

Advisory body application



Submitted on	3 April 2026, 3:59AM
Receipt number	218
Related form version	16

Applicant's full name (first and last)	Radhika Anne
Desired advisory body (check all that apply)	Environmental Quality Commission Finance and Audit Commission Housing Commission Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Commission
Advisory body preference	Environmental Quality Commission

Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education	Masters in Engineering
Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees	I was a Girl Scout mom and ran the science fair in our Menlo Park elementary School
Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of each advisory body you are applying to and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities	I have been a resident of Menlo Park for over 20 years raising as family with my husband. I work in tech and related to data centers. Due to seeing the impact of tech on environment I would like to do my part towards sustainable environment. I am here to give back to Menlo Park and would be interested in being on board for one or more memberships available
Describe why you want to serve on your preferred advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member	I am to give back yo Menlo Park.

Planning Commission questionnaire

1. Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and how your personal, community or professional experience relates to these responsibilities.	Planning committee reviews the impact of proposed plans with respect to Menlo Park city development
2. Please tell us about your views of the Planning Commissions relationship with the City Council and the Commission's relationship with City staff?	I don't have any However collaboration is the key
3. What is your understanding of the time commitment that is necessary in order to be well prepared for Planning Commission meetings?	I don't know but I can put in as many hours as needed

4. What major issues do you foresee the Planning Commission dealing with and what would the Commission's role be in dealing with these issues?

Road congestion planning, housing and I personally would be interred in a safe space for children to gather and play

5. What is your familiarity with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and what are your ideas about how the implementation can be a success? Please include an explanation of what you define as success.

City thriving will be success of any plan that is implemented

Contact and residency information

Email

Cell phone

Home phone

Business phone

Address 1

Address 2

City

Menlo Park

State

CA

Zip code

94025

Business address

Number of years as a Menlo Park resident

25

Current City Council district

District 4

How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)

Nextdoor

If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):

Cellphone: No

Business phone: No

Home phone: No

Email: No

The City Council often makes appointments to various bodies during the same meeting. Are you willing to be appointed to a body other than the ones you have chosen?

Yes

Application acknowledgement and submittal

I agree

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a final upward stroke.

[Link to signature](#)

Advisory body application



Submitted on	22 March 2026, 10:12PM
Receipt number	203
Related form version	16

Applicant's full name (first and last)	Jeffrey Berkes
Desired advisory body (check all that apply)	Housing Commission Planning Commission
Advisory body preference	Planning Commission

Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education	BS, Real Estate Finance, University of Denver, 1985 MBA, International Finance, The George Washington University, 1993
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Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees	Member, Policy Advisory Board, Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics, University of California-Berkeley Full Member, Urban Land Institute Member, ICSC (formerly International Council of Shopping Centers)
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Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of each advisory body you are applying to and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities	The Planning Commission is responsible for ensuring compliance with local zoning ordinances; reviewing and approving or denying applications requiring certain approvals (use permits, zoning variances, etc.); recommending planning-related actions to City Council, such as rezoning, General Plan amendments, and below market-rate housing agreements; and assists City Council with special projects. The Housing Commission is responsible for advising City Council on housing related matters, including housing supply and recommendations on the Housing Element of the General Plan. The Planning Commission makes decisions; the Housing Commission provides advice to City Council.
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My education and career in commercial real estate has spanned 45 years. I am currently the Chief Investment Officer of Paragon Commercial Group, a private real estate investment company that acquires, developed and redevelops open-air retail properties in the West Coast and Mountain West states. Prior to going PGC in early 2026, I spent 25 years at Federal Realty Investment Trust, a S&P 500 publicly-traded Real Estate Investment Trust (NYSE: FRT) where I served successively as Chief Investment Officer, President - West Coast, and President and Chief Operating Officer. For 21 of the 25 years, my office was at Santana Row in San Jose, which Federal Realty developed and operates today. In addition to Santana Row, Federal Realty owns and operates over 100 properties and specializes in the acquisition, development and redevelopment of high-quality, open-air retail and retail-driven mixed-use properties. In my roles at Federal Realty, I was both closely involved and responsible for the development teams which acquired, developed and redeveloped several billion dollars of commercial property and am intimately familiar with the development process, and the financial requirements of a successful development/redevelopment project. I am also acutely aware of the importance of engaging the community and elected officials and City staff in an honest, transparent way to ensure a

successful outcome for the long-term benefit of all stakeholders.

Describe why you want to serve on your preferred advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member

Simply, Menlo Park is my home, and I want my City to be the best that it can be. I hope to bring to the Commission a heightened understanding of the implications of City development rules and policies on the private market participants...both property owners and the occupants thereof.

Planning Commission questionnaire

1. Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and how your personal, community or professional experience relates to these responsibilities.

The Planning Commission is responsible for ensuring compliance with local zoning ordinances; reviewing and approving or denying applications requiring certain approvals (use permits, zoning variances, etc.); recommending planning-related actions to City Council, such as rezoning, General Plan amendments, and below market-rate housing agreements; and assists City Council with special projects. The Planning Commission is a decision-making body.

My education and career in commercial real estate has spanned 45 years. I am currently the Chief Investment Officer of Paragon Commercial Group, a private real estate investment company that acquires, developed and redevelops open-air retail properties in the West Coast and Mountain West states. Prior to going PGC in early 2026, I spent 25 years at Federal Realty Investment Trust, a S&P 500 publicly-traded Real Estate Investment Trust (NYSE: FRT) where I served successively as Chief Investment Officer, President - West Coast, and President and Chief Operating Officer. For 21 of the 25 years, my office was at Santana Row in San Jose, which Federal Realty developed and operates today. In addition to Santana Row, Federal Realty owns and operates over 100 properties and specializes in the acquisition, development and redevelopment of high-quality, open-air retail and retail-driven mixed-use properties. In my roles at Federal Realty, I was both closely involved and responsible for the development teams which acquired, developed and redeveloped several billion dollars of commercial property and am intimately familiar with the development process, and the financial requirements of a successful development/redevelopment project. I am also acutely aware of the importance of engaging the community and elected officials and City staff in an honest, transparent way to ensure a successful outcome for the long-term benefit of all stakeholders.

More specifically, while the backbone of the mixed-use properties I've worked on in my career have had a strong ground level component with a curated mix of shops, restaurants and services, they have also included significant public spaces and parks and upper floor office and residential (both for sale and for rent) uses as well as hotels. In addition, through the operation of these properties, I've learned a great deal about the marketability of the ground level space and what is required to activate the developed area throughout the week as well as what is important to the occupants (tenants) of these space to help ensure that they have all the tools required to operate successful, vibrant businesses.

My work experience is broad and is always been focused on the long-term impacts and benefits of physical real estate to the community in which it is located, married with a deep understanding of how to determine the financial feasibility, and therefore the likely success of implementing, a development or redevelopment. I believe my experience in these aspects of commercial real estate will be valuable in helping other members of the Planning Commission and City Council understand and evaluate how changes to the General Plan and Zoning (variances or otherwise) can improve the built environment in our City.

2. Please tell us about your views of the Planning Commissions relationship with the City Council and the Commission's relationship with City staff?

The Planning Commission, City Staff and City Council should work together cooperatively and productively to enhance the long-term, responsible improvement of public and private land for benefit of the residents of Menlo Park. The Planning Commission's role in this triumvirate is to develop and advise City Council on an achievable General Plan and Housing Element and

ensure compliance with zoning while establishing consistency when granting variances thereto.

3. What is your understanding of the time commitment that is necessary in order to be well prepared for Planning Commission meetings?

I would expect the time commitment to be variable, depending on whether or not work is being undertaken on City Council special projects or larger items such as the Housing Element/General Plan. Outside of this work, I would expect approximately 6-8 hours of preparation time for each Planning Commission meeting

4. What major issues do you foresee the Planning Commission dealing with and what would the Commission's role be in dealing with these issues?

I foresee the Planning Commission being involved in addressing any updates required to the Housing Element and General Plan as well as any BMR agreements. The Planning Commission has an advisory role in these activities.

5. What is your familiarity with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and what are your ideas about how the implementation can be a success? Please include an explanation of what you define as success.

I am generally familiar with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan but not intimately familiar. That said, the framework of the Specific Plan must be market-based to allow the owners of the buildings to attract capital for necessary improvements to the built environment and occupants of the building to operate successfully to open and stay in business, while ensuring that the environmental impacts do not materially, adversely impact our community. Success would be measured by execution of the Plan by market participants, creating a vibrant and active downtown; increased utilization of public transportation, primarily Caltrain); and by increasing the supply of housing, especially affordable housing.

Contact and residency information

Email

[REDACTED]

Cell phone

[REDACTED]

Home phone

Business phone

Address 1

[REDACTED]

Address 2

City

Menlo Park

State

CA

Zip code

94025

Business address

[REDACTED] 3

Number of years as a Menlo Park resident

21

Current City Council district

District 4

How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)

Email

If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):

Cellphone: No
Business phone: No
Home phone: No
Email: Yes

The City Council often makes appointments to various bodies during the same meeting. Are you willing to be appointed to a body other than the ones you have chosen?

No

Application acknowledgement and submittal

I agree

Signature



[Link to signature](#)

Advisory body application



Submitted on	2 April 2026, 9:58PM
Receipt number	216
Related form version	16

Applicant's full name (first and last)	Nancy Larocca Hedley
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Desired advisory body (check all that apply)	Planning Commission
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Advisory body preference

Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education	B.S. CSU, Chico - Cum Laude. Major: Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and a minor in Management.
Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees	I am completing my four-year term (2022-2026) with our City's Environmental Quality Commission where I served as the Chair and Vice Chair. Additionally, I serve on the Advisory Board of Menlo Spark and have been involved with the 350 Menlo Park Climate Team and a local Indivisible chapter. Prior to that, I was co-lead of the local chapter of Solidarity Sundays and volunteered as a room parent at Oak Knoll and the M-A Co-Op when my daughter was in attendance and have served as a Challenge Day volunteer at M-A over the past few years to support the social-emotional learning of our teens.
Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of each advisory body you are applying to and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities	I understand that the Planning Commission reviews development proposals and makes decisions around land use and recommends updates and amendments to the General Plan etc. to City Council. It also seems that the Planning Commission plays a role in ensuring our city understands and is compliant with changing laws at the state level. As a 20+ year resident of Menlo Park, I care deeply about this community and want to continue bringing the vision we collectively have for our city into form. It has been an honor to serve on the EQC the past four years and in that role, I have become extremely familiar with both our Climate Action Plan and our Environmental Justice Element. It's been gratifying to work with other commission members, city staff, and members of the community to advance these initiatives. Insight into how our city government operates, and my experience with sustainability initiatives will help me hit the ground running with the Planning Commission. Professionally, I serve as a leadership coach and team development consultant, working with clients to successfully navigate change, resolve conflict, and find creative ways to meet their goals. I believe these professional skills can be useful to the Planning Commission and the City as we navigate meeting our housing commitments to the state while also supporting our local businesses and residents, amongst other opportunities and challenges that may arise.

Describe why you want to serve on your preferred advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member

I am keen to serve on the Planning Commission because it plays a key role in how Menlo Park evolves. We are living through a period in history where the world is changing rapidly, and I want to be a part of building the future of our city where current and future residents can thrive.

I am inspired by the Guiding Principles of our General Plan and look forward to integrating these principles into the decisions and opportunities for recommendations that come before the Planning Commission.

Thank you for considering my application.

Planning Commission questionnaire

1. Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and how your personal, community or professional experience relates to these responsibilities.

(note: same answer as above)

I understand that the Planning Commission reviews development proposals and makes decisions around land use and recommends updates and amendments to the General Plan etc. to City Council. It also seems that the Planning Commission plays a role in ensuring our city understands and is compliant with changing laws at the state level.

As a 20+ year resident of Menlo Park, I care deeply about this community and want to continue bringing the vision we collectively have for our city into form. It has been an honor to serve on the EQC the past four years and in that role, I have become extremely familiar with both our Climate Action Plan and our Environmental Justice Element. It's been gratifying to work with other commission members, city staff, and members of the community to advance these initiatives. Insight into how our city government operates, and my experience with sustainability initiatives will help me hit the ground running with the Planning Commission.

Professionally, I serve as a leadership coach and team development consultant, working with clients to successfully navigate change, resolve conflict, and find creative ways to meet their goals. I believe these professional skills can be useful to the Planning Commission and the City as we navigate meeting our housing commitments to the state while also supporting our local businesses and residents, amongst other opportunities and challenges that may arise.

2. Please tell us about your views of the Planning Commissions relationship with the City Council and the Commission's relationship with City staff?

I believe that the best work is done in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration, and I would strive to live these principles in my relationships with the other Commissioners, City Council, and City staff. While that is the ideal, I know that community members feel strongly about how our city evolves and that could cause friction amongst the various players. I would do my best to support everyone in finding a path forward that will bring the most benefit to our city.

3. What is your understanding of the time commitment that is necessary in order to be well prepared for Planning Commission meetings?

I imagine it would take 1-2 hours (at least) to be well prepared for Planning Commission meetings, more time if a big project or important plan update is on the agenda.

4. What major issues do you foresee the Planning Commission dealing with and what would the Commission's role be in dealing with these issues?

There are three big issues/opportunities I see: 1) the Housing Element update, 2) reviewing big projects as they come into development, and 3) the downtown parking lot ballot measure and its impact on our housing commitments.

The Commission's role is an important forum to consider development proposals, to hear public feedback on matters before the Commission, and to weigh in on how the proposals align with our General Plan, any specific plans, and Guiding Principles. From what I understand, the Commission often helps to shape large development proposals before they go to City Council for final review.

5. What is your familiarity with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and what are your ideas about how the implementation

I am familiar with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and remember being a part of initial community meetings and surveys that

can be a success? Please include an explanation of what you define as success.

informed the plan. It's incredible to see how much this area has evolved since the plan was put into place (e.g. housing along El Camino Real south of Middle Ave, the Springline development north of Santa Cruz Ave, and the activation around the train station (e.g. Philz and Little Sky Bakery).

In terms of further implementation, I would love to see safe, protected bicycle routes along El Camino Real which connect with Palo Alto, Atherton, Redwood City, and beyond. Supporting multi-modal transit will be essential as our city continues to grow – this approach is healthier for residents, saves money for them, is better for the environment, and supports the village character and downtown vibrancy that we all appreciate.

Additionally, I would love to see our community and local businesses align around an answer for downtown vibrancy: business success + increased housing. Given that local business owners have concerns about the impact of removing parking spaces, I would love to see us first build 1-2 parking garages downtown, then build housing on the downtown parking lots provided this is supported by the ballot measure this fall. I would hope that this type of creative response would ensure businesses are supported and that housing near services and transit is built. Critically, if we do not meet our housing goals, we are subject to Builder's Remedy and lose control over what gets built in our city. I think we all agree that this is an outcome that must be avoided at all costs.

I would also like to see our city invite specific kinds of businesses to provide services to residents who visit downtown. Perhaps we could survey residents about what they'd like to see and then find local businesses to invite in. On my list would include a plastic-free refill station and a salad bar providing organic, locally grown, hearty salads.

Contact and residency information

Email	
Cell phone	
Home phone	
Business phone	
Address 1	
Address 2	
City	Menlo Park
State	CA
Zip code	94025
Business address	
Number of years as a Menlo Park resident	22
Current City Council district	District 4
How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)	☐ City website ☐ Email ☐ Local newspaper

If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):

Cellphone: No
Business phone: No
Home phone: No
Email: Yes

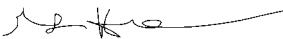
The City Council often makes appointments to various bodies during the same meeting. Are you willing to be appointed to a body other than the ones you have chosen?

Yes

Application acknowledgement and submittal

I agree

Signature



[Link to signature](#)

Advisory body application



Submitted on	23 February 2026, 1:25AM
Receipt number	195
Related form version	16

Applicant's full name (first and last)	Josh Leslie
Desired advisory body (check all that apply)	Housing Commission Planning Commission
Advisory body preference	Housing Commission

Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education	B.A. Cognitive Science, UC Berkeley MBA, Columbia University
Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees	I've coached approximately 10 youth sports teams on a volunteer basis for various Menlo Park teams through Oak Knoll, Hillview, AYSO, and Alpine Little League. I've served on the Board of Directors of a non-profit summer camp (Camp Tawonga) I served as the Auction Chair for the Menlo-Atherton Auction for two years.
Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of each advisory body you are applying to and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities	I understand my responsibility on the Housing Advisory Board would be to review and advise the City Council on all housing-related matters. I've spent most of my life in this community, growing up in the Bay Area and attending Menlo School. I've owned a home and lived in Menlo Park since 2004. I've sent three kids to Menlo Park public schools and have been involved in my community throughout this time as a coach, volunteer, and involved parent. I love this community and want to continue to see it prosper and grow.
Describe why you want to serve on your preferred advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member	I want to serve my community and give back to this community that has given so much to me. My hope is to help this community continue to grow in ways that make our community stronger, more inclusive, and to continue to be a wonderful place to live for all.

Planning Commission questionnaire

1. Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and how your personal, community or professional experience relates to these responsibilities.	I understand my responsibility on the Housing Advisory Board would be to review and advise the City Council on all housing-related matters. I've spent most of my life in this community, growing up in the Bay Area and attending Menlo School. I've owned a home and lived in Menlo Park since 2004. I've sent three kids to Menlo Park public schools and have been involved in my community throughout this time as a coach, volunteer, and involved parent. I love this community and want to continue to see it prosper and grow.
2. Please tell us about your views of the Planning Commissions relationship with the City Council and the Commission's relationship	I don't have any insight into these relationships at present.

with City staff?

3. What is your understanding of the time commitment that is necessary in order to be well prepared for Planning Commission meetings?

My understanding is that the time commitment is one meeting per month. I assume I will need to spend hours each month on additional work, such as researching policy or reviewing proposals in advance of meetings.

4. What major issues do you foresee the Planning Commission dealing with and what would the Commission's role be in dealing with these issues?

As a longtime resident of Menlo Park, I am well aware of a multitude of Planning and housing-related issues that the Council has been considering. I would view my role as an informed advisor, helping the council make the best decision for our community.

5. What is your familiarity with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and what are your ideas about how the implementation can be a success? Please include an explanation of what you define as success.

I'm familiar with this plan, having followed the Council's progress over the last two decades in defining, refining, and executing it. I would reserve my opinion on implementation ideas until I had a deeper and more current understanding of the plan, and a chance to meet with and speak to more stakeholders.

What does success look like? That's easy to say (but perhaps harder to accomplish): residents feel the city is vibrant, safe, and thriving, developers believe the city is a predictable and fair partner, and the city itself can execute the plan in a financially attainable and predictable manner.

Contact and residency information

Email

Cell phone

Home phone

Business phone

Address 1

Address 2

City

Menlo Park

State

CA

Zip code

94025

Business address

Number of years as a Menlo Park resident

22

Current City Council district

District 5

How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)

Local newspaper

If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):

Cellphone: No

Business phone: No

Home phone: No

Email: Yes

The City Council often makes appointments to various bodies during the same meeting. Are you willing to be appointed to a body other than the ones you have chosen?

Yes

Application acknowledgement and submittal

I agree

Signature



[Link to signature](#)

Advisory body application



Submitted on	3 April 2026, 4:55PM
Receipt number	224
Related form version	16

Applicant's full name (first and last)	Ronald Renwick
Desired advisory body (check all that apply)	Planning Commission
Advisory body preference	

Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education	MBA: Santa Clara University BS Mechanical Engineering: University of California, Berkeley
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Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees	I am not serving on other committees at this time.
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Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of each advisory body you are applying to and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities

My understanding is that the Planning Commission has an important responsibility to help guide how the city grows and changes, while, hopefully, assisting to maintain the character and feel that Menlo Park is known for. The commission reviews development proposals to make sure they align with the General Plan and zoning ordinance, makes decisions on items such as use permits, architectural control, variances, minor subdivisions, and associated environmental review, and advises the City Council on larger policy issues such as rezonings, major subdivisions, and General Plan matters. Just as important, the commission serves as a forum where community concerns, neighborhood character, housing and development needs, environmental considerations, and the city's long-term goals must all be weighed carefully. I see the role as requiring fairness, preparation, sound judgment, and a willingness to listen to different perspectives before making decisions that will affect Menlo Park for years to come.

My life experience, both professionally and personally, has been to listen carefully, research thoroughly, and provide decisions that align with strategic directions. More importantly, I've learned that communication to diverse audiences must include not only what decision was made, but also why it was made and how it was made. As a head of product for many years, critical decisions need to be made across many vectors. For example: what resources are available? what is legally required? who will be impacted? do the requested changes align with the scope of our plans?

I would like to add that Menlo Park is, simply stated, a great place to live. I moved here to be in a walkable, accessible community, and Menlo Park has more than delivered on that front. I would love to help the City continue to maintain its incredible tone as it grows into the future.

Describe why you want to serve on your preferred advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member

Being completely transparent, I really like Menlo Park, want it to continue being a great place to live, and I am in a position in my life to help with my time and effort. As a more recent resident it is possible that I bring a slightly different viewpoint on why this city is fun and interesting, and, after many decades as a homeowner in San Jose, being a renter in Menlo Park brings me

Planning Commission questionnaire

1. Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and how your personal, community or professional experience relates to these responsibilities.

My understanding is that the Planning Commission has an important responsibility to help guide how the city grows and changes, while, hopefully, assisting to maintain the character and feel that Menlo Park is known for. The commission reviews development proposals to make sure they align with the General Plan and zoning ordinance, makes decisions on items such as use permits, architectural control, variances, minor subdivisions, and associated environmental review, and advises the City Council on larger policy issues such as rezonings, major subdivisions, and General Plan matters. Just as important, the commission serves as a forum where community concerns, neighborhood character, housing and development needs, environmental considerations, and the city's long-term goals must all be weighed carefully. I see the role as requiring fairness, preparation, sound judgment, and a willingness to listen to different perspectives before making decisions that will affect Menlo Park for years to come.

My life experience, both professionally and personally, has been to listen carefully, research thoroughly, and provide decisions that align with strategic directions. More importantly, I've learned that communication to diverse audiences must include not only what decision was made, but also why it was made and how it was made. As a head of product for many years, critical decisions need to be made across many vectors. For example: what resources are available? what is legally required? who will be impacted? do the requested changes align with the scope of our plans?

I would like to add that Menlo Park is, simply stated, a great place to live. I moved here to be in a walkable, accessible community, and Menlo Park has more than delivered on that front. I would love to help the City continue to maintain its incredible character as it grows into the future.

2. Please tell us about your views of the Planning Commissions relationship with the City Council and the Commission's relationship with City staff?

With respect to the City Council, I see the Commission as serving both an advisory and regulatory role, fulfilling its established functions while supporting the City Council with an understanding of impact and value for items that affect the City now and into the General Plan future. As noted in Question 1, the Commission reviews land use and development matters, applies adopted city policies and ordinances in matters within its authority, and provides recommendations to the City Council on broader planning and policy issues. The City Council, as the elected body, sets overall policy direction and makes final decisions on larger legislative matters.

Given what I have read from published agendas, meeting minutes, and videos of proceedings, City Staff provides the Commission with technical and legal analysis, procedural guidance, and insight into Council priorities and applicable regulations. Commissioners, in turn, assess the information provided by City experts, review carefully, ask questions as needed, and make independent judgments while respecting that staff works within the priorities and management structure established by the City Council. To me, an effective Commission works best when there is mutual respect, clear roles, and a shared commitment to fair, transparent, and well-reasoned decision-making. I also understand that the Commission's relationship with City staff should be professional, collaborative, and respectful of clear boundaries.

3. What is your understanding of the time commitment that is necessary in order to be well prepared for Planning Commission meetings?

My understanding that the Planning Commission meetings constitute the most public facing time commitment for the Commission, however my assumption is that the real work occurs outside of meetings. Commission members must review the proposals to have a strong understanding of them prior to the meeting, as well as having any questions answered by City staff should the Commission member see a need for clarification on any item. Perhaps more importantly, there will be time invested on General Plan discussions and, I hope, listening sessions on the Downtown Specific Plan.

4. What major issues do you foresee the Planning Commission dealing with and what would the Commission's role be in dealing with these issues?

I believe the Menlo Park Planning Commission will be dealing with major issues including housing production and affordability, implementation of the state's housing requirements, the Downtown Specific Plan, future change in the downtown and El Camino Real areas, and updates to local rules needed

to stay consistent with state housing law. I also expect environmental justice, anti-displacement, design quality, traffic and parking impacts, and neighborhood compatibility to remain important considerations. The biggest challenge, in my eyes, is to balance somewhat competing needs for resources and space and the Commission can help the Council in this. The Commission's role is to review projects for consistency with the General Plan, zoning ordinance, and environmental requirements; make decisions on matters within its authority; and provide thoughtful recommendations to the City Council on broader policy questions. In my view, the Commission should help Menlo Park balance needed housing and economic vitality with neighborhood livability, fairness, and long-term planning goals.

5. What is your familiarity with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and what are your ideas about how the implementation can be a success? Please include an explanation of what you define as success.

Having read the Plan, watched committee and council meetings and reviewed articles written about it, my understanding of the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan is that it is one of Menlo Park's key tools for shaping growth, design, land use, parking, circulation, and the public realm in the city's downtown and along El Camino Real. I also understand that the plan has evolved over time, including amendments made to help implement the Housing Element and expand housing opportunities in the Specific Plan area. I see the plan as an effort to balance several important goals at once: encouraging housing and reinvestment, strengthening downtown vitality, improving walkability and the pedestrian environment, and preserving Menlo Park's character.

I would define successful implementation as producing visible, balanced results on the ground. Success means adding needed housing, including affordable housing, while also creating a downtown that is active, attractive, safe, and supportive of local businesses. It means projects should be well designed, fit their context, improve the public realm, and work well in terms of parking and circulation. With all of that said, the most important element of the plan is consistent and varied communication with the most important group - the citizens of Menlo Park. The Plan will cause disruption and change. That is inevitable. The key is how the Commission supports the Council in implementing the plan in a way that citizens understand why things are occurring and, perhaps most importantly, when they will be done.

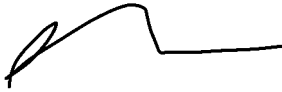
I believe implementation can be most successful if the city applies the plan consistently, prioritizes projects that provide clear public benefits, manages tradeoffs transparently, and keeps public trust by making

Contact and residency information

Email	
Cell phone	
Home phone	N/A
Business phone	N/A
Address 1	
Address 2	
City	Menlo Park
State	CA

Zip code	94025
Business address	N/A
Number of years as a Menlo Park resident	3
Current City Council district	District 3
How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)	City website
If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):	Cellphone: No Business phone: No Home phone: No Email: Yes
The City Council often makes appointments to various bodies during the same meeting. Are you willing to be appointed to a body other than the ones you have chosen?	Yes

Application acknowledgement and submittal

	I agree
Signature	 Link to signature

Advisory body application



Submitted on	3 April 2026, 11:12AM
Receipt number	219
Related form version	16

Applicant's full name (first and last)	Meredith Rohr
Desired advisory body (check all that apply)	Planning Commission
Advisory body preference	

Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education	J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law. B.A. in Communications, Minor in Sociology, University of San Francisco.
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Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees	Active Participant of Belle Haven Empowered ("BH Empowered") and Belle Haven Neighborhood Association ("BHNA"), and Climate Resilient Communities/CCCT meetings and events. Volunteer Swim Coach for Race Swami, Belle Haven Lead community liaison for swimming pool initiatives in Belle Haven Member of the CA BAR (RIHC) Competitive swimmer for Menlo Masters
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Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of each advisory body you are applying to and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities	(Same answer to Question 1 of "Planning Commission Questionnaire" below) The Planning Commission (PC) significantly impacts residents' lives through its decisions on zoning, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, economic growth, community engagement, and urban design. Well-planned initiatives—such as mixed-use zoning, public transit expansions, green spaces, and inclusive development—can enhance quality of life by fostering walkability, affordability, and equitable access to resources. Poorly managed projects may lead to negative outcomes like displacement, environmental degradation, or socioeconomic inequalities. The balance between competing priorities—such as economic development versus affordable housing, or infrastructure expansion versus community preservation—shapes the physical and social fabric of neighborhoods, directly influencing residents' safety, mobility, access to services, and long-term well-being. Effective planning requires prioritizing sustainability, inclusivity, and community input to maximize benefits while mitigating harm. As a tech contracts attorney I offer expertise in negotiation, compliance, and risk mitigation that can enable the PC to deliver strategic assessments and tee up issues to build consensus within the PC and facilitate review/approval by the City Attorney and City Council. As an active resident of Belle Haven, I will strive to align my contributions with my neighborhood's needs and priorities.
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Describe why you want to serve on your preferred advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member	I want to serve on the Planning Commission to ensure Belle Haven residents' perspectives directly shape planning decisions that impact our neighborhood. As a Belle Haven resident with hands-on engagement
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through BHNA, BH Empowered, CRC/CCCT, and a volunteer swim coach for Race Swami, I am uniquely positioned to act as a direct channel for communicating the needs and concerns of my neighbors and to advocate for proposals and positions that further the objectives of the Environmental Justice Element pursuant to CA Senate Bill 1000.

Planning Commission questionnaire

1. Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and how your personal, community or professional experience relates to these responsibilities.

The Planning Commission (PC) significantly impacts residents' lives through its decisions on zoning, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, economic growth, community engagement, and urban design. Well-planned initiatives—such as mixed-use zoning, public transit expansions, green spaces, and inclusive development—can enhance quality of life by fostering walkability, affordability, and equitable access to resources. Poorly managed projects may lead to negative outcomes like displacement, environmental degradation, or socioeconomic inequalities. The balance between competing priorities—such as economic development versus affordable housing, or infrastructure expansion versus community preservation—shapes the physical and social fabric of neighborhoods, directly influencing residents' safety, mobility, access to services, and long-term well-being. Effective planning requires prioritizing sustainability, inclusivity, and community input to maximize benefits while mitigating harm.

As a tech contracts attorney I offer expertise in negotiation, compliance, and risk mitigation that can enable the PC to deliver strategic assessments and tee up issues to build consensus within the PC and facilitate review/approval by the City Attorney and City Council. As an active resident of Belle Haven, I will strive to align my contributions with my neighborhood's needs and priorities.

2. Please tell us about your views of the Planning Commissions relationship with the City Council and the Commission's relationship with City staff?

I believe that an ideal relationship between the Planning Commission (PC), City Staff, and City Council is built on the following core principles: (1) clear understanding of roles – the City Council holds legislative authority, the PC provides expert technical recommendations (not lawmaking or legal advice) and approves certain development proposals, and City Staff delivers actionable data and analysis support; (2) collaborative relationship that integrates public input into work product, with PC and City Staff jointly preparing evidence-based and legally supported analyses for City Council's review; (3) transparency and accountability through clear reporting and rationales for recommendations—ensuring citizens understand how outcomes are reached, not just what they are; and (4) practical adaptability that prioritizes real-world constraints (budgets, timelines, community impact) over rigid processes, avoiding gridlock by focusing on solutions rather than politics.

The objective is to ensure decisions and outcomes are efficient and trusted by the public without sacrificing democratic principles and by allowing each body to excel at its defined function: City Council decides, PC advises, Staff executes.

3. What is your understanding of the time commitment that is necessary in order to be well prepared for Planning Commission meetings?

Preparing for Planning Commission meetings requires a significant time commitment to research proposals, review documents, and prepare statements to ensure effective input and participation. As someone who prioritizes structured meetings and efficient agendas, I recognize the importance of dedicated time to ensure my contributions support the Commissions' ability to complete critical tasks — such as approvals, assessments, and proposal reviews—for City Staff and City Council. To sum up, I am applying with the understanding that there is extensive work to be done outside of Planning Commission meetings.

4. What major issues do you foresee the Planning Commission dealing with and what would the Commission's role be in dealing with these issues?

The Planning Commission (PC) currently faces critical challenges in advancing affordable housing, preventing legacy resident displacement, addressing homelessness and NIMBYism, protecting land and historical landmarks from harmful development, reducing pollution to safeguard public health, and revitalizing downtown Menlo Park—all amid systemic underfunding from federal and state governments.

I believe the PC can effectively address these interconnected priorities not as a decision-maker, but as a catalyst for collaboration. By actively engaging with community-based organizations (CBOs), non-profits, large corporations, and small businesses through structured dialogue and transparent data sharing, the PC can amplify grassroots insights, establish realistic timelines and budgets, and strategically leverage existing tools—such as zoning frameworks, land-use plans, and public hearings—to drive tangible, community-led solutions.

5. What is your familiarity with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and what are your ideas about how the implementation can be a success? Please include an explanation of what you define as success.

I believe true downtown success requires revitalizing Menlo Park’s parcels while preserving existing architectural character, enhancing pedestrian accessibility and safety, expanding community services and residential opportunities, integrating pedestrian and bike networks, and managing parking to avoid conflicts with Santa Cruz Avenue businesses.

To revitalize downtown and ensure sustainable growth, Menlo Park must prioritize housing developments required by California law in a manner that honors our community’s historic character using targeted incentives (i.e. tax credits, public benefit bonuses) while rigorously protecting local landmarks, small businesses, and neighborhood integrity. This requires deep community involvement, partnerships with local stakeholders (businesses, nonprofits, and neighborhood groups), and coordination with developers, City Commissions, staff, and Council to advance projects that balance preservation with progress.

Contact and residency information

Email	
Cell phone	
Home phone	
Business phone	
Address 1	
Address 2	
City	Menlo Park
State	CA
Zip code	94025
Business address	
Number of years as a Menlo Park resident	4
Current City Council district	District 1
How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)	Other: Community leaders in Belle Haven, Belle Haven Empowered

If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):

Cellphone: No
Business phone: Yes
Home phone: No
Email: Yes

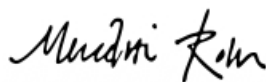
The City Council often makes appointments to various bodies during the same meeting. Are you willing to be appointed to a body other than the ones you have chosen?

Yes

Application acknowledgement and submittal

I agree

Signature



[Uploaded signature image: MR Signature.png](#)

Advisory body application



Submitted on	6 March 2026, 9:52AM
Receipt number	200
Related form version	16

Applicant's full name (first and last)	Jennifer Schindler
Desired advisory body (check all that apply)	Planning Commission
Advisory body preference	Planning Commission

Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education	Dartmouth College, AB - Economics, Magna Cum Laude
Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees	Menlo Park Planning Commission, Nov 2022- April 2026 > Chair, one term > Vice-chair, one term Menlo-Atherton High School PTA > Prom Closet co-chair (2025, 2026), providing prom attire to all M-A students who want it > Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, co-chair (2024) No on Measure V Campaign, 2022 - organizing team member > Canvassing & community discussion - outreach to hundreds of residents about the details and impacts of Measure V > Created scaled messaging to educate team members & residents Peninsula College Fund, 2023-2026 > support local college student, who is first in their family to attend college
Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of each advisory body you are applying to and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities	Please see Question #1 in Planning Commission questionnaire (below)
Describe why you want to serve on your preferred advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member	Being a Planning Commissioner has deepened my sense of connection to my community and allowed me to give back to a city that has been a wonderful home for me and my family for over 20 years. I plan to continue making recommendations that will help Menlo Park grow and thrive.

Planning Commission questionnaire

1. Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and how your personal, community or professional experience relates to these responsibilities.	I have served as a Planning Commissioner since the fall of 2022, including a term as Vice Chair and a term as Chair. I have invested deeply in studying and giving input on major projects that will shape the future of the city: the 2023-2031 Housing Element update, the Environmental Justice element and their associated zoning updates, the Parkline project/ SRI redevelopment, the CitizenM hotel, Hotel Moxy, 123
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Independence Drive, 320 Sheridan Drive, and 3705 Haven Avenue.

As a commissioner, I also studied and provided feedback on dozens of residential projects and smaller commercial projects. My feedback is always intended to align with our city's zoning regulations, the principles of our General Plan and the specific objectives of our Housing Element, such as adding housing units, supporting local businesses, protecting our natural resources and ensuring connection and community for our residents.

2. Please tell us about your views of the Planning Commissions relationship with the City Council and the Commission's relationship with City staff?

The Planning Commission reviews and makes recommendations on significant development projects for which City Council is the final decision-making body. In my experience, roughly one third to one half of the Planning Commission efforts are on projects that will eventually be voted on by Council. When commissioners review such projects, they should surface issues and make recommendations that could eventually be useful to Council. I do this by asking probing questions of developers and staff and by recommending specific ways projects could be improved.

I have tremendous respect and appreciation for the work that city staff do with the Planning Commission. City staff provide most of the information commissioners receive about a project and typically include a recommended action for each project. Staff have a deep understanding of each project and of the relevant city and state regulations. I use all the content in the staff report to help me understand a project and then use discussions with city planners, the city's attorneys and developers to learn more.

3. What is your understanding of the time commitment that is necessary in order to be well prepared for Planning Commission meetings?

Preparing for Planning Commission meetings requires reviewing the full staff report, identifying questions to address during the commission meeting and occasionally engaging with staff ahead of the meetings on specific concerns. This could take anywhere from 3 to 30 hours, depending on the projects being reviewed.

To provide more valuable and comprehensive recommendations, commissioners should stay current on the priorities and preferences of the City Council. Commissioners should have a broader awareness of state housing regulations and regional development trends. Commissioners should also be involved community members with lots of ways to learn about the values and priorities of other Menlo Park residents.

4. What major issues do you foresee the Planning Commission dealing with and what would the Commission's role be in dealing with these issues?

I would expect the Planning Commission to review nearly all of the projects listed as "Under Review" on the Community Development department site, plus the anticipated revisions to the Springline Development Agreement and potentially revisions to other previously approved projects. I also expect the Planning Commission to eventually review proposals for developing affordable housing on the downtown parking lots.

The Commission's role would be to make recommendations that align with the city's Housing Element and General plan and do so with transparency and public input, as much as possible.

I'd also expect the Planning Commission to give input into the next update of the Housing Element, starting in 2029, if not earlier.

5. What is your familiarity with the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and what are your ideas about how the implementation can be a success? Please include an explanation of what you define as success.

As a Planning Commissioner, I worked on updates to the El Camino Real/ Downtown Specific Plan that reflected the 2023-2031 Housing Element. I voted for modifications to zoning that could lead to denser infill in this high-resource area adjacent to the best public transportation options in our city. Successful development downtown and along El Camino would balance the city's need for much more housing, especially affordable housing, an economically vibrant downtown, better and more options for connectivity and attractive public spaces.

Contact and residency information

Email	[REDACTED]
Cell phone	[REDACTED]
Home phone	
Business phone	
Address 1	[REDACTED]
Address 2	
City	Menlo Park
State	CA
Zip code	94025
Business address	[REDACTED]
Number of years as a Menlo Park resident	20.5
Current City Council district	District 5
How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)	Other: Knowing when my current term expires
If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):	Cellphone: No Business phone: No Home phone: No Email: Yes
The City Council often makes appointments to various bodies during the same meeting. Are you willing to be appointed to a body other than the ones you have chosen?	No

Application acknowledgement and submittal

I agree

Signature



[Link to signature](#)