



**SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING MINUTES**

**Date:** 1/30/2020  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** City Council Chambers  
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

**1:00 p.m. Special Meeting**

**A. Call to Order**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Present:** Carlton, Combs, Nash, Mueller, Taylor  
**Absent:** None  
**Staff:** City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Cara Silver, City Clerk Judi A. Herren

**Public Comment**

- Greg Faris spoke in support of the annexation of the Menlo Triangle.
- Lisa William spoke in support of banning gas powered garden tools (Attachment).
- Leah Elkins spoke in support of banning gas powered leaf blowers (Attachment).
- Mitch Slomiak spoke in support of greenhouse gas reduction targets.
- Pamela Jones spoke in support of an independent redistricting commission and increasing police transparency (Attachment).
- Jen Wolosin, representing Menlo Together, spoke in support of housing, transportation, climate action, and equity as top priorities.
- Jennifer Bestor commented on updating the Education Code with a regional cost supplement for Belle Haven’s funding.
- Heyward Robinson commented on the importance of the goal setting meeting for the City Council to focus on goals and not projects and provided techniques to ensure that goals are being met throughout the year.
- Karen Grove, representing Menlo Together, spoke in support of prioritizing housing in downtown near the Caltrain station.
- Andrew Marcus spoke in support of creating a connection between M-2 and Belle Haven and requested revisiting eligibility requirements for below market rate (BMR) units.
- Florence Thompson spoke in support of more communication from the City to the Belle Haven neighborhood and joining the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).
- Julie Shanson spoke in support of joining GARE.
- Vicky Robledo spoke in support of joining GARE and expressed concerns of pollution in the Belle Haven neighborhood.
- Tom Kabat spoke in support of the City being a leader to combat climate crisis.

- Diane Bailey, representing Menlo Together and Menlo Spark, spoke in support of prioritizing climate actions.
- Pushpinder Lubana requested that City Council revisit the current culture of the City..

Public comment emails received on [city.council@menlopark.org](mailto:city.council@menlopark.org) (CCIN) (Attachment).

## **C. Regular Business**

### **C1. Annual goal-setting workshop (Staff Report #20-023-CC)**

City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson introduced the item.

Assistant City Attorney Cara Silver and Community Service Director Deanna Chow made a presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed goals and priorities and received clarification on SB330 (Attachment).

#### **Public Comment**

- Ryann Price spoke in support of climate crisis as a priority.
- Robert Jones, Menlo Park Fire Protection District (MPFPD) President, submitted MPFPD's top eight priorities.
- Jim Lewis spoke in support of public safety, the need for an emergency operations center, and an updated disaster preparedness community plan.
- Katie Behroozi commented on the interconnection of safety, climate, housing, and social justice.
- Michael Bostic spoke in support of equality across Menlo Park.

The City Council discussed how to prioritize new State mandates, utilization of City commissions and committees to support priorities and work plan, and the top projects that promote the greater good on the entire community.

City Council took a break at 3:13 p.m.

City Council reconvened at 3:42 p.m.

City Council discussed priorities: climate action, housing, compliance with State laws, residential requests, zero homelessness initiative, transportation, and GARE.

Vice Mayor Combs was recused and was excused at 5 p.m.

City Council discussed the timeline and needs of the Belle Haven community center and library project.

## **D. Adjournment**

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of February 25, 2020.

Priority Setting Meeting: Public comments Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

My name is Lisa Williams and I have been a Menlo Park resident for 33 years.

What am I here for? I'm here for a city that is progressive, and ready to take action when necessary - **to that end** I see progress measured by our "quality of life".

That brings me to gas powered garden tools. In Menlo Park we seem to have mastered the art of living with the unacceptable, but staring us in the face is the climate change crisis necessitating action, ergo phasing out gas garden tools. Fortunately, many other cities are leading the way, having legislated bans on their use. We all know the science is there to back this up.

Over the past year, my associate and I have spoken with various Menlo Park city representative on this issue. Their reasons for not addressing it include:

- It will be a long process.
- The optics are extremely challenging given the history (a city ban over 20 years ago overturned by a referendum). Why don't you both, as citizens put it on the ballot!
- It will take city resources away from ~~other~~ high priority projects
- Unenforceable, once a ban is put in place. After speaking with the MP police department they confirmed that, per the current ordinance they successfully respond when called and they do not consider current infractions **unenforceable**.
- Gas leaf blowers do not have a sufficient carbon impact to warrant inclusion in the Menlo Park Climate Action Plan

Some of the above may be true, although IMO insufficient reasons to do nothing hoping the State takes action. Bottom line is, the longer this not addressed, the poorer the "quality of life" in Menlo Park becomes.

The garden service industry is also as a stakeholder in this issue. Their interest, out of economic necessity is driven by short-term profit & loss. However, the long-term impact to their health must not be ignored.

For gardeners not currently working in cities with bans, replacing gas tools with electric tools, **without subsidies means they bear the cost**. If we agree that health, the environment, and quality of life are relevant and important, this becomes a cost of doing business responsibly. Gardeners have every right to raise their rates to cover these costs. Menlo Park is an affluent city; residents that can afford gardeners can afford to pay more to offset these costs. **It should also be noted** that in long term, the cost of running battery-operated garden equipment is much less than that of equivalent gas powered equipment.

For the City there will be the cost of enforcing a ban. This would be reduced over time **if the homeowners are responsible for citations**, because after one or two citations home owners would hire gardeners in compliance. So, what will it take to prioritize this ban?

Thank you

Leah Elkins

## Public Comment on Banning Gas Gardening Equipment in Menlo Park

City Council Annual Goal Setting Meeting 1/30/2020

→ (Good afternoon. My name is Leah Elkins and I have been a resident of Menlo Park for over 20 years.)

I am standing up today to add my voice to Lisa's and to ask that the council consider a ban on gasoline powered leaf blowers. I believe that the global climate crisis and the City's stated commitment to reduce greenhouse gases compels such an action. Banning gas leaf blowers is an easy way to reduce pollution and bring a greater calm to our neighborhoods which are already suffering from increased vehicle and air traffic and construction noise.

I want to address the common arguments against such a ban that Lisa just laid out in her comments.

First, is limited staff resources. The fact is that the research has been completed and accepted by many California cities already. There is very little that city staff need do other than review the reports already created by nearby cities. Moreover, many ordinances have already been enacted that can serve as models for our own.

Second, is the limited impact these machines have compared to other pollution sources. While it is true that gas blowers do not contribute as large a percentage of carbon emissions as other sources, it is possible to simply ban them while we cannot do so with cars, nor require homeowners to convert their homes to all-electric. On the other hand, electric garden machines are readily available and achieve the same results at nearly the same cost. A ban on gas blowers is an easy step which will definitely result in less emissions and less noise pollution. ~~and immediately~~ *and immediately*

The City could also consider banning all polluting gardening equipment such as mowers and hedge trimmers to achieve an even greater reduction. Starting with the most obnoxious machine, however, would be a first step.

*Some will argue,*  
Third, a ban will have an economic impact on gardeners and perhaps on homeowners if gardeners raise their rates. Other cities have successfully solved this problem by utilizing a phase in period to allow gardeners time to replace their equipment. And, as Lisa has pointed out, we are an affluent community and anyone who can afford a gardener can afford to pay them a few dollars more per week.

Finally, it has been suggested that the citizenry does not support a ban due to the previous referendum to overturn the Council's action in 1997. This, however, is ancient history. This is a new day and a new reality we are living in and there is simply no evidence that Menlo Park residents have an unique attachment to these machines which would require us to be bound forever by events that occurred 22 years ago.

In the fight to make a positive change in our community, a ban on gas blowers is low hanging fruit. It can be implemented quickly and effectively and will demonstrate the City's commitment to reducing harmful pollutants.

Lisa and I have worked hard over the last year to bring the Council's attention to this matter and we sincerely hope that we have finally arrived at the time when this issue can be given serious consideration. We know you have received at least a few emails from like-minded citizens and we hope you will ask staff to study the feasibility of a gas leaf blower ban as part of Menlo Park's Climate Action Plan.

Thank you.

**TO:** Menlo Park City Council  
**SUBJECT:** GOAL SETTING 2020: Independent Redistricting Commission  
**DATE:** January 29, 2020  
**FROM:** Pamela D. Jones, Resident

The Menlo Park City Council and staff are again to be commended for the highly successful Advisory Districting Committee established to guide our first-time mapping. We are now ready to move to the highest level of inclusive and transparent redistricting by the establishment of an Independent Redistricting Commission.

Unfortunately, at the October 1, 2019 City Council meeting, the history of the establishment Advisory Districting Committee and AB 849 (enrolled and presented to the governor on September 19, 2019) was not included in the staff report. Historic information is included in the next two paragraphs, AB 849 is [Attachment B](#), and a clarifying letter, dated October 17, 2019, from Helen Grieco, Common Cause Northern California Organizer is **Attachment A**.

The creation and success of the Advisory Districting Committee (ADC) was driven by the public including submission of a draft ordinance for an advisory districting commission. After City Counsel and staff discussed with residents the advisory districting committee was finally agreed upon and submitted to Council.

The process from October 4 through April 14, 2018 included nine Council meetings, of which four were public hearings. The total time was seven hours and fifty-one minutes. Ninety-six oral and CCIN comments were made by fifty-seven different people. Thirty-two supported an independent commission. Twenty-nine people applied to sit on the ADC. The total cost was \$120,000 which included consultant demographic services, outreach, and legal fees.

The above data clearly indicates the public is educated on the terminology, process and engaged. A method of resident oversight through an Independent Redistricting Commission is designed to prevent the process from becoming politicized. A strong democratic process should not have a “price tag.”

It is important that the City of Menlo Park removes itself from the process of redistricting by the establishment of an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). Although the Advisory Districting Committee’s recommendation was accepted and passed by ordinance, our future lies in a process that eliminates any possibility or inference of political interference. The Council is not legally bound to the “recommendation” of an advisory committee. Whereas an IRC decision is binding and is fully responsible for the final decision, removing any legal concerns from the Council.

There are multiple organizations that support independent redistricting commissions at all levels of government. The League of Women Voter’s states “We believe responsibility for fair redistricting should be vested in an independent commission.” California Common Cause explicitly states “voters should pick their representatives ...” in support of local redistricting. In addition, the California Local Redistricting Project “provides educational resources and assistance to local jurisdictions interested in moving away from political redistricting towards interdependent redistricting.”

The Brennan Center for Justice “supports reforming the redistricting process so that it is independent, transparent, and ensures that communities are fully and fairly represented in Congress and the nation’s legislative bodies.”

According to California Local Redistricting Project, “there are several reasons why jurisdictions opt to establish independent redistricting commissions:

- **Increased Citizen Participation & Transparency:** Citizen commissions are a direct way to involve the community in redistricting. Commissions are required to have more public hearings and provide greater notice of proposed maps than a local legislative body. Proposed district boundaries must be considered, debated, and adopted in public, with opportunities for community input at every stage of the process.
- **Depoliticize Redistricting:** Commissions can help depoliticize redistricting and increase public trust in the process. Under political control, redistricting can be a source of infighting on a governing board as members fight over neighborhoods or community assets. Council- or board-controlled redistricting can also be abused by the majority to accomplish political ends, for example drawing an existing member out of their district or placing two members into the same district.
- **More Representative Districts:** Compared with legislative bodies, studies find that independent commissions generally draw districts that are more compact, less gerrymandering, and more representative of communities of interest and minority populations.

An Independent Redistricting Commission sets the highest standard for ethics and transparency and continue to strengthen our local democracy as supported by many non-partisan good governance/electoral advocacy groups.

Attached is a *sample* timeline demonstrating the process should begin during 2020 to establish the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) and include funding in the 2020 – 2021 budget (**Attachment C**). Staff time will be minimal since the “ground work” was completed during the Advisory Districting Committee process which is fairly consistent with AB 849.

Attachments:

- A. Common Cause Letter 10172019
- B. Election Code AB 849 (please link to access)  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB849&firstNav=tracking](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB849&firstNav=tracking)
- C. Sample Process Timeline



453 S Spring Street, #401  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
213.623.1216

[www.commoncause.org/ca](http://www.commoncause.org/ca)

October 17, 2019

Honorable Mayor Mueller  
Honorable City Council Members  
City of Menlo Park

**RE: Redistricting Committee or Commission Options**

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

For the past several years, Common Cause has worked to promote redistricting reform at the local level, including sponsoring new state laws allowing local governments to adopt independent redistricting commissions. As an organization, we firmly support the use of independent, representative, and transparent redistricting commissions at all levels of government. On behalf of Common Cause, I commend the City of Menlo Park for its successful 2018 advisory commission process, and encourage the City to build on that experience in adopting an independent commission for 2021.

In reviewing the recording of the October 1, 2019 council meeting, I wanted to offer some additional clarifying information regarding local redistricting. I hope this may assist the Council in its decision on whether to pursue an advisory or independent commission in 2021.

Timing

The deadline for local redistricting was just recently changed with the passage of AB 849 (Bonta) this year. While the staff presentation identified October 31, 2021 as the deadline for local redistricting,<sup>1</sup> the newly-adopted deadline depends on when a city holds its first election after census data is published.<sup>2</sup> For cities that will hold their next election on November 8, 2022, the deadline would be June 10, 2022 (151 days before the city's next election). The City Council may, of course, always set an earlier date for completing the redistricting process.

Other deadlines for commissions mentioned in the staff presentation, including an August deadline for advisory commissions and a September deadline for independent commissions, no longer apply. The Council may set deadlines for commissions. For independent commissions, if no deadline is set, the commission would use the same deadline that the Council would otherwise be subject to: June 10, 2022.

Independent Commission Selection Process

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Elec. Code Sec. 21602.

<sup>2</sup> AB 849 – new Cal. Elec. Code Sec. 21602.





There also seemed to be some confusion at the meeting as to how independent commissioners would or could be appointed. Elections Code Section 23003 provides local governments with a great deal of flexibility as to how commissioners on independent commissions are appointed. The only two requirements are that (1) the application process be open to all eligible residents and (2) the commissioners not be directly appointed by the council or any city elected official.<sup>3</sup>

There are a variety of models at the local level for how commissioners are appointed. For example, in the City of San Diego, a panel of retired judges reviews applications and appoints commissioners. In the City of Santa Barbara, retired judges *are* the redistricting commission. In San Francisco, the City's Elections Task Force appoints a subset of commissioners.

Most local governments with independent commissions have moved towards a random selection process, modelled off of the State Commission. Under this model, a subset of commissioners are randomly selected; those commissioners then select the final commissioners. Menlo Park used this model for its advisory commission in 2018. In addition to removing applicants who fail to meet commissioner eligibility criteria, most (but not all) jurisdictions have a screening body narrow the pool of applicants prior to conducting the random draw, as another check against politically-biased applicants. For example, Sacramento and Long Beach have their Ethics Commission review the pool of applicants; Los Angeles County and Santa Barbara County has its Registrar of Voters perform this function; and in Oakland the panel consists of a retired judge, law or public policy student, and a member of a good government nonprofit.<sup>4</sup>

I also wanted to clarify a few additional points of confusion from the meeting:

- **Direct Appointment:** Direct council appointment of commissioners is allowed for advisory commissions, but is not allowed for independent commissions.
- **Election:** While the members of an independent commission could hypothetically be elected, as was suggested at the meeting, we know of no local jurisdiction (or state) that does so. Organizing an election just to elect one-time commissioners is likely not a feasible option.
- **Retired Judges:** Retired judges may be used to select commissioners for independent commissions. This selection method is not limited to advisory commissions.

### Qualifications

To minimize the likelihood that commissioners will be politically biased, state law does set strict minimum eligibility requirements for members of independent commissions.<sup>5</sup> (There are also eligibility requirements for members of advisory commissions, but they are significantly less stringent.<sup>6</sup>)

However, the 5-year residency requirement, which Menlo Park required in 2018, is not a requirement of state law. State law requires only that commissioners be residents of the city, but sets no durational requirement. A durational requirement of some length may, nonetheless, be desirable, to ensure commissioners have some familiarity with the neighborhoods and communities of the city.

### Post-Service Restrictions

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<sup>3</sup> Cal. Elec. Code Sec. 23003(b).

<sup>4</sup> For more models, see the Ordinance Database at [www.localredistricting.org](http://www.localredistricting.org).

<sup>5</sup> Cal. Elec. Code Sec. 23003(d).

<sup>6</sup> Cal. Elec. Code Sec. 23002(c).



State law does restrict some of the post-service activities of commissioners.<sup>7</sup> Most significantly, it prohibits commissioners for running for office in the districts they drew. Commissioners are also prohibited, for four years, from serving as elected official staff, receiving a noncompetitively bid contract, or registering as a city lobbyist.

Commissioners are also prohibited from being appointed to city offices, but only for two years. Depending on when the commission is constituted, this means that prior redistricting commissioners may be eligible for appointment to this new commission.

Sincerely,

Helen Grieco  
Northern California Organizer  
California Common Cause

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<sup>7</sup> Cal. Elec. Code Sec. 23003(e).



\*\*\*Sample\*\*\*

Attachment C

**City of Menlo Park Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC\*) Timeline**

<b>Goal Setting 2020</b>	January 30, 2020	<i>Present outline of entire process</i>
Instructions to Staff and Counsel	March 24, 2020	<i>Process and guidelines for establishing an IRC ommission is outlined in AB 849 and may be the similar to ADC. Sample ordinance based on resolution establishing 2018 ADC; application form; determine number of commissioners (9 to 11)</i>
<b>1st public hearing</b>	April 21, 2020	<i>1. Staff presents report and ordinance for process, guidelines, and application form to to establish an IRC* 2. Public comment</i>
<b>2nd public hearing</b> to establish an IRC*	May 12, 2020	<i>Public comment</i>
Council approves budget for 2020-2021	June 23, 2020	<i>Budget recommendation for IRC* based on ADC 2018-2019 expenditures</i>
Open bid for demography company	3/1/2021**	<i>Public comment</i>
<b>Census 2020 release of data</b>	4/1/2021**	
Selection of first 3 commissioners for IRC* by random draw	6/1/2021**	<i>Public comment</i>
Select and hire demographer		<i>Demography company determined by Council and 3 selected Commissioners</i>
Three original commissioners convene to select remaining commissioners	6/15/201**	
First meeting of IRC*	7/1/2021**	<i>Brown Act training and required reporting forms for commissioners; election of chair and vice chair; discuss redistricting criteria and conduct interactive map training; schedule public meetings and post dates: Minimum of 8 public meetings to be conducted at different times and locations to encourage full public participation; refer to ADC meeting schedule for suggestions of agenda for each meeting; discuss public outreach; Public comment</i>
Minimum of 8 public meetings		
Public meeting		
Public meeting		
Public meeting	8/15/2021** -	
Public meeting	12/1/2021**	
Public meeting		
Public meeting		
Public meeting		
<b>3rd public hearing</b>	1/15/2022**	<i>Public input on final maps</i>
<b>4th public hearing</b>	2/1/2022**	<i>Public input on final maps</i>
<b>5th public hearing</b>	2/15/2022**	<i>Council adopts maps by ordinance</i>
<b>Deadline for submitting new maps</b>	<b>June 10, 2022</b>	<b>Map submitted to San Mateo County Registrar of Voters</b>

IRC\* refers to Independent Redistricting Commission

\*\*Dates of Council meetings for 2021-2022 not established until December 2020/2021

\*\*\*Sample\*\*\*

**Salwan, Neetu**

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**From:** Kathy Switky <krswitky@gmail.com> on behalf of Kathy Switky <kathy@switky.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2020 4:49 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** 2020 goals should include gas blower ban

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear Councilmembers,

As I am unable to attend this week's 2020 goal setting meeting, I am writing to request that you include in your annual goals the passing of a ban on gasoline-powered blowers in Menlo Park.

There is ample evidence that these dangerously loud machines pose serious health risks, pollute our air, and emit greenhouse gases. A ban would return peace to our neighborhoods, protect the health of our residents and professional gardeners, and mitigate threats to our warming climate.

More than 25 cities throughout the state have already banned gas blowers, including Los Altos, Palo Alto, and Portola Valley. It's time for Menlo Park to do the same. I urge you to add this objective to your list for the coming year.

Respectfully,

Kathy Switky  
Nash Avenue

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Judy Adams <judyblueeyes1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:55 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN; Curtin, Clay J; James Clendenin; briansc@briangilmer.com; Kristy Holch; Stuart Soffer; George Yang; Jerome-Robinson, Starla L  
**Subject:** 2020 priorities for Goal Setting Workshop- 1-30-20City Goal Setting for 2020 - global is local: a small decision to make a big step back from the brink of nuclear extinction  
**Attachments:** Back From The Brink 1-page overview for MP City Council.pdf

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear City Council, Sister City Committee, Clay Curtin (Public Engagement Mgr.) and Starla Jerome-Robinson (City Mgr):

A friend and Menlo Park neighbor of mine, Richard Duda, and I hope to speak tonight during public comment about a global issue that we want to put before the Council members as they prepare for Wednesday's Goal Setting workshop, on an urgent global/local issue, like climate change that cities must address. Nuclear weapons issues are not usually on city agendas, but just as climate change is a global threat to the planet that cities must make plans to protect lives and resources, so are nuclear weapons in an unstable and increasingly violent world.

We are proposing that Menlo Park, as it joined Mayors for Peace in 2018 on Hiroshima Day, August 6, now join the "Back from the Brink" movement founded by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Physicians for Social Responsibility. This year, now, as the Council sets its plans for its many projects, there is time to plan for the peaceful change this terrible anniversary requires: to strengthen the ties with Sister Cities, to educate about cultural diversity and the power of non-violence; to promote peace and understanding, conflict resolution skills on all levels of human interaction; and to support treaties that protect us from nuclear disasters; to teach science and the art of peace-making on all levels.

The city has taken the first step by aligning with Mayors for Peace; we urge the city to take the next step to join "Back from the Brink" and work with volunteers and other cities to forge a peaceful world and step back from the brink of global disaster. This ideal has a practical goal, survival. There are resources we must use to de-fuse violent conflict and avoid the unthinkable climate change vector, a nuclear accident or intentional use of nuclear weapons.

Your in peace,  
Judy Adams  
Richard Duda  
[backfromthebrink.menlopark@gmail.com](mailto:backfromthebrink.menlopark@gmail.com)

## **Q&A for Back From The Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War**

### **What is this all about?**

Created by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Back from the Brink campaign is a collaborative effort to reduce the risk of nuclear war by calling on our national leadership to make changes to our nuclear weapons policy.

### **What changes are being asked for?**

Five specific steps are advocated:

1. Adopt a No-First-Use policy
2. End the authority of a U.S. president to singlehandedly launch a nuclear attack
3. Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
4. Cancel the "nuclear modernization" program
5. Actively pursue a verifiable agreement to eliminate nuclear arsenals worldwide

### **What is the Menlo Park City Council being asked to do?**

Sign an official proclamation endorsing The Call.

### **Why should Menlo Park endorse The Call?**

It is a simple and concrete action that directly supports our membership since 2018 in Mayors for Peace, which has endorsed The Call. Menlo Park is one of over 200 cities nationally and 7,800 cities internationally that are members of Mayors for Peace. The core objective of Mayors for Peace is to promote the peaceful relations between nations that is needed for bringing about a world free of nuclear weapons. Our Sister Cities program – which has two Mayors for Peace cities – was created by Pres. Eisenhower after WWII with similar goals to Mayors for Peace, to create a "... hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world...to celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts."

**Menlo Park passed the Mayors for Peace Resolution on Hiroshima Day, August 6, 2018. It is fitting that in the year of 2020, the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that we begin our work for a commemoration of that anniversary by endorsing the call to step back from the brink of a second nuclear holocaust.**

### **What other California cities have endorsed The Call?**

The Call has recently been endorsed by Arcata, Eureka, Los Angeles, Ojai, Santa Barbara, and Santa Monica.

### **What other endorsements has The Call received?**

42 other cities and four states have endorsed The Call: California, Oregon, Maine and New Jersey. Assembly Joint Resolution 33, the endorsement by the California State Legislature, is reproduced on the other side. Moreover, The Call has been endorsed by numerous religious, environmental, and civic institutions.

### **Where can I find this and additional information?**

Go to <https://www.preventnuclearwar.org/>

**Assembly Joint Resolution 33, Limón. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.**

[ Filed with the California Secretary of State, September 05, 2018. ]

This measure would urge our federal leaders and our nation to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy, and spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war.

WHEREAS, Since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but 15,000 of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival; and

WHEREAS, Ninety-five percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, The use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; for example, as few as 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs, small by modern standards, would put at least five million tons of soot into the upper atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food production and putting two billion people at risk of starvation; and

WHEREAS, A large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last ice age; under these conditions the vast majority of the human race would starve and it is possible we would become extinct as a species; and

WHEREAS, Despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear weapons do not possess some magical quality that prevents their use; and

WHEREAS, Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, speaking about the Cuban Missile Crisis, “It was luck that prevented nuclear war,” yet our nuclear policy cannot be the hope that luck will continue; and

WHEREAS, As the effects of climate change place increased stress on communities around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, the danger of nuclear war will grow; and

WHEREAS, The planned expenditure of more than \$1 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the world; and

WHEREAS, There is an alternative to this march toward nuclear war: in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; now,

therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges our federal leaders and our nation to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, ending the President’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons, and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Governor.

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** rfermfer <rfermfer@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 4:09 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** 2020 Priorities

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

City Council Members,

I am recommending that as part of the upcoming goal-setting and budget preparation, you select infrastructure related projects that would benefit our community.

Specifically, projects that repair/replace failing street pavement, and repair/upgrade storm drains that would reduce flooding in our neighborhoods. I see several areas throughout the City that flood during heavy rain events, and have gone unrepaired for many years. In addition, converting all of the street lights to LED would be beneficial in reducing electrical consumption, as well as reducing overall long term costs. Our aging infrastructure needs to be made a priority as we look ahead.

Also, as part of the budget review process, I encourage you to look at our City Staffing levels as they compare to other neighboring Cities. For example, the City of Burlingame has approximately 70 less staff members, and the City of Foster City has a substantially smaller staff as well. Both of these cities provide services (sanitary sewer collection) that our city staff does not perform. Given the fact that the majority of the budget is used for salaries and pensions, I would hope you ensure we are not overstaffed.

Thank you.

Randy Ferrando  
1150 Middle Ave



## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Amy Roleder <amyrol@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2020 11:06 AM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Annual Goal Setting Meeting comments: Please ban gas powered Leaf Blowers

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear Council Members,

I am writing since I will not be able to attend the Menlo Park City Council's Annual Goal Setting Meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to urge you to take up the issue of banning Gas Powered Leaf Blowers.

In light of the climate change crisis, health risks, and local environmental degradation in air quality and noise pollution, I believe it is time for Menlo Park to take action to move our community away from portable gasoline leaf blowers. Specifically, I am asking the Council to pass an ordinance banning gas powered leaf blowers.

According to the California Air Resource Board, gas leaf blower emissions are significant. Today, operating the best-selling commercial leaf blower, one hour of operation emits smog-forming pollution comparable to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry about 1100 miles! Also, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)'s California Air Resources Board (CARB) reported that a leaf blower creates 2.6 pounds of PM10 dust emissions every hour in use. When gas powered leaf blowers are being used nearby, I must make sure all my doors/windows are closed since with the noxious exhaust smell and visible dust particles flares up respiratory problems.

The noise is also deafening. They are used daily, with minimal peace and quiet in the neighborhood because of them. Gas-powered leaf blowers disrupt neighborhood tranquility, with noise levels, even on new models, between 64-107 decibels! Electric blowers would still create significant noise, so I would recommend code revisions incorporate that leaf blower operation must be conducted with all sound muffling equipment supplied by the manufacturer.

Similar Leaf Blower ordinances have been passed in a number of local communities. They have done this in ways that balanced the needs of professional gardeners with the preferences of community residents. It is time Menlo Park do the same.

If Menlo Park is truly serious about combating climate change, then banning gas powered leaf blowers must be part of Menlo Park's Climate Action Goals.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A.Lupo  
Durham St., Menlo Park

**Salwan, Neetu**

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**From:** Pamela Jones <pam.d.jones70@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 12, 2020 1:22 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Budget Workshop on 01092020

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Thank-you to Lenka Diaz and Dan Jackson for the information presented on the budget process and documents for the City at the **Budget Workshop** on January 9, 2020. Clarity and transparency on the budget process for residents and businesses is a key component to robust community engagement. The updated [Finance page](#) will assist residents to provide additional input during Goal Setting on Thursday January 30, 2020.

Again thank-you, Pamela Jones

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*The impossible dissipates when **I** becomes **WE**.*

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Triona Gogarty <trionago@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:36 AM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** City Goals

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Thanks for asking. My suggestions are below.

1. Increase parking and bike racks in the downtown area
2. Lower the Caltrain grade rather than raise it to decrease noise pollution
3. Improve the recreation center's dance studios by improving the acoustics and decreasing the echo

Triona Gogarty

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Nicole Kemeny <nicole.kemeny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 2:25 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Climate Action

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Honorable Mayor Taylor and City Council members,

As a frequent writer of climate letters to you, you already know I support Menlo Spark's goals listed below, however I'd like to add a couple of thoughts.

In talking to people who work in downtown Menlo Park, such as my hair stylist or a sales woman in a local clothing store, (both of whom commute from San Jose) I hear that they feel terrible about driving gasoline cars and spending their hard-earned money doing something they know is bad for the environment. If we are serious about getting people into electric cars, they need to be able to charge while they are here working. They are willing, even eager, to drive electric, but we have to make it possible. It is also MUCH cheaper to operate an electric vehicle, as you've no doubt already heard many times.

Speaking of commuting, my heart goes out to the people that have a couple hours of driving added to their work day, and that much less time to spend with their families or do something healthier than sit in a car. At my children's school, my younger daughter's favorite teacher, a woman so excited about teaching math it made her jump up and down, left the school so she could teach closer to home and her new baby. My older daughter's favorite teacher was also considering a similar move, last I heard, to be closer to his wife and young kids. The housing situation is inhumane, bad for our community, and harming the environment. So many reasons to address that problem.

Below are specific measures we should commit to:

- adopting a **Climate Action Plan** that Achieves the Environmental Quality Commission recommended goal to be carbon neutral by 2030,
- phasing out fossil fuel vehicles in the city's fleet and fossil fuels used in all city buildings for heating or appliances, and installing battery energy storage to improve resilience,
- reducing **traffic and pollution by increasing allowable housing density** in the downtown plan, so that more housing, with a focus on *affordable* housing, can be built near transit and services,
- and **replacing fossil fuels**

Yours Truly,  
Nicole Kemeny  
1875 Oak Knoll Lane  
Menlo Park

**From:** [mmmsean@aol.com](mailto:mmmsean@aol.com)  
**To:** [\\_CCIN](#)  
**Subject:** climate change  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 2:27:06 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for declaring a Climate Emergency last month and supporting the Environmental Quality Commission recommendation to **adopt a new reduction target of carbon-neutral (zero emissions) by 2030!** I agree with prioritizing climate action in 2020 by formally adopting this goal and taking action to advance it.

We need bold local climate leadership now more than ever as our federal government falters on this issue. Menlo Park is already feeling the impacts of climate change with more intense heat waves, increased fire danger and smoke, and rising sea levels that will bring serious flooding.

Thank you for your leadership so far on climate action with measures to prioritize clean energy, avoid fossil fuels in new construction, and support electric vehicles. In 2020 your climate leadership is critically needed with the following essential commitments in the City workplan:

- Develop and adopt a **Climate Action Plan** that Achieves the Environmental Quality Commission recommended goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Demonstrate the City's commitment on climate with a **Green City initiative** to phase out fossil fuel vehicles in the city's fleet and fossil fuels used in all city buildings for heating or appliances, and install battery energy storage to improve resilience.
- **Reduce traffic and pollution by increasing allowable housing density** in the downtown plan, so that more housing, with a focus on *affordable* housing, can be built near transit and services.
- Explore measures to **replace fossil fuels used in homes and buildings.**

Please move quickly and decisively on these actions. We are all depending on you.

Sincerely,  
M Miller

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Julie Shanson <julie.shanson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 2:52 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Goal setting 2020- equity & transparency

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear esteemed council and senior staff,

Please consider elevating the inclusion of all residents views as you establish this years' goals with an eye toward equity city wide. As the Color of Law event you attended in November showed, we have a disturbing history of housing discrimination in Menlo Park.

On to specific asks-

- 1) Add qualified neutral parties for high stakes projects: Specifically, please consider bringing in trained professionals to hold space for community input and keep both Facebook and the city accountable for promises made and intentions assumed during the process of planning for the rebuilding of the Belle Haven library, senior center, community center, fitness center and youth center.
- 2) commit to incorporating an equity lens and equity metrics in city evaluations of consultants, project and staff.
- 3) create new funds with the transitory occupancy tax (TOT) that are designed to be spent to build public amenities to benefit the neighborhoods where the taxes are collected. For example, we could use the funds the Nia Hotel paid last year to increase the open hours of the Onetta Harris community center.
- 4) Be transparent about what makes the list (for example, amenities funds were a priority goal at some point during goal setting last year- what happened?) and report quarterly on the status of the progress toward the goals.

Thank you.

Julie Shanson  
Oak Court  
Menlo Park resident

--  
-- Julie

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Barbara <bws8183@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 12:09 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Goal setting agenda

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.

Recommendation for an Agenda Item.

Local Traffic, congestion that is occurring NOW, and will only exponentially increase Along all major arterial roads, and within residential neighborhoods as a result of all the El Camino and Stanford Expansion developments.

Thus far there has been No Proactive plan to deal with this in a manor that requires infrastructure development and plans to mitigate the traffic problem.

Please creat Action items to Address this.

Allied Arts

Neighborhood are already a dangerous pass through for people to avoid EL CAMINO traffic And stop lights.

Our neighborhoods do not have bike lane, or sidewalks and several people have almost been hit by cut through drivers speeding through.

Barbara Schwanke

Allied Arts Resident home owner 30 years

\* Please pardon spelling, "i-thumbs, typing on an i-something" ❁

## Salwan, Neetu

---

**From:** Lynne Bramlett <lynne.e.bramlett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 12:34 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Cc:** Lynne Bramlett  
**Subject:** Goal Setting Meeting Input

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear City Council,

I'm writing with suggestions for your goal-setting meeting. Based on my experiences during the past years as an engaged local resident, I recommend the following priorities:

- 1) **Combating Global Climate Change through zoning changes and other reforms.** The Environmental Quality Commission has suggested reforms in their proposed update to the City's Climate Action Plan. The EPA has more suggestions. The ConnectMenlo zoning ordinances need reviewing and updating in light of climate change alone.
- 2) **Emergency/Disaster Preparation.** Separately, you will be sent a group letter urging action on this topic. I've become involved in this topic after completing my CERT training. My observation is that residents are mostly unprepared to shelter-in-place following a major disaster, which could include an earthquake, flooding or the spreading of a communicable disease. District 1 is most at risk. Please commit to making Emergency Readiness a priority for the well-being and safety of MP Residents.
- 3) **Reform of MP's Local Government Culture.** Over the years, residents have voiced concerns about how things are done in Menlo Park. The City employees have also voiced concerns about the management in their last Employee Satisfaction Survey. The City continues to see high turnover among the rank-and-file staff with many vacant positions. At heart, I think it's time to commit to authentic reform of MP's local government and to give Staff the time to actually make some changes. Many appear quite motivated towards continuous improvement, but this is hard to do if one's priorities keep changing. After giving Staff one year to make reforms, I suggest that Council apply for the What Works Cities Certification to continue the process. Local government culture change is very difficult to achieve and it requires a strong focus and advocacy at the top!
  - Commit to a **two-year goal-setting process** and a **two-year budget cycle**. Both would give Staff more time to fix current problems and to work on reforms.
  - Commit to implementing the **Community Development & Public Works Departments' reforms** recommended by Matrix Consulting. Matrix identified serious problems in both departments, such as the lack of a Capital Improvement Projects Development and Management Manual that codifies and standardizes all project management procedures. According to the report, each engineer follows his/her own set of standards. No wonder so many CIPs lack basic financial and project management details.
  - **Update MP's Mission Statement**, currently almost identical to the one from the City of Oxnard. (Except that Oxnard's includes the phrase, "open and responsive government")
  - Use agreed-to **values to guide Council's policy decision making and Staff priorities**. These would be the the **ConnectMenlo Guiding Principles**. These need further refining so that the values are measurable. Some terms also need clear definitions. The public spent much time helping to develop these Principles and they believed that they would be followed in the ConnectMenlo implementation. It's



- time to do the difficult -- but right thing -- by making these statements measurable and followed. I suggest asking for resident volunteers to serve on a temporary committee tasked with turning these into measurable statements that Council can use.
- **Update the Conflicts of Interest Policy to include Commissioners.** Some of our commissioners work at businesses or non-profits that appear to give a conflict of interest. I believe that the City needs stricter guidelines as to when a commissioner should excuse him/herself on a particular decision. More guidelines regarding being ineligible to serve based on one's employment.
  - **Commit to an authentic open search process for all open Staff positions.** This is especially important for key roles such as the City Attorney. I'm concerned about what appears a "low-key" search process for the City Attorney position. To date, I only know about the posting on the City's public bid page. I'd like to know how many law firms are on that list. To increase diversity of background and thinking, I'd like to see the City commit to a broad, inclusive and sincere open search process. In the City Attorney position, at minimum, I think that the search effort should include an advertisement in all suitable papers, and sending the job position to all California law firms with a public entity practice. I am also concerned about the relatively short amount of time the position was posted and at some of the requirements detailed in the description. The City was also asked to appoint an advisory committee, with residents also serving, to help guide this process and the development of the role description. As the same firm has supplied the City Attorney since 1961, without an open search process, it's more than time to seriously consider other law firm options.
  - **Review and update the roles of the City's advisory Committees/commissions.** Where applicable (i.e. Library and Planning Commission), make sure these are following all applicable state laws. Despite repeated requests of the City Attorney, over a period of several years, I've yet to get an opinion as to whether or not the Library Commission follows State mandates for its role. I suggest getting input from Commissioners serving to identify improvements needed. Residents serving expect and deserve an authentic advisory role and Management-level Staff should be held accountable for giving this to them. Unfortunately, when one reviews the Commission agendas one soon sees that many are advisory in name only. The Commissioners spend their time either discussing routine matters or they receive informational reports about pre-made Staff decisions. Residents serving also need to adhere to the highest standards of professional conduct. Unfortunately, I've seen some unprofessional commissioner behavior at some meetings, such as not listening to the discussions (but instead looking at one's phone for lengthy periods of time), side conversations, calling out to the audience, being unprepared, and missing too many meetings. Fortunately, these cases are few and I mostly see very professional service on the part of residents at the commission meetings that I've attended.
  - **Fix Notify Me problems.** Most lists appear to be completely inactive. Many could be combined. The important ones needed to be listed earlier with more descriptive titles, and others could be combined. I've also heard that residents have attempted to sign up for these push emails only to not receive them. This is despite repeated attempts to get on the lists. I have to ask how many are on the lists, which could highlight problems. These lists should be a primary way of communication from the City to the residents. Frequent communication as to the existence of these lists is also needed.
  - **Develop an aspirational Code of Ethics** that apply to Staff, Council, residents serving on advisory committees and commissions. Separately, I could send more details regarding what other cities have done and what the research suggests as to the best way to implement ethical reforms.
  - **Shared governance.** The public wants an authentic seat at the decision-making table. The Public Engagement Manager, and Management-level Staff involved in these, should be held accountable for making sure that all City public engagement efforts are authentic ones, and not ones designed to lead to a pre-determined outcome. Measuring and publishing the effectiveness of public engagement efforts would help. Pseudo efforts waste Staff and the residents' time. They also erode the public's trust and lead to a cynical attitude. Unfortunately, this topic still needs attention.
  - **Increase volunteerism.** This would also lead to increased teamwork with residents/staff, new ideas and more rapid improvements.

**Lynne Bramlett**

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Charles Bernstein <cbernstein@headsup.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 1:07 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Cecilia; Combs, Drew; Nash, Betsy; Carlton, M.Catherine; Mueller, Ray  
**Cc:** \_CCIN; harolds@menlofire.org; rjones@MenloFire.org  
**Subject:** Goal Setting Meeting  
**Attachments:** Menlo Fire Chief, Board President Communication re MP Goals.doc

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Council Members:

I have recently been appointed as the Menlo Park liaison for 2020 for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. I am aware of your goal-setting meeting today, but I have a day job and am unable to attend.

I have attached a letter sent to you previously by our chief and new board president. I have attached it to ensure that you have it to consider during your meeting today.

I am aware of several other issues that the board has discussed in the past that it may want to pursue with the city. One, for example, pertains to the availability of sufficient water pressure to provide adequate coverage for the many new developments, and the taller projects, being built in the city. Another pertains to the lack of fire sprinklers in downtown buildings and the possibility of a conflagration that could wipe out much of the downtown. Another is the inclusion of fire district staff in the initial reactions to development proposals that would normally occur if fire suppression and prevention were part of city government.

If anyone would like to contact me about any of these matters, you may reach me at my office (650-424-1155, x1 or my work and district e-mail addresses (cbernstein@headsup.org; cbernstein@MenloFire.org).

—Chuck Bernstein



# Menlo Park Fire Protection District

Fire Chief  
Harold Schapelhouman

170 Middlefield Road • Menlo Park, CA 94025 • Tel: 650.688.8400 • Fax: 650.323.9129  
Website: [www.menlofire.org](http://www.menlofire.org) • Email: [mpfd@menlofire.org](mailto:mpfd@menlofire.org)

Board of Directors  
Robert Jones  
Jim McLaughlin  
Chuck Bernstein  
Virginia Chang Kiraly  
Robert J. Silano

January 30, 2020

## Mayor Taylor, Council members, City Manager Jerome-Robinson and Police Chief Bertini

As another important local government agency that provides essential emergency services and is specifically designated and entrusted to serve the residents and businesses in the City of Menlo Park that are also included in the boundaries of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, we ask for your consideration at your “goal planning meeting”, to consider working, or partnering with the Fire District.

### We have identified the following items as in our mutual interests:

1. Sale of the vacant lot located at 1283 Willow Road, for a new Fire Station that would replace Station 77.
2. Update and expand our current Emergency Management Services Agreement.
3. Build a joint use and standalone Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Fire Station One.
4. Adopt the Fire Districts Primary Emergency Response Routes for the greater good and well being of the entire community. Replace, modify or remove traffic control devices that slow and/or damage our emergency response apparatus.
5. Formally partner with the Fire District on its UAS/Drone Program that is fully operational and was started in 2014. This will eliminate operational conflicts and duplication of effort.
6. Work with the Fire District to address emergency response issues associated with Facebooks proposed 60 Acre Willow Village development.
7. Work with the Fire District to expedite the rebuilding of the Facebook sponsored Belle Haven Community Center.
8. Work with the Fire District to address operational and safety concerns associated with Homeless Encampments.

Respectfully;

Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief

Robert Jones, Fire Board President

*“Excellence In Service”*

**Salwan, Neetu**

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**From:** Schapelhouman, Harold <harolds@menlofire.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 12:40 AM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Cc:** Jerome-Robinson, Starla L; Bertini, David C; Zollicoffer, Ryan; Stevens, James; Schapelhouman, Harold; Kneier, Michelle  
**Subject:** Goal Setting Opportunities to work and partner with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District  
**Attachments:** City of Menlo Park - Joint Goal Opportunities with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District - January 30, 2020.doc

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

**Mayor Taylor, Council Members, City Manager Jerome-Robinson and Police Chief Bertini**

Please include the attached one page, 8 point letter from the Fire District into your goal setting and planning process for 2020.

Board President Jones plans to attend your meeting. Unfortunately, I am in a semi-annual staff planning meeting at exactly the same time and will not be able to attend. I am always more than happy to directly meet and work with the City Manager and/or Police Chief any time, depending upon which item we are discussing.

Thank you



**Harold Schapelhouman**  
**Fire Chief**

Menlo Park Fire Protection District | 170 Middlefield Road | Menlo Park, CA 94025  
(650) 688-8426 | (650) 323-9129 FAX  
[harolds@menlofire.org](mailto:harolds@menlofire.org) | [www.menlofire.org](http://www.menlofire.org)

*Mission Statement: To protect and preserve life and property from the impact of fire, disaster, injury and illness.*



# Menlo Park Fire Protection District

Fire Chief  
Harold Schapelhouman

170 Middlefield Road • Menlo Park, CA 94025 • Tel: 650.688.8400 • Fax: 650.323.9129  
Website: [www.menlofire.org](http://www.menlofire.org) • Email: [mpfd@menlofire.org](mailto:mpfd@menlofire.org)

Board of Directors  
Robert Jones  
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Chuck Bernstein  
Virginia Chang Kiraly  
Robert J. Silano

January 30, 2020

**Mayor Taylor, Council members, City Manager Jerome-Robinson and Police Chief Bertini**

As another important local government agency that provides essential emergency services and is specifically designated and entrusted to serve the residents and businesses in the City of Menlo Park that are also included in the boundaries of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, we ask for your consideration at your “goal planning meeting”, to consider working, or partnering with the Fire District.

We have identified the following items as in our mutual interests:

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7. Work with the Fire District to expedite the rebuilding of the Facebook sponsored Belle Haven Community Center.
8. Work with the Fire District to address operational and safety concerns associated with Homeless Encampments.

**Respectfully;**

**Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief**

**Robert Jones, Fire Board President**

*“Excellence In Service”*

**Salwan, Neetu**

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**From:** Lydia W. Lee <lydiawlee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:03 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Goal-setting--please prioritize climate action

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear Councilmembers,

During your upcoming goal-setting meeting, I strongly urge you to prioritize the development and adoption of a Climate Action Plan. I know that the Environmental Quality Commission, with the help of the Complete Streets Commission and others, are tirelessly devoting many volunteer hours to create one, figuring out how we can do the best we possibly can in Menlo Park.

Please also consider increasing the allowable housing density in the downtown plan so that the city gains much-needed housing near public transit without the burden of additional traffic. Right now, we're playing catch-up in our urban planning in order to adapt to our new reality. For a dose of inspiration, have a look at Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo's plan for a "Fifteen-Minute City," in which people can access everything they need quickly and conveniently, without being forced to get into their cars:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/carltonreid/2020/01/21/phasing-out-cars-key-to-paris-mayors-plans-for-15-minute-city>

I look forward to strong leadership from City Council to help tackle the great existential threat of our times.

Speaking for myself, as a 20+ year resident of Menlo Park,

Lydia Lee  
Complete Streets Commissioner  
Bike Menlo Park

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Jim Lewis <jimlewis@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 4:46 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** GUNS VS. BUTTER (now or later)

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Life is full of choices.

Currently before you is a proposal for \$40,000,000 or so to REBUILD an existing Onetta Harris Community Center. This is certainly commendable, when viewed in an isolated way for a project in and of itself. However, the Onetta Harris Community Center already exists, with a desire to bring it UP-TO-DATE. It should serve the community well for years to come, once completed.

Another approx. \$40,000,000 project is the City of Menlo Park's EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (or commonly known as the EOC), in which the City of Menlo Park in essence, has NONE. Thus, this is an opportunity for you to consider what is more important. Given limited staff time, limited City funds for the swimming pool, furniture and furnishings, etc. versus providing SAFETY in the event of an unexpected emergency, becomes a choice. Are we trading GUNS FOR BUTTER?

Are we trading the need for the POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE, HAZ MAT and others to have a command center, modern in every way located within the City, sufficient to address wildfires, pandemics, contaminated water, air and food, EARTHQUAKES, historic levels of windstorms and a host of other issues, such as the potential for TERRORISM, by kicking this can, once again, down the road, while joyously constructing a building to play and socialize? Will history judge the outcome? How often do we chase things that are FUN, vs. spending time on the probability of a community nightmare?

An ACTIVE SHOOTER can spoil your and many other persons day and continuing for a lifetime. Is Menlo Park prepared? Are joint exercises being done? Is there a central communications network ready, willing and able to coordinate essential services? Attention spent in construction on a priority basis for possibly TWO YEARS (2020 - 2021) or more to focus on all the myriad of details of a MULTI-GENERATIONAL CENTER could result in the CITY being wholly unprepared in other ways.

WHAT ELSE will be deferred, put off, delayed, postponed while an existing project gets rebuilt? What might be the true cost, all things considered? It's impossible to do all things at once. Life is full of choices. We pray that you will find the way so this proposed project becomes a win-win situation for all those persons, businesses, visitors and others coming to this wonderful and special place we affectionately refer to as MENLO PARK.

I believe this concern could be part of the CONVERSATION. The big picture should be viewed in navigating the choices. If you agree, the upcoming GOAL SETTING meeting should provide time to go over the TRADE-OFFS, pros and cons, benefits and drawbacks of taking on at this time a project of this magnitude, perhaps one of the largest in Menlo Park's approx. 100 year history (1927 - present).



**Salwan, Neetu**

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**From:** Leah Elkins <leahelkins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 1:25 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Include Leaf Blower Ban in CAP

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Public Comment on Banning Gas Gardening Equipment in Menlo Park

City Council Annual Goal Setting Meeting 1/30/2020

(Good afternoon. My name is Leah Elkins and I have been a resident of Menlo Park for over 20 years.)

I am standing up today to add my voice to Lisa's and to ask that the council consider a ban on gasoline powered leaf blowers. I believe that the global climate crisis and the City's stated commitment to reduce greenhouse gases compels such an action. Banning gas leaf blowers is an easy way to reduce pollution and bring a greater calm to our neighborhoods which are already suffering from increased vehicle and air traffic and construction noise.

I want to address the common arguments against such a ban that Lisa just laid out in her comments.

First is limited staff resources. The fact is that the research has been completed and accepted by many California cities already. There is very little that city staff need do other than review the reports already created by nearby cities. Moreover, many ordinances have already been enacted that can serve as models for our own.

Second is the limited impact these machines have compared to other pollution sources. While it is true that gas blowers do not contribute as large a percentage of carbon emissions as other sources, it is possible to simply ban them while we cannot do so with cars, nor require homeowners to convert their homes to all-electric. On the other hand, electric garden machines are readily available and achieve the same results at nearly the same cost. A ban on gas blowers is an easy step which will definitely result in less emissions and less noise pollution.

The City could also consider banning all polluting gardening equipment such as mowers and hedge trimmers to achieve an even greater reduction. Starting with the most obnoxious machine, however, would be a first step.

Third, a ban will have an economic impact on gardeners and perhaps on homeowners if gardeners raise their rates. Other cities have successfully solved this problem by utilizing a phase in period to allow gardeners time to replace their equipment. And, as Lisa has pointed out, we are an affluent community and anyone who can afford a gardener can afford to pay them a few dollars more per week.

Finally, it has been suggested that the citizenry does not support a ban due to the previous referendum to overturn the Council's action in 1997. This, however, is ancient history. This is a new day and a new reality we are living in and there is simply no evidence that Menlo Park residents have an unique attachment to these machines which would require us to be bound forever by events that occurred 22 years ago.

In the fight to make a positive change in our community, a ban on gas blowers is low hanging fruit. It can be implemented quickly and effectively and will demonstrate the City's commitment to reducing harmful pollutants.

Lisa and I have worked hard over the last year to bring the Council's attention to this matter and we sincerely hope that we have finally arrived at the time when this issue can be given serious consideration. We know you have received at least a few emails from like-minded citizens and we hope you will ask staff to study the feasibility of a gas leaf blower ban as part of Menlo Park's Climate Action Plan.

Thank you.

Leah Elkins  
Sent from my iPhone

**Salwan, Neetu**

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**From:** Tom Prussing <tprussing@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:59 AM  
**To:** Taylor, Cecilia; \_CCIN  
**Cc:** Maria Amundson; Kurt Armbrust; erikabcooks@yahoo.com; Scott Barnum; Rainer Bartoldus; Lynne Bramlett; June Cancell; Froelicher, Erika; Rebecca Grant; Debbie Hudson; David Joya; Elizabeth Lewis; Jon Mosby; Tom Prussing; Linda Salser; Robin McClish  
**Subject:** Menlo Park Emergency Preparedness Priority  
**Attachments:** MP City Council.200129.doc

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Mayor Taylor and City Council,

We ask that you and your fellow council members make emergency preparation a priority at your annual goal-setting meeting. We want the Menlo Park community to be prepared and trained for the disaster event we know will come.

Please see attached letter signed by (16) Menlo Park area resident emergency responders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynne Bramlett, Mills Court Block Coordinator  
Tom Prussing, MPFPD CCM CERT Advisory Board

Good Morning Mayor Taylor and Menlo Park City Council Members,

We are members of the Menlo Park CERT and neighborhood emergency response teams.

We are dedicated in helping our community to be resilient, response capable and recovery able when the next major disaster takes place in Menlo Park.

We have been told by Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, PG&E and our own police and fire professionals that we residents will be on our own for 5-7 days after a major area disaster. With this understanding, we are teaching each other in personal readiness and neighborhood response in the Get Ready Menlo Park classes. In the MPFPD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic class we are being training in disaster organization, triage, communications, firefighting and light search and rescue.

We participate in yearly Community Emergency Drills. **The 4th annual Menlo Park Community Emergency Drill will take place in June of this year.** This drill gives an individual who is concerned about neighborhood and community disaster preparedness, the opportunity to practice his/her knowledge and skills in a live and simulated community-wide emergency event within a multi-block neighborhood setting. We hope to surpass in numbers, the 78 responders who participated last year.

We are also working to establish a viable MP CERT organization with the goal of having all neighborhoods throughout MP trained and ready in the event of a major disaster. This effort supports the City of Menlo Park's General Plan Safety Element Policy S1.34:

“Ensure disaster preparation in cooperation with other public agencies and appropriate public-interest organizations. Expand ability of residents to assist in local responses to disasters. Ensure adequate resources, facilities and other support for emergency response equitable throughout the City.” (S1.34: Adopted May 21, 2013)

Mayor Taylor, as a CERT member yourself, you understand the necessity to have a high level of community readiness in case of a large-scale Menlo Park emergency

or disaster. **We ask that you and your fellow council members make emergency preparation a priority at your annual goal-setting meeting. We want the Menlo Park community to be prepared and trained for the disaster event we know will come.**

Despite the need for residents to be prepared, most areas are unprepared. Only a few Menlo Park and neighboring unincorporated areas have resident emergency coordinators and the District 1 Area is not one of them. Belle Haven especially needs a concerted focus on emergency readiness. The area lies in a flood plain, its housing is high density (making it easier for fires to travel) and its road arteries frequently clogged with traffic, making it difficult for emergency vehicles to respond.

There also appears to be no published disaster plan for downtown Menlo Park.

There are several areas of community disaster response readiness that urgently need attention. As part of an emergency preparation readiness effort, we ask that you and the City Council make the below part of your emergency preparation focus:

- Support of a viable Menlo Park CERT Organization that complements ADAPT in Atherton and rEPAct in East Palo Alto;
- Integration of Menlo Park Police and MPFPD Fire efforts in the creation of an effective District 1 disaster response and evacuation plan with resident training (in conjunction with Atherton and East Palo Alto Police Departments);
- Inclusion of MPFPD Community Crisis Management (CCM)/CERT and neighborhood response organizations with the Menlo Park OES planning, preparedness and operations;
- Concentrated effort to encourage and engage Menlo Park merchants, corporations, agencies, businesses, hotels and churches in disaster response preparedness,
- Development and installation of a Menlo Fire approved EAP signage (Emergency Assembly Point) for each Menlo Park Area similar to Atherton and Stanford Campus;
- Active participation in the June Menlo Park Community Emergency Drill.

We are only a small portion of the many Menlo Park residents who are interested in helping to improve the city's preparedness. We look forward to working with City Council, local organizations, neighborhood leaders, and other resident volunteers to make our community more resilient, response capable and recovery-able after a disaster.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Kurt Armburst, Flood Triangle Coordinator  
Maria Amundson, Felton Gables Coordinator  
Erika Bailey, Flood Triangle Coordinator  
Scott Barnum, MPFPD CCM CERT Advisory Board  
Rainer Bartoldus, Area 45  
Lynne Bramlett, Mills Court Block Coordinator  
June Cancell, Area 23  
Erica Froelicher, Sharon Circle Neighborhood Coordinator  
Rebecca Grant, Sharon Oaks Neighborhood Coordinator  
Debbie Hudson, MPFPD CCM CERT Advisory Board  
David Joya, Belle Haven Area 29  
Elizabeth Lewis, Sharon Circle Neighborhood Coordinator  
Robin McClish, MPFPD CCM CERT Advisory Board  
Jon Mosby, Area 45 Coordinator  
Tom Prussing, MPFPD CCM CERT Advisory Board  
Linda Salser, MPFPD CCM CERT Advisory Board

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Jim Lewis <jimlewis@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 10:03 AM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** MENLO PARK FLAG

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Honorable Mayor Taylor and Esteemed Council Members:

Is this a good time in Menlo Park's history to consider the creation of a FLAG to proudly display at city facilities?

Many CITIES have taken the initiative to do this, including those nearby located both to the north and south of us.

Why do they do this? The answer is likely for the same reason the each STATE has a flag along with the familiar United States flag.

The DESIGN might be fun to create by asking residents, property owners, school aged children and others to submit ideas and proposals.

If you feel this is worthy of at least a discussion, kindly consider it for a conversation during your upcoming GOAL SETTING meeting, or other appropriate time.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and especially for your service, dedication and long countless hours to this special place we call MENLO PARK.

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Lisa Williams <lisa-williams-bb@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Phase out gas powered garden tools as par of the Menlo Park Climate Action Plan in 2020

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Menlo Park Goal Setting Meeting: Public comments Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

### Public Comment on Banning Gas Gardening Equipment in Menlo Park

My name is Lisa Williams and I have been a Menlo Park resident for 33 years.

What am I here for? I'm here for a city that is progressive, and ready to take action when necessary - to that end I see progress measured by our "quality of life".

That brings me to gas powered garden tools. In Menlo Park we seem to have mastered the art of living with the unacceptable, but staring us in the face is the climate change crisis necessitating action, ergo phasing out gas garden tools. Fortunately, many other cities are leading the way, having legislated bans on their use. We all know the science is there to back this up.

Over the past year, my associate and I have spoken with various Menlo Park city representative on this issue. Their reasons for not addressing it include:

- It will be a long process.
- The optics are extremely challenging given the history (a city ban over 20 years ago overturned by a referendum). Why don't you both, as citizens put it on the ballot!
- It will take city resources away from other high priority projects
- Unenforceable, once a ban is put in place. After speaking with the MP police department they confirmed that, per the current ordinance they successfully respond when called and they do not consider current infractions **unenforceable**.
- Gas leaf blowers do not have a sufficient carbon impact to warrant inclusion in the Menlo Park Climate Action Plan

Some of the above may be true, although IMO insufficient reasons to do nothing hoping the State takes action. Bottom line is, the longer this not addressed, the poorer the "quality of life" in Menlo Park becomes.

The garden service industry is also as a stakeholder in this issue. Their interest, out of economic necessity is driven by short-term profit & loss. However, the long-term impact to their health must not be ignored.



For gardeners not currently working in cities with bans, replacing gas tools with electric tools, **without subsidies means they bear the cost**. If we agree that health, the environment, and quality of life are relevant and important, this becomes a cost of doing business responsibly. Gardeners have every right to raise their rates to cover these costs. Menlo Park is an affluent city; residents that can afford gardeners can afford to pay more to offset these costs. **It should also be noted** that in long term, the cost of running battery-operated garden equipment is much less than that of equivalent gas powered equipment.

For the City there will be the cost of enforcing a ban. This would be reduced over time **if the homeowners are responsible for citations**, because after one or two citations home owners would hire gardeners in compliance. So, what will it take to prioritize this ban? Thank you.

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Diane Bailey <diane@menlospark.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 12:35 AM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Please Prioritize Climate Action in 2020, with excellent recommendations from the Environmental Quality Commission

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear Mayor Taylor and City Council Members,

Thank you for declaring a Climate Emergency last month and supporting the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) recommendation to **adopt a new reduction target of carbon neutral (zero emissions) by 2030!** I'm writing to urge you to continue to prioritize climate action in 2020 by formally adopting this goal and taking several measures to advance it, as recommended by EQC.

We need bold local climate leadership now more than ever, given that Menlo Park is facing growing impacts of climate change with more intense heat waves, increased fire danger and smoke, and rising sea levels that will bring serious flooding. The World Health Organization issued a warning recently that climate change will be one of the most urgent health threats of this decade, due to extreme weather and other impacts. And the World Economic Forum (WEF) issued a new report naming climate change the biggest global threat to the future. At the recent WEF in Davos, Greta Thunberg gave another powerful address calling for urgent climate action, saying: *"Our house is still on fire. Your inaction is fueling the flames by the hour. And we are telling you to act as if you loved your children above all else."*

Menlo Park has shown significant leadership on climate action with measures to prioritize clean energy, avoid fossil fuels in new construction, and support electric vehicles. The EQC has laid out a very impressive, well researched, and carefully vetted plan to continue this leadership. I urge you to adopt EQC's recommendations for priorities in 2020:

- Adopt a "lean" Climate Action Plan including the climate neutral goal for 2030, in time for Earth Day in April.
- Adopt the following critical 2020 climate actions proposed by EQC:
  - A. "Decarbonization" (phasing out fossil fuels) of municipal assets;
  - B. Electrification programs for existing buildings to help phase out fossil gas;
  - C. Explore ways to reduce VMT (solo driving), through priority measures, such as increasing housing density downtown;
  - D. Increase permit compliance for heating and water heating equipment; and
  - E. Create an educational campaign to engage community members on climate preservation.

Thank you for your consistent support making Menlo Park a more sustainable city and a regional leader on how cities can prosper while leading on climate actions.

Warm regards,  
Diane

Diane Bailey | Executive Director  
MENLO SPARK  
[diane@menlospark.org](mailto:diane@menlospark.org) | 650-281-7073  
Visit us: [www.MenloSpark.org](http://www.MenloSpark.org)  
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Follow us on [Twitter](#)



*Climate Neutral for a Healthy, Prosperous Menlo Park*

EV, PV & Fossil Free: *Guides for Electric Cars, solar & Fossil Free Homes at: <http://menlospark.org/what-we-do/>*

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** chuck jagoda <chuckjagoda1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 1:52 PM  
**To:** Aram James  
**Cc:** CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org; Molly; Greer Stone; Palo Alto Free Press; Greg Tanaka; Liz Kniss; hrc@cityofpaloalto.org; WILPF Peninsula Palo Alto; Lydia.Kou@cityofpaloalto.org; tom.dubois@cityofpaloalto.org; Adrian.Fine@cityofpaloalto.org; \_CCIN; Steven D. Lee; Roberta Ahlquist; City Council; Robert Jonsen  
**Subject:** Re: Assembly Bill 686 -Bill's Goal fairness in housing — very important legislation -cities forced to respond -and mandates city plan.....

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Thanks for sharing!

Good, true article.

It's hard to really grasp the fact that local cities (not just Palo Alto) have spent the last forty years NOT building for the lower levels of the market. Which SO obviously disadvantages the lower and middle classes and leaves us right where we are now-- caught between those who need housing but can't find anything affordable and those (present residents and developers and City Council cohorts) hell bent on only catering to those who can pay big bux to live here. How long, how long will this stupid stalemate survive?

Chuck

On Sat, Feb 1, 2020 at 1:37 PM Aram James <[abjpd1@gmail.com](mailto:abjpd1@gmail.com)> wrote:

Follow the link below to view the article.

<http://mercurynews.ca.newsmemory.com/?publink=0bb60f54d>

Sent from my iPhone

--  
Chuck

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Ryann Price <ryanneprice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 3:06 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Cc:** Lucky, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** Ryann Price, EQC Chair, Remarks from the 1/30/20 Meeting

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Dear City Council Members,

We appreciate that the city has a diverse set of needs. At the same time, the urgency of the climate emergency calls us to act. Shortly after the city declared a climate emergency in December, the EQC's CAP Subcommittee set out to address the climate crisis and required GHG reduction here in Menlo Park.

The process they followed included collaboration with city staff, tapping into experts from around the world, and attending conferences. They covered a range of topics including sea level rise, carbon sink technologies, sea walls, electric heat pumps, and effective incentive programs. In addition, the subcommittee gathered best practices from cities around the globe who are leading the way on climate action and who, like us, are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

As the subcommittee investigated they discovered the true cost of waiting. EACH DAY an average of 14 citizens commit about \$294,000 to assets that are currently allowed by federal law but environmentally obsolete. Over the course of one year that's over \$100Million. That is direct cost today. That does not include adaptation or any other additional costs to our community due to delayed action.

Yesterday I shared the EQC's 2020 work plan which resulted from this effort. This proposal points the way toward achieving the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. The proposal highlights include a recommendation that staff and the EQC be directed to draft a "lean" 3-yr climate action plan for Council review in April, and at that time climate actions for 2020 be adopted.

IPCC warned us that avoiding catastrophe from climate change would require "rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society." As we have come to believe, they were right. We, as an EQC, didn't really understand the meaning of those words until the CAP Subcommittee did the math and realized the actions and timeline required.

We won't deny the fact that our proposal calls on you to act in ways that may be outside of your comfort zone. We wouldn't ask you to take these actions unless it was absolutely necessary for the future of Menlo Park. "The world is counting on California and California in turn is counting its cities to lead the way." Andrew McCallister, California Energy Commissioner, made that statement upon returning from global climate talks in Madrid.

Having said all of this, I am hopeful. Our plan demonstrates that, with courage and commitment, we can make great progress toward carbon neutrality on a timeline that helps protect Menlo Park. Brave, forward-thinking cities, like Menlo Park, can show the world what's possible.

Special thank you to the CAP Subcommittee members Josie Gaillard, Tom Kabat, and James Payne, Sustainability Manager Rebecca Lucky for their commitment and dedication.

Ryann Price

## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Jim Lewis <jimlewis@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 12:34 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** SAFETY FIRST

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Honorable Mayor Taylor and Council Members:

In preparation for the annual City Council - Goal Setting meeting, I reviewed the letters sent to the CCIN website.

One topic that jumped out at me was the topic of PUBLIC SAFETY, and more specifically for the need of

- 1- An EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC), and for the need of a
- 2- DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN.

Similar letters were sent by

1- LYNNE BRAMLETT and TOM PRUSSING, attaching a letter signed by 16 Menlo Park area residents. The letter stated in part "WE ASK that you and your fellow council members make emergency preparation a priority at your annual goal-setting meeting." This group is also working to establish a Menlo Park - CERT program. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team.

2- HAROLD SCHAPELHOUMAN (Fire Chief) and ROBERT JONES (Fire Board President), in an email dated January 30, 2020, stated EIGHT ITEMS of mutual interest. I hope you acknowledge receipt of this letter and actively work with the Fire District in discussing, and where applicable, implementing important and critical programs.

Frankly, with the potential of

- 1- Terrorism,
- 2- Pandemics,
- 3- Active Shooters,
- 4- Earthquakes,
- 5- Floods,
- 6- Wildfires, etc.

the PRIORITY of this is significant.

If the term SAFETY FIRST is going to have any meaning what-so-ever, I encourage you to reassure the residents and others in the City of Menlo Park that this will be one of your top 5 priorities.

During the meeting, several Council Members included in their remarks the importance of Safety and Quality of Life issues. I commend you for this and ask that good intentions be transformed into meaningful programs.

**Salwan, Neetu**

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**From:** James Payne <jamespayne1987@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Support for Climate Policies for the 2020 Work Plan

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Honorable Mayor Taylor and City Council Members,

Thank you for the climate leadership you have shown by passing the Reach Codes, declaring a Climate Emergency, and for the support you've expressed for setting the goal of zero carbon by 2030. These policies are exactly what are needed for Menlo Park to lead the way for California and, in turn, for California to lead the way for the world to take the "rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented" action needed to stabilize the climate and ensure a livable world for all.

As a member of the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), I and my fellow commissioners voted earlier this week to recommend a lean format for CAP 2.0 as well as a set of strategies that will put us on a good footing to meet the goal that will be set by CAP 2.0. I am unfortunately unable to be at today's work plan session in person, so I wanted to write to reiterate my personal support for these recommendations. I believe that a lean, clear CAP 2.0 will allow us to quickly develop the zero carbon by 2030 target and the strategies required to get there, and will produce a document that is easily understood by all and sharable with other communities. But it is imperative that while we are developing a plan we don't wait to take further action - as you can see in the EQC memo, delayed action comes with a tremendous cost, both financial and environmental. Therefore we also recommend a suite of actions that I believe will help us reach a zero carbon by 2030 goal. In brief:

- 1) Decarbonization of municipal assets, to clean up the city's buildings and vehicle fleet and lead the way forward for residents
- 2) Continuing the work of the Reach Codes through ongoing commercial electrification
- 3) Exploring ways to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in Menlo Park to reduce traffic, vehicle emissions, and make the air and streets in Menlo Park safer
- 4) Increase permit compliance for heating and water equipment, to ensure the safety of these appliances in our unfortunately earthquake and fire susceptible region
- 5) Create an educational campaign to engage community members on how we're leading the way in preserving a livable climate and can continue to do so

As we're seeing the impacts of the climate crisis escalate rapidly, with unprecedented tragedies like the bushfires in Australia that have already consumed an area equal to nearly half of the entire state of California, it can be easy to be pessimistic; but in seeing the increasingly bold actions taken by communities like ours around the world I think that there's more reason than ever to be optimistic that we will rise to the challenge. It is only by taking these bold actions and seeing them propagate around the world that we can catalyze the "rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented" changes needed to confront this crisis, and Menlo Park is in the privileged position of being able to do so.

Best,  
James Payne

**Salwan, Neetu**

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**From:** Jim Lewis <jimlewis@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2020 2:46 AM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** TEN RECOMMENDED GOALS

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Allow me to suggest a few ideas for your consideration during the upcoming Thursday, January 30, 2020, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm annual City Council GOAL SETTING meeting.. The 10 ideas were submitted last year and still apply to this day.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the community.

Respectfully

Jim Lewis

Encl.: <http://ccin.menlopark.org/19482.html>



## Salwan, Neetu

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**From:** Patti Fry <MenloPatti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 3:12 PM  
**To:** \_CCIN  
**Subject:** Thoughts for Council Goal Setting

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, DO NOT click links, open attachments or reply.**

Honorable Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Combs, Councilmembers Carlton, Mueller, Nash,  
Below are comments I made in person last evening to the Council. Some additional information is included than was possible to include in 3 minutes at the microphone.

CONTEXT - as you set goals, here are some considerations regarding the environment and recent trends:

1. GRIDLOCK - more frequent and longer in duration in the bayfront area that has experience near-constant construction, particularly related to Facebook projects, and increasingly along El Camino where two very large projects are still under construction
2. FUTURE IMPACTS - from largest project in Menlo Park history, "Willow Village", that is working its way through reviews. Its Draft EIR is due this summer.
3. JOBS/HOUSING IMBALANCE - both locally and regionally. Menlo Park was deemed by prior decision-makers as a Jobs Center, thus exacerbating the housing shortage locally. Now the city faces inflexible "remedies" from Sacramento
4. CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS - the urgency to address is heightened
5. ZONING ORDINANCE FLAWED - the ECR/Downtown Specific Plan (adopted July 2012) and ConnectMenlo General Plan (adopted November 2016) each are nearing their 25-30 years non-residential growth caps while failing to produce commensurate housing. The zoning ordinance that is supposed to implement the plans has failed to produce balanced growth. It is flawed and will perpetuate imbalanced growth if not altered. It is nearly 8 months since discussions of an office moratorium were tabled with the expectation that something else would address the underlying problems. Next to nothing has.

QUESTIONS - each Councilmember should ask yourself what this year is intended to provide as concrete answers to questions like:

1. What can I do THIS YEAR to improve the housing crisis and improve the jobs/housing balance? Current zoning rules allow imbalanced growth in a market with insatiable demand for Office. The zoning rules need reswizzled so project after project doesn't worsen the jobs/housing imbalance. Tuesday night's project on Santa Cruz is an example: it is proposed with only 4 residential units whereas 13 could have been proposed. Instead, Office space is proposed on more than one floor.

The two large projects on El Camino (Greenheart's Station 1300 and Stanford's Middle Plaza) will provide just 398 residential units when they could have provided 828 (the Specific Plan cap is 680 units). Both projects have multiple Office buildings and worsen jobs/housing balance.

The proposed Willow Village would worsen the jobs/housing balance because it includes so much Office. Why? the zoning rules allow this to happen. There are some relatively simple short term modifications to improve this until longer term changes are made. I would be honored to discuss some ideas. Why wait for what Sacramento says? Why wait and let more projects worsen the problems? There is time urgency to address this.

2. What can I do THIS YEAR to tackle climate change? The new TIA standards, required by the state by July, are a good start if these are set with local targets. It isn't enough to use regional standards. Menlo Park needs to do better for its residents; that will help the region, too.

Setting updated, local standards of significance for other EIR categories would also help ensure Menlo Park is doing its best to address environmental impacts. There is impact and time urgency to put these in place because the largest project in Menlo Park history should be evaluated using aggressive standards so that appropriate decisions and mitigation measures can occur.

3. What can I do THIS YEAR to improve the quality of life for Menlo Park residents? Perhaps launching the Belle Haven Community Center is the primary goal. Since it has less time urgency than the above two goals, be sure that it doesn't "crowd out" much needed progress on more time-sensitive fronts. The quality of life in the Bayfront area will be greatly affected by continued growth under the ConnectMenlo General Plan and current zoning rules.

PROCESS -- I urge you to adopt no more than 3-5 major goals. Then manage their implementation so that other projects and inertia don't "crowd out" achieving progress in priority areas. Here are some suggestions based on the philosophy that one can only manage what is measured:

- a. Identify 3/6/9/12 month tangible milestones for each goal
- b. Track progress monthly, such as by adding these goals and milestones to the rolling list of upcoming agenda items
- c. Add a small section to each staff report where the report specifies which of the top 3-5 priorities it addresses.
- d. Explicitly prioritize milestones so that the most time sensitive items are tackled first.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Fry

Former Planning Commissioner



# SB 330 HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019 IMPLEMENTATION





# AGENDA

- Summary of New Requirements
- Timelines
- Impact on Resources





## ■ Substantive Provisions:

- Cities cannot downzone below rules in effect January 1, 2018 without corresponding upzoning
- Cities cannot adopt housing moratorium unless “health and safety threat” and HCD approves.
- Housing developers must replace all demolished and protected units one-for-one and provide state relocation benefits and provide right of first refusal to displaced tenants
  - Protected units = low income household past 5 years or Ellis Act eviction past 10 years.

## ■ Procedural Provisions

- Creation of “preliminary application” which “freezes” development standards
- 5-hearing limit
- Establishes multi-step streamlined review process

## ■ Sunset: January 1, 2025



- **Step 1: New preliminary application process created**
  - Requires submittal of state-specified information
  - City must create new checklist and post on website
  - Carrot for developer: If information submitted, development regulations and fees “frozen.”
  
- **Step 2: Permit Streamlining requirements resurrected**
  - City must post checklist of information needed to process development application
  - Must include information regarding (1) historical significance of site/building and (2) replacement housing requirement of SB 330
  - City has 30 days to review for completeness
  - Carrot for developer: If no action by City, application deemed complete

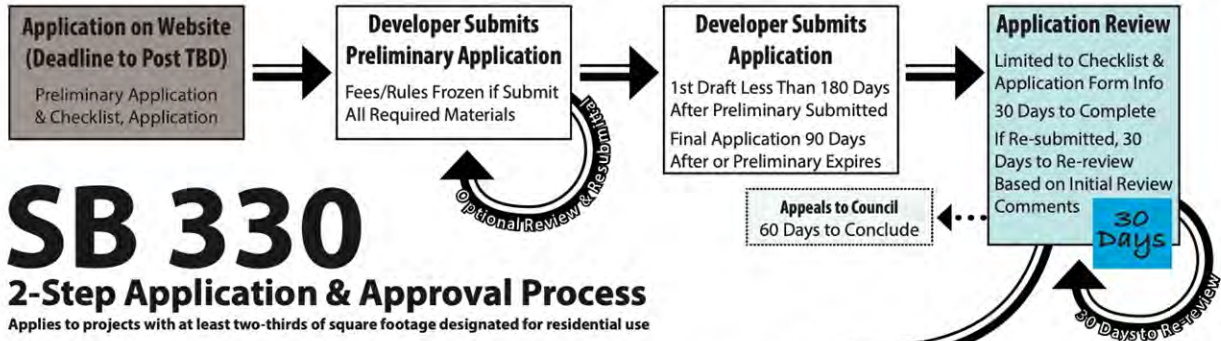


- **Step 3: Consistency Findings**

- City has 30-60 days (depending on size of project) to review for consistency
- City must create expanded checklist of all objective planning, transportation, public works, zero waste regulations
- Carrot for developer: If City does not respond, project deemed consistent

- **Other considerations**

- 5 hearing rule
- Applicant must still comply with CEQA

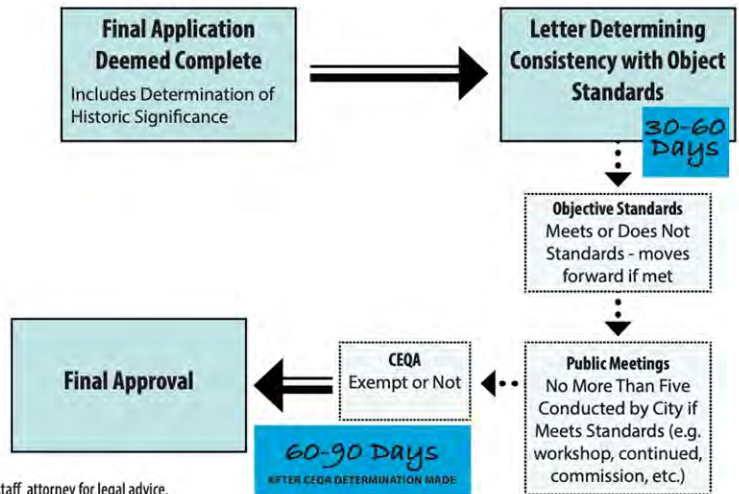


# SB 330

## 2-Step Application & Approval Process

Applies to projects with at least two-thirds of square footage designated for residential use

- PRELIMINARY APPLICATION CONTAINS:**
1. Location
  2. Existing uses, units and demolition if any
  3. Site plan (design details, height, etc.) and square footage of each building
  4. Uses and square footage
  5. Parking
  6. Environmental (air/water pollutants, species of concern and streams)
  7. Hazard zones
  8. Historic resources
  9. Units by income
  10. Density bonus requests
  11. Subdivision requests (map not needed)
  12. Public easements
  13. Additional rules if in coastal zone



Disclaimer: For informational purposes only and subject to change. Consult staff attorney for legal advice.





- Intent of SB 330 is to prioritize and streamline housing projects, which would impact other projects and services
- Existing Planning staff resources and services
- Existing process and procedures are regulated
- Reviewing approximately 3,200 residential units



- 4 projects currently on file under SB 330
  - Menlo Uptown – 483 units
  - Menlo Portal – 335 units, approximately 35,000 sf office and 1,600 sf of commercial
  - Menlo Flats (NEW) – 158 units
  - Sobrato Mixed Use (NEW) - 338 units and 88,750 sf office

SB 330 Preliminary Applications





- Staff training on new requirements and development procedures – *ongoing*
  - Multi-departmental impacts
  
- Prepare and post documentation
  - New preliminary checklist - *completed*
  - New checklist of information needed to process development application – *pending*
  - New expanded checklist of all objective planning, transportation, public works, zero waste, etc. regulations – *not yet started*

Menlo Park El Camino Real Downtown Specific Plan  
Standards and Guidelines: **Project** Compliance Worksheet

Section	Standard or Subpart	Requirement	Evaluation
E.3.1	E.3.1.01	Business and Professional office (inclusive of medical and dental office) shall not exceed one half of the base FAR or public benefit bonus FAR, whichever is applicable.	
	E.3.1.02	Medical and Dental office shall not exceed one half of the base FAR or public benefit bonus FAR, whichever is applicable.	
E.3.2	E.3.2.01	Roof-mounted mechanical equipment, solar panels, and aerial equipment may exceed the maximum building height, but shall be screened from view from publicly accessible spaces.	
	E.3.2.02	Aerial building projections such as parapets and balcony railings may extend up to 8 feet beyond the maximum facade height or the maximum building height, but shall be integrated into the design of the building.	
	E.3.2.03	Roof-top elements that may need to exceed the maximum building height due to their function, such as stair and elevator towers, shall not exceed 15 feet beyond the maximum building height. Such rooftop elements shall be integrated into the design of the building.	
<b>E.3.3 Setbacks and Projections within Setbacks</b>			
E.3.3.01	Standard	Front setbacks shall not be decreased with setbacks, plaques, and/or landscaping at any point.	
E.3.3.02	Standard	Parking shall not be permitted in front setbacks areas.	
E.3.3.03	Standard	To assure safety on a street setback is required, limited setbacks for drive or lobby entry recesses shall not exceed a maximum of 4 feet depth and a maximum of 5 foot width.	
E.3.3.04	Standard	To assure safety on a street setback is required, building projections, such as balconies, bay windows and dormer windows, shall not project beyond a maximum of 3 feet from the building face into the sidewalk clear walking zone, public right-of-way or public space, provided they have a minimum 5 foot vertical clearance above the sidewalk clear walking zone, public right-of-way or public space.	
E.3.3.05	Standard	To assure safety setbacks are required, building projections, such as balconies, bay windows and dormer windows, shall not project beyond a maximum of 3 feet from the building face into the sidewalk area.	

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## ■ Completeness and Consistency Reviews

- Unpredictable resubmittal timing, but within 180 days of preliminary application
- City has 30 days to review for completeness
  - Prioritize SB 330 projects to meet mandated deadlines
- Comprehensive review and coordination process
  - Project components reviewed at once in comparison to components submitted over time
  - Review of existing requirements plus new requirements: information regarding (1) historical significance of site/building and (2) replacement housing requirement of SB 330



## Development Review

<p>Land Use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development regulations and design standards - Planning</li> <li>• Street improvements and green infrastructure – Engineering</li> <li>• Access and parking standards, transportation demand management, new connections - Transportation</li> </ul>
<p>Green and Sustainable Building Regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water – Engineering (Utilities)</li> <li>• Zero waste – Sustainability</li> <li>• Energy/LEED – Building</li> <li>• Flood and sea level rise resiliency – Engineering</li> </ul>
<p>Below Market Rate Housing Compliance</p>	<p>Housing</p>
<p>Community Amenities</p>	<p>City Attorney</p>
<p>Tree Review</p>	<p>City Arborist</p>



# CONCLUSION



## Public Comment on Goals and Priorities for 2020

- State wants us to clean the unincorporated areas and the neighbors are strongly for it. This has been a long conversation with the city for the past 4 years. Different wages throughout MP. We would like uniform public safety, sidewalks, etc.
  - Urge you to move ahead
- MP climate plan needs to be addressed
- Banning gasoline leaf blowers in the City:
  - Suggesting: the ban can be done right away.
  - F/U Question: Will submit entire question
- After 2020 MP has no Climate direction.
  - Action needs to be taken
  - A need for an aggressive plan and approach
- Request Police transparency and an oversight committee.
  - Need to know what is happening
- Menlo Together: review housing, climate action, equity
  - Lead with your values
  - Consider the bigger picture

- Make this the year where we are honest with the Belle Haven School District (BHSD).
  - Add a regional cost supplement to BHSD's funding
    - Reduces excess
    - 100% funded by property taxes
      - Parcel level up
- This is a critical and imp. Meeting. Get a handle on goals and not projects.
  - Transparency is important
- Prioritize housing near downtown station.
  - Focus on safety and mobility
  - Treat climate action emergency as a priority
  - Racial equity to improve outcomes for all
- Create a stronger connection between BH and to other parts of MP. This helps with integration.
  - Consider BMR units: addresses displacement
- A need for more communication from the City and the BH area. We seem to be getting left out many times. It's improving, but we've been left out too many times.
  - Education gov't alliance



- Look at everything in the City through the lens of equity and inclusion.
  - Join GARE
- Make sure we're not pushing housing into BH. It's become congested in BH and is impacting residents in the area. We are boxed in.
  - Get rangers in the parks in BH for monitoring purposes
  - Pollution and traffic in the BH area
- The climate problem has become frightening
  - Consider sea level studies. MP has an opportunity to get ahead and do more in our leadership. Takes a significance budget to do it.
  - Prioritize the long-term impacts and solutions
- Adopt a lean climate plan
  - We are in a climate crisis
  - Designate staff that climate action is still front and center
  - Focus on residency on Willow and BH and everywhere.
  - Equity and inclusion for BH

- Consider the culture of MP and how we are as a City.
  - How we systematically divide resources
  - Commit to Inclusion and equity

## Recommendations from the Council:

- Address the housing in-balance in the City and reinvigorate the downtown
  - Still outstanding and requires staff time
  - Transportation issue
  - Climate Action Plan: would like the City Manager level to have a look at it and to trickle down to other departments
  - Stay laser focused in these areas
- Goals:
  - Housing:
    - Affordable housing is essential
    - Examine all tools
  - Climate:
    - Take action now
      - Next 3 months

- Provide direction on city infrastructure
  - Energy savings
  - Support Community education programs
  - Adopt a Climate Action Plan
- Transportation:
  - Take effective action to provide safe infrastructure throughout city. Promote: walking, train, buses and other means of transportation
  - BH areas with better circulation
- With GARE overarching all of the above
- MP is part of an ecosystem
  - Traffic problems: if we fix the housing, the traffic will follow
  - Environment/climate
  - Housing
  - Overarching: quality of life, safety, education
  - Look through the lens of increasing quality of life
- How the City interacts with residence

- The city's focus in the past was on projects, but what seemed to be missed is the interaction with the residents/community of MP
- Addressing housing concerns
  - Housing options: Second dwelling units
- The Park & Rec. restructuring:
  - Consider how we're interacting with residents and when it comes to parks and use of center. Make the process easier.
- Health and Wellness
  - Water, transportation, safety, housing and climate
  - An accurate count of our community:
    - Support the Census
  - Adopt a 2 year work plan
    - Working in tangent with our commissioners
    - Cohesively with our commissioners
      - Utilizing our commissioners more effectively
  - Setting goals and meeting them
    - Measurable
    - What are the low hanging fruits

- Realistic solutions
- Look at our own practices before we tell others on what to do
- Practical approach on how we solve the problems in our community
- First priority is the BH library
- Second: the TMP
- Third: Middle Ave. rail crossing
- Fourth:
- Fifth: Comply with mandated zone requirements by the State

## Public Input II

- EQC: urgency for climate emergency
  - Consider the true cost
- Public safety submitted by a number of residents – a need for an emergency center and disaster preparedness plan. Needs to be updated.
  - Include safety as one of your top 5 safety goals

- Everything that's been considered today is intersectional: updating city standards will help improve overall needs
- Governing equality:
  - Bringing the community together to be more involved
  - Bridge gaps

## City Council roundtable discussion

- A list of projects would be good
  - Provide a list of projects to better understand the moving parts and better help meet needs and priorities
    - Better understand the impact
- GARE: what is the application process?
- Keep in mind there is always something every year that comes up for future planning meetings
- What are the guiding principles for goals?
  - Systemically with improving our school system is a concern from residents

- Improve quality of life of residents systemically
- Improve our climate action
- Doing all the above with equity in mind and building affordability into it
- Re: question 1, rhetorical question. Comes down to operations perspective and question. Going back to guiding principles as to how is it not impacting quality of life?
- What are the expectations of the Advisory
- RE: Q3:
  - Would like to see a list of projects
  - Downtown transit area renewal
  - Possibility of adding housing in this area, expansion
  - Much needed maintenance in the downtown area. Create a list/plan.
  - Transportation plan
  - There's the FB project. Has a timeline and how is it to be done?
- What are you talking about the school systems?
  - Capitol build out
  - Capacity issues and budget restraints

- How does the City impact the above concerns?
- Question for Staff:
  - Have you pursued hiring someone that is related or familiar with certain projects?
    - Haven't had time to consider
- The staff recommendations: are there things that should be a priority/not?