Phone: E-mail:

Signature: Judith Fields

DocuSigned by:
Judith Fields
787CC09E023748F...

10/5/15

Page 4 Parks & Recreation Commission

Attachment1.c: Attachment C: PARC Fields Judith (6202 : Interview Applicants for PARC)

Personal InformationName: **Cybele LoVuolo-Bhushan**

Address [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

☒ Home / ☐ Office Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ NoDo you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? ☐ Yes ☒ NoAre you available and committed to complete the term applied for? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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- 2) provide products or services for City projects, or
- 3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Excluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? ☐ Yes ☒ No**How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission?**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Group | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily Post |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email from City Clerk | <input type="checkbox"/> City Website |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Palo Alto Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer |

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

BS in Cultural Studies from SUNY N.Y. "Empire State College"
 Field work in India. 12 Graduate (PhD) program under scholarship @
 The University of Rochester, N.Y. ~~At~~ Social Anthropology program.

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Fujitsu Corporation

Occupation: ESL Writing Curriculum Instructor

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

I have advocated for women's issues. Been involved with Bay Area Action before it became Acterra after a merger with the Peninsula Conservation center.

Presently on the Board of ACLU Mid-Peninsula.

Member of Women's International League for Peace & Freedom.

Involved with community activism To Keep

Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in Palo Alto.

1. What is it about the Parks and Recreation Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

I'm an avid hiker + camping enthusiast. Love our parks. Have a lot of innovative ideas about how Palo Alto can maximize residents enjoyment of our Parks +

The Recreation programs that we offer.

I bike to most meeting in the city that occur in the A.M. hours, and am interested in improving bicycling safety + enjoyment for others who realize how wonderful our environment is for bicyclists. Truly outstanding!

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#).

The Buena Vista Mobile Home park, Speaking at city council meetings to urge our council members to value the economic + cultural diversity that The B.V. residents represent. I believe B.V. is important to the future of Palo Alto + says a lot about our values as a community

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Parks and Recreation Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

- I would like to enhance Mitchell Park's accessibility to the JHS Summer swim program by refiguring the enclosure to include a gate on the park Mitchell Park field side so more residents can enjoy the pool - increases revenue a bit, v. little cost + improves residents enjoyment of the swimming @ JHS pool.
- Would like to see the city allow a cafe style offering @ the Foothills Info Center which is under-utilized - This would draw more residents to the park - Do it by the bid process to be fair, etc.
- ~~Study~~ Consider how Parks + Rec, can offer Fresh water swimming either in F.H. or Anastrode Park so those residents

who are allergic to chlorine can enjoy swimming in Fresh water - Sonoma city has done this + residents love the Spring swimming a lot. It is a Real Family Park

4. Parks and Recreation Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan: *Read a lot of the plan - attended a meeting @ Lucy Stern*

Community Services and Facilities Element [LINK](#) *- Attended aledq program*

Natural Environment Element [LINK](#)

Baylands Master Plan [LINK](#)

Park Dedication Ordinance (Municipal Code) [LINK](#)

Bicycle - Pedestrian Transportation Plan [LINK](#)

Youth Master Plan [LINK](#)

Foothill Park Fire Management Plan [LINK](#)

Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Report [LINK](#)

No but I bike Palo Alto on most days

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OR



I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City's website. I am providing the following alternate information and request that they use the following contact information instead.

Address: *3838 Mumford Place, Palo Alto, CA. 94306*

Cell Phone: *415 429. 9830*

☒ Home / ☐ Office Phone:

E-mail: *Bhushans@AOL.com*

Signature: *L. LoVullo-Bhushan*

Date: *8.20.15*

Parks and Recreation Commission Application

Personal Information

Name: David Moss

Address: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone [REDACTED]

☒ Home / ☐ Office Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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Do you have an investment in, or do you serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

- 1) engage in business with the City;
- 2) provide products or services for City projects; or
- 3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Excluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? ☐ Yes ☒ No

How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Post |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email from City Clerk | <input type="checkbox"/> City Website |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Palo Alto Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer |

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

MBA from Santa Clara University. I've made a career here in Palo Alto and elsewhere in Silicon Valley as a programmer, business analyst, data quality analyst, and IT project manager.

Employment

Present or Last Employer: Wells Fargo

Occupation: Business Analyst and IT Project Manager

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

My wife and I have raised 3 kids here in Palo Alto. I have held several volunteer positions through the years in the schools (Ohlone playground remodel, Gunn Foundation, Gunn Sports Boosters, Gunn new pool committee) and in AYSO (soccer coach, league ball manager), as well as East Palo Alto reading tutor, and Boy Scout troop trip coordinator. We went with the City Council last year to Oaxaca to help represent the city at the 50th anniversary of Neighbors Abroad.

CITY OF PALO ALTO, CA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
15 AUG 13 PM 4:55

1. What is it about the Parks and Recreation Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

I love biking throughout the city and utilizing Foothills and Arasterdero preserve and my local parks, and have always been interested in issues that affect them. My work as a business analyst and IT project manager has given me years of experience as a productive member of teams, and a leader of teams to develop and deliver complex IT solutions. My volunteer activities have almost always been as a member of a committee, and I love the people interaction. As an analyst I am very good at breaking down issues into manageable activities, stating requirements, being a liaison between users, technical staff, and management, and also analyzing data. These skills are valuable in every committee and team. My areas of particular interest include expansion of and threats to open space, urban park fair usage, biking and hiking access, ongoing relations between city, PAUSD, athletic leagues, and Stanford. All these could use someone like me who can be analytical yet empathetic, a good listener, a team player, a leader, patient, persistent, and polite.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#).

I am interested in any issue that represents an extension of or threat to our current open space and also the connectivity to those spaces from all parts of the city. In order to make them more accessible. I want more people out of their houses and out of their cars and into nature. Some recent issues that most interested me: the refuse digester plant's impact on the Baylands, golf course changes and impact on the Baylands, the trail around Stanford to give us more quasi open space, the walking/biking trail extension near Page Mill and Arastradero Rd, the bike bridge across 101 to give more people year-round access to the Baylands and Shoreline, the expansion of bike paths along east-west and north-south corridors, especially Charleston/Arastradero corridor, the huge success of the Magic Playground and Mitchell Park Library in my nearby Mitchell Park, the wonderful usage of the present Cubberley fields and track, the under used open space behind Greendell School, the management of Mitchell park to deal with single corporate events versus the public use of the park on a busy afternoon. a new public pool, biker and hiker relations at Arastradero preserve, dog leash enforcement in open space, and more use of open space by school groups for nature and conservation studies.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Parks and Recreation Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

I am interested in all of the above issues as an extension of or threat to current open space and connectivity to them from all parts of the city, in order to make them more accessible to more people and build community. I would accomplish this goal by sponsoring more community events like the wildly successful music-in-the-park and the July 4th Chili Cookoff. But don't stop there... have more lectures, community hikes, community picnics, night hikes, star parties, music in Arastradero Preserve, movie nights in Foothills Park, more use of open space for camping nights, community weeding days, creek cleanups, and trash cleanup events, to mention a few. We want events that would expand interest in our open spaces and encourage people to want them.

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Natural Environment Element [LINK](#)

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Bicycle - Pedestrian Transportation Plan [LINK](#)

Youth Master Plan [LINK](#)

Foothill Park Fire Management Plan [LINK](#)

Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Report [LINK](#)

I have read the bicycle-pedestrian transportation plan, and the Cubberley Community Center Committee report because they both affect my daily activities. I have been on the community rides and gone to the community events around the changes in arastradero/charleston rd configuration. I went to the opening of the Page Mill/Arastradero Rd trail, a joint project with Stanford. As for Cubberley, my nearest open space, I was very interested in keeping Cubberley Community Center intact and the redwood trees and track intact, and the fields intact. I love how it has turned out.

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Address: Ferne Ave

Cell Phone:

☒ Home / ☐ Office Phone: 650-494-7234

E-mail: ssow111@gmail.com

Signature: _____

Date: _____

8/11/2015

Attachment 1.e: Attachment E: PARC Moss, David (6202 : Interview Applicants for PARC)

Personal Information

Name: Victoria Thorp

Address: 555 Hale Street Palo Alto CA 94301

Cell Phone: 415-378-8687

☐ Home / ☒ Office Phone:

E-mail: victoriathorp@gmail.com

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ NoDo you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? ☒ Yes ☐ NoAre you available and committed to complete the term applied for? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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Do you have an investment in, or do you serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

1) engage in business with the City,

2) provide products or services for City projects, or

3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? ☐ Yes ☒ NoExcluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? ☐ Yes ☒ No**How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission?**☐

Community Group

☐

Daily Post

☒

Email from City Clerk

☐

City Website

☐

Palo Alto Weekly

☐

Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

BA, English, Tufts University, M.Ed, UCLA, Secondary teaching credential, English, UCLA

Employment

Present or Last Employer: freelance writer and editor

Occupation: writer and editor

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

Currently serve as a member of Partners in Education Advisory Board and as a volunteer with All Students Matter. I was on the PiE Executive Board for two years and was an active leader at Addison Elementary School from 2007-2015. I am also an alumna of Leadership Palo Alto.

1. What is it about the Parks and Recreation Commission that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

As an active person and the parent of two girls, I am lucky to have taken advantage of many of Palo Alto's wonderful Parks and Recreation opportunities, from classes at the Jr. Museum, to summer camps, swimming at Rinconado Pool and hiking in Foothills Park. I love being able to enjoy these opportunities and appreciate being part of a community where parks, recreation and open space are valued and supported. I am applying for the Parks and Recreation Commission because I would like to contribute to preserving the City's parks and recreation assets and ensuring that they are positioned to serve the community for many years to come.

Attachment 1.f: Attachment F: PARC Thorp, Victoria (6202 : Interview Applicants for PARC)

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Commission that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Commission meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#).

I am interested in the many of the issues that have come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, but I'll focus here on the proposal for expanding and rebuilding the Junior Museum and Zoo. I lived just a few blocks from the Junior Museum for the first five years I lived in Palo Alto, and treasured having this fantastic resource right down the street for hands on play, animal discovery and education opportunities. I will never forget watching my four year old daughter let a tarantula crawl over her arm during a science class for preschoolers! So I'm very excited that the Junior Zoo is in the midst of a capital campaign to rebuild its somewhat rundown facility and expand its education programs to bring hands-on science and nature exploration to kids in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park. I love the public-private partnership that keeps the Junior Museum running and was very interested in hearing how the Commissioners interacted with the Executive Director and their role in reviewing the proposed remodel plans as it was a very supportive and collaborative conversation.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Parks and Recreation Commission achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

I know that the Parks and Recreation Department is in the midst of a big planning and prioritization process that will help clarify goals and shape the future of where resources are spent in Palo Alto. So my first step if I were to become a Commissioner would be to better understand existing plans and proposals before setting out any of my own goals. However, as Palo Alto resident, my observation is that Rinconada Park and Pool are in dire need for remodeling and rebuilding. I would love to see an upgraded pool and locker room in this area, coupled with upgraded park facilities. I think Burgess Park in Menlo Park offers an interesting model of what can be done, although that site is larger and was rebuilt with private donations so it may not be a relevant comparison point. In addition, I would like to see new and up to date play ground equipment to incorporate more variety of structures and ways to engage children in play. Finally, I think the Parks and Recreation Commission should focus on access to parks and ensuring that open space and nature are part of the City's plan for development in the years ahead.

Attachment 1.f: Attachment F: PARC Thorp, Victoria (6202 : Interview Applicants for PARC)

4. Parks and Recreation Commission Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan:

Community Services and Facilities Element [LINK](#)

Natural Environment Element [LINK](#)

Baylands Master Plan [LINK](#)

Park Dedication Ordinance (Municipal Code) [LINK](#)

Bicycle - Pedestrian Transportation Plan [LINK](#)

Youth Master Plan [LINK](#)

Foothill Park Fire Management Plan [LINK](#)

Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Report [LINK](#)

As the editor of Palo Alto Pulse, I have explored some of these documents in researching stories for the site. Specifically, I have read the two proposed elements of the Comprehensive Plan, the Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Plan and the Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Report.

Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

California Government Code Section 6254.21 states, in part, "No state or local agency shall post the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official on the Internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual." The full code is attached. *This consent form will not be redacted and will be attached to the Application and posted to the City's website.*

The full code can be read here: [LINK](#)

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

☒ I give permission for the City of Palo Alto to post to the City's website the attached Board and Commission Application intact. I have read and understand my rights under Government Code Section 6254.21. I may revoke this permission at any time by providing written notice to the Palo Alto City Clerk.

OR

☐ I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City's website. I am providing the following alternate information and request that they use the following contact information instead.

Address:

Cell Phone:

☐ Home / ☐ Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: 
 DocuSigned By: Victoria Thorp

Date: 10/16/2015

Attachment 1.f: Attachment F: PARC Thorp, Victoria (6202 : Interview Applicants for PARC)