



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting

Wednesday 6th March 2019

8:15 AM Historic Schoolhouse

765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Kenny Chung, Gary Hanes, Angela Hey, Ed Holland (Chair), Bob Pierce and Kevin Welch attended. Deirdre McQuillan was unable to attend. Also in attendance were Craig Hughes (Town Council Representative), Howard Young (Town Public Works Director), Gary Nielsen (Town Police Commissioner) and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office representative, Sergeant Andy Hui.

2. Oral Communications

Caroline Vertongen (100 Palmer Lane) requested a reply from comments on the traffic study. She noted the Priory crossing lights had been out. She doesn't think Portola Valley residents want more lighting. She also wanted the costs of projects to be known before the public is asked for comment. The committee informed her that crossing lights had been discussed at prior Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Committee meetings. Also the lights at ground level on the crossing, that she had seen recently, had been put there by Woodside Patrol who are on a 3-week trial to provide crossing guard services.

3. Minutes Approved

The minutes of the January 2019 meeting were unanimously approved, proposed by Kevin, seconded by Kenny.

4. Sheriff's Report

4.1. Accidents and Citations

Sergeant Hui reported that in February there were:

- 77 citations
 - 8 for speeding
 - 11 for stop sign violations

There will be a new format for the monthly police report. Kevin asked Sergeant Hui if it would be possible to add the percentage of people who are residents.

- Accidents – 1 injury accident - on Feb 7th at 5:24 pm on Portola Rd, driver turning into the Priory going southbound, a cyclist was going northbound – the cyclist struck the motorist. Minor injury to the ribs and back of the cyclist who was transported to Stanford hospital. The driver claimed she did not see the cyclist.

Andy explained that officers need training to be allowed to issue citations that you are not a witness to. He said a fatal accident report will take about 4 months. The last fatal report he dealt with was 120 pages.

Ed asked what happened in a prior case where a car in 2018 had turned into a group of cyclists and seriously injured one. He asked what it would take to have more officers trained to cite people.

5. Public Works Report

5.1. Crossing Guards – Woodside Patrol Trial

Howard stated that there was a 3 week trial with Woodside Patrol to provide crossing guards at Corte Madera and the Priory. Woodside Patrol has trained their employees.

Kevin has been a temporary head teacher and administrator and said some schools have effective hand-held Stop Signs with lighting round the edge. Howard says the town supplies signs, vests and whistles for the patrol people.

Ed asked who was responsible for the crossing guards. Historically it has been the school district. The town is now sharing costs with the schools.

Kevin asked what the backup plans are if a Woodside Patrol employee is delayed in traffic. Howard, says the town is the backup. Howard, noted that Woodside Patrol is a fully staffed company.

5.2. Field Renovations Completed

Howard noted sports on the fields, which have been renovated over the winter, have already started.

5.3. Resurfacing

Howard will bring a street resurfacing schedule to the next meeting.

5.4. Storm Mitigation

The town staff is working on almost every street to ensure storm culverts are clear to prevent flooding in the rainy weather.

5.5. Traffic Study

Paul Krupka has presented his draft report to Howard, Ed and Kevin. Ed thanked Paul for the report. Howard asked the rest of the committee members for comment. Ed will circulate the draft report to committee members. Comments should be sent to Howard, copy Ed and Kevin. Howard plans to share the report for public comment in April.

Howard said the report recommended lighted signs and other improvements. Craig also noted that none of the recommendations were huge.

Kevin noted that, with the Alpine Hills Swim and Tennis club under construction, children are turning off Alpine Road and going down Firethorn that connects with Los Trancos Road. They then can enter the club from the back entrance, rather than crossing Los Trancos at Alpine where there is also a bus stop. This could be an alternative long term solution as the junction of Los Trancos and Alpine has many activities going on: turning cars, pedestrians crossing, a bus stop, cyclists on the shoulder, etc.

Howard noted that the ASCC (Architectural & Site Control Commission) needs to be involved. Craig will send a message to the ASCC committee chair so she can see the draft report.

There was a discussion on town signs and their visual impact. The goal is to have effective striping and signage, in keeping with the rural nature of Portola Valley. Craig noted that this was done at Windy Hill, regarding parking signs.

5.6. Bike Tools

Howard said he is looking at putting bike repair tools at Triangle Park.

6. Ongoing Committee Business

6.1. Updates on Windy Hill Parking

Kevin asked if there was a plan to put chippings at the side of Portola Road, as it has been muddy with winter rains.

7. Outreach and Events

7.1. Representation at the Town Picnic

The date of the town picnic has not yet been determined.

7.2. Safe Routes to School Film

Kevin mentioned a Safe Routes to School film that has been circulated to the committee.

7.3. Cars Coming to School

Bob Pierce noted that more kids could walk to school in Portola Valley. Kenny noted that transportation methods are changing with self-driving cars.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 11th April at 7:00 pm in the Schoolhouse so the public can attend to hear the Traffic Study Report. Subject to availability of the School house and no major events.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the chairman, Ed Holland, at 9:27 am.