



**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Date:** 4/18/2023  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Locations:** [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 814 7839 7160 and  
City Council Chambers  
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Members of the public can listen to the meeting and participate using the following methods. If you have issues viewing the meeting, please email the city clerk at [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov).

How to participate in the meeting

- Submit a written comment online up to 1-hour before the meeting start time:  
[city.council@menlopark.gov](mailto:city.council@menlopark.gov)  
Please include the agenda item number you are commenting on.
- Access the meeting real-time online at:  
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – Meeting ID 814 7839 7160
- Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:  
(669) 900-6833  
Meeting ID 814 7839 7160  
Press \*9 to raise hand to speak
- Watch meeting:
  - Cable television subscriber in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, and Palo Alto:  
Channel 26
  - City Council Chambers

Note: City Council closed sessions are not broadcast online or on television and public participation is limited to the beginning of closed session.

Subject to Change: The format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be cancelled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the city website [menlopark.gov](http://menlopark.gov). The instructions for logging on to the webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information ([menlopark.gov/agendas](http://menlopark.gov/agendas)).

According to City Council policy, all meetings of the City Council are to end by midnight unless there is a super majority vote taken by 11:00 p.m. to extend the meeting and identify the items to be considered after 11:00 p.m.

**Regular Session**

- A. Call To Order**
- B. Roll Call**

**C. Special Business**

- C1. Interviews of Planning Commission applicants ([Attachment](#))  
(Note: No action will be taken at this meeting. Appointments are scheduled for the April 25, 2023 City Council meeting.)  
Not a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) project.

**D. Closed Session**

- D1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9  
Name of case: Tobias Kunze and Liliana Kunze Briseno v. City of Menlo Park (Case No. 3-CIV00590)  
Not a CEQA project.
- D2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9:  
(One potential case)  
Not a CEQA project.
- D3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (One potential case)  
Not a CEQA project.

**E. Adjournment**

At every regular meeting of the City Council, in addition to the public comment period where the public shall have the right to address the City Council on any matters of public interest not listed on the agenda, members of the public have the right to directly address the City Council on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the chair, either before or during the City Council's consideration of the item.

At every special meeting of the City Council, members of the public have the right to directly address the City Council on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the chair, either before or during consideration of the item. For appeal hearings, appellant and applicant shall each have 10 minutes for presentations.

If you challenge any of the items listed on this agenda in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or before, the public hearing.

Any writing that is distributed to a majority of the City Council by any person in connection with an agenda item is a public record (subject to any exemption under the Public Records Act) and is available by request by emailing the city clerk at [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov). Persons with disabilities, who require auxiliary aids or services in attending or participating in City Council meetings, may call the City Clerk's Office at 650-330-6620.

Agendas are posted in accordance with Cal. Gov. Code §54954.2(a) or §54956. Members of the public can view electronic agendas and staff reports by accessing the City website at [menlopark.gov/agendas](http://menlopark.gov/agendas) and can receive email notification of agenda postings by subscribing at [menlopark.gov/subscribe](http://menlopark.gov/subscribe). Agendas and staff reports may also be obtained by contacting City Clerk at 650-330-6620. (Posted: 4/13/2023)

# Advisory body application



Submitted on date: **3 April 2023, 1:55PM**  
 Receipt number: **61**  
 Related form versions on: **6**

Applicant's full name (first and last) **Paul Studemeister**  
 Desired advisory body (check all that apply) **Environmental Quality Commission  
 Planning Commission**

## Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education **Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario and B. A. from the University of California at Berkeley**

Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees **No past experience with advisory bodies, commissions or committees. However, over ten (10) years experience as President of a Homeowner's Association serving a condominium community of 120 units located in Sharon Heights, Menlo Park, California.**

Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the advisory body that you are applying for and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities **Provide review and recommendations with regards to environmental and health-&-safety issues and apply my professional experience of more than twenty (20) years as an environmental consultant for engineering/environmental consulting firms in the San Francisco Bay Area.**

Describe why you want to serve on this advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member **I hope to represent the people of Menlo Park and provide sound guidance with regards to environmental quality.**

## Contact and residency information

Email **[REDACTED]**

Cell phone **[REDACTED]**

Home phone

Business phone

Address 1 **[REDACTED]**

Address 2 **[REDACTED]**

City **Menlo Park**

State **CA**

Zip code **94025**

Business address

Number of years as a Menlo Park resident **More than 20**

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

Email

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

Cellphone: **Yes**

Business phone: **No**

Home phone: **No**

Email: **Yes**

## Application acknowledgement and submittal

I certify that the answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. **I agree**

Signature



[Link to signature](#)

# COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE APPLICATION

City Manager's Office - City Clerk  
 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 tel 650-330-6620 fax 650-328-7935



<b>Please type or print clearly. You may attach additional pages, if necessary. This is a public document.</b>
Date: October 26, 2022
Commission or committee of interest: Planning Commission, Complete Streets, Environmental Quality, Finance and Audit, Housing, Library, and Parks and Recreation
Name: Mia Levitan
Education: Tulane University
<p><b>Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other commissions or committees:</b></p> <p>I am involved with the community through my career with Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. We help seniors in the community age in place, run a Meals on Wheels program, and host many events/programs/classes. I support many of the planning committees within the organization.</p> <p>I had an internship with Palo Alto's Office of Emergency Services dept. where I learned so much about community safety initiatives and attended community events to promote this knowledge to the public. Prior to that, I took part in a policy research program through my university and the city of New Orleans to look at the effect of short-term rental units.</p> <p>I attended meetings regarding the introduction of low-income housing in the Sharon heights community where I reside.</p> <p>I try to get involved with local Menlo Park causes and initiatives.</p> <p>I take part in the local branch of the Junior League.</p>
<p><b>Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the commission or committee that you are applying for and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities:</b></p> <p>This commission takes a look at how the city plans for land use within various neighborhoods, including zoning related matters, and new proposals for buildings or other units. There is also a push to examine how we can develop land in a way that's not harmful to our environment. Determining the city's use of land is perhaps one of the most important aspects of local government. Effective strategies can lead to a town that has a healthy combination of available housing, commercial development projects, and neighborhood diversity.</p> <p>I feel that my experiences have shown me how to work collaboratively to make plans that are equitable and just for all. Through engaging with the community, I have learned about Menlo Park's specific culture and values. This is important for determining how to make best use of our land. I have a communications background and professional experience in policy research, event planning, and development. I can put these skills to good use and be an asset to this commission. I would be able to write informative and convincing documents, plan fun gatherings, and reach out to players in the community to share details of the work we do. I love getting out in my neighborhood and getting a feel for what areas my neighbors feel need improvement, and what is working well. If chosen, I will do what I can to make sure the outcome of every decision benefits all, including my neighborhood and the rest of the neighborhoods that comprise our wonderful little town. We have an opportunity to utilize our land in exciting and innovative new ways.</p>
<p><b>Describe why you want to serve on this commission or committee and what you hope to accomplish as a member:</b></p> <p>I want to serve on this commission, because I want to be part of this exciting time in history, where there are so many new developments on the horizon and zoning regulations being worked on. I want to contribute my part in making sure that we examine all sides of a proposal or issue through conducting an in-depth analysis, engaging in healthy debate, bringing in the perspectives of community members, and looking at data/past case-studies to see what the best solutions may be. By not only thinking about planning through a short-term lens, but also a long-term agenda as well, we will have better success down the line and create positive change that is more permanent and beneficial for our community. As a member, I would hope to gain experience working with others on the commission as well as local residents, more knowledge in the land-use/zoning/development field, and a broader understanding of what it means to collaborate with local government. Ultimately, I hope to use my strengths, alongside the strengths of others, to help Menlo Park become a more inclusive, connected, and economically successful town that will be made stronger through the efforts of many. I hope to call on this experience throughout my life in various capacities, whether it be in the personal or professional arena. I am interested in potentially working for local government one day as well and this would give me a great insight into what that might look like!</p>

\_\_\_\_\_ Mia Levitan  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature

October 26, 2022  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY:</b>	
Application received: <u>Feb. 7, 2023</u>	Address verified in City Limits (if necessary): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By: <u>JAH</u>
Considered by City Council: _____	Appointed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Initials)
Considered by City Council: _____	Appointed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Considered by City Council: _____	Appointed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If appointed, term ends: <u>Various</u>	

Personal information:			
Name: Mia Levitan		Number of years as a Menlo Park resident: 5	
Resident address: [REDACTED]		City: menlo park	State: ca Zip: 94025
Mailing address (if different):		City:	State: Zip:
Phone: [REDACTED]		Email: [REDACTED]	
Business address:		City:	State: Zip:
Business phone:			
How did you hear about this opportunity: <input type="checkbox"/> Local newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> City website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nextdoor <input type="checkbox"/> Patch.com <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):		Cellphone:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
		Business phone:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
		Home phone:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
		Email:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

# Advisory body application



Submission date: **5 April 2023, 6:23AM**

Receipt number: **65**

Related form versions: **6**

Applicant's full name (first and last)

**Ross Silverstein**

Desired advisory body (check all that apply)

**Complete Streets Commission**

**Planning Commission**

## Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education

**Economics degree from UC Berkeley.**

Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees

**I am an active participant in the Menlo Park community: I vote in every election, regularly attend city council meetings, and reach out to city employees about potential issues and improvements when I notice them. I am also currently working with members of the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition to establish a "local team" for Menlo Park.**

Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the advisory body that you are applying for and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities

**Complete Streets Commission:**

It is my understanding that the Complete Streets Commission's primary responsibilities are to advise the City Council on Transportation projects and solutions that help advance our stated goals as part of Vision Zero, our Climate Action Plan, and our Transportation Master Plan. The commission also reviews large MP construction projects through the lens of transportation.

I would bring two valuable sets of experiences to the Complete Streets Commission:

First, I rarely drive, and overwhelmingly interact with our transportation systems, routes, lanes and intersections either on my bike or on foot (this includes taking my kids to school every day, to the farmers market, the pool, the library, playgrounds and more). I therefore will bring a non-driver's perspective to the Complete Streets Commission, helping us move MP beyond the car-centric development philosophies that have guided the cityscape in the past.

Second, I have lived in 4 different countries, including Hong Kong, Spain, and the Netherlands in addition to both Northern and Southern California. I have seen how different communities, in urban, rural, and suburban settings can develop transportation priorities that benefit the entire community and incrementally work toward a better transportation system that functions cohesively across different modes of transport.

**Planning Commission:**

It's my understanding that the Planning Commission of Menlo Park's primary responsibilities are to review development proposals and permits and make decisions regarding the approval or denial of said development. The commission also works closely with the City Council and can recommend changes or improvements to our city's zoning, permits, and overall development process.

I am an amateur urban-planning enthusiast, having read much literature and papers on urban planning. I have lived in 4 different countries, including Hong Kong and the Netherlands, but have lived in California for the last 20 years and the Bay Area for the last 10. I feel that the diverse set of environments in which I've lived gives me a good understanding of the pros & cons of those urban environments.

My economics background gives me a good basis point for which to evaluate various city proposals and try to identify what type of ROI (either monetary or otherwise) we as a community might get out of any given project.

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

**Complete Streets Commission:**

I feel strongly that the social fabric of a community is driven by how people get around. There is a stark difference between a community where people are isolated in their own single-occupancy vehicles, and



one where people are able to get around walking, biking, scootering, and using public transportation. Where people are able to interact with their neighbors while walking to get a morning coffee, instead of idling their cars in the Starbucks drive-through line.

What I would hope to accomplish on the Complete Streets Commission includes changes both to the culture, and to specific transportation options. At a cultural level, I'd love to remind members of our community that so many issues around transportation, traffic, and parking, are purely a result of our over-reliance on cars, and can be solved by improving our other methods of transportation. I'd love to move to a world where the conversation about multi-modal infrastructure isn't "drivers versus everyone else," but rather recognizes that better bus lanes, bike lanes, and improved walkability also benefit drivers by reducing traffic. I'd also love to help the city establish a framework for approving transportation projects that includes the full picture of cost savings (both direct and secondary) resulting from reduced car traffic.

Regarding specific changes I'd hope to accomplish: I'd love to capitalize on the current momentum of establishing proper bike-lanes on Middle Avenue and fully realize a complete Safe Routes to School program where we can actually have safe routes to all the Menlo Park schools that kids would be able to bike on safely without fears of injury from cars. I'd love to establish prioritized bus lanes on certain roads as well as transit signal priority, so buses wouldn't ever need to be stuck in traffic. I'd also want to add much more bike parking (including for cargo bikes) around the city so that nobody would ever be discouraged from biking to their destination, for fear that they wouldn't have anyplace safe to park their bikes.

That said, while I believe that deprioritizing cars in Menlo Park will absolutely help us achieve almost all of our stated goals around climate, equity, and vision zero, I also recognize that this isn't going to happen overnight. I am an incrementalist and understand that anything with government and infrastructure will take time to implement. I would be delighted if my membership on the Complete Streets commission can start to steer the city's priorities and projects in the right direction.

#### Planning Commission:

I would love to serve on the Planning Commission and be a voice in the growth and development of Menlo Park. I would say that my overall philosophy for City Planning is one of pro- smart-development. I absolutely love the cute neighborhoods of Menlo Park and how friendly everyone is while I'm going for a walk or riding my bike around town.

That being said, I recognize that there's a desperate housing shortage in California and the Bay Area and would want to be part of the solution to allow that housing to be developed in Menlo Park. I'm a strong proponent of blurring the lines (although not entirely) between residential and commercial areas in towns and feel that it's important

for people to be able to shop, work, dine, all within a short walk or bike ride of where they live.

Specifically, as California has recently passed a number of bills (more notably AB 2097, AB 2011, and SB 6), I imagine that the next 5-10 years will be very important in influencing and informing how Menlo Park will grow and develop for decades to come.

## Contact and residency information

Email	[REDACTED]
Cell phone	[REDACTED]
Home phone	
Business phone	
Address 1	[REDACTED]
Address 2	
City	Menlo Park
State	CA
Zip code	94025
Business address	
Number of years as a Menlo Park resident	1.5
Current City Council district	District 2
How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)	City website
If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):	Cellphone: No Business phone: No Home phone: No Email: Yes

## Application acknowledgement and submittal

I certify that the answers given here are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree

Signature



[Link to signature](#)

# Advisory body application



Submission date: 4 April 2023, 7:44PM

Receipt number: 64

Related form versions: 6

Applicant's full name (first and last)

Katie Ferrick (Katherine Graves Ferrick)

Desired advisory body (check all that apply)

Planning Commission

## Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education

Master of Science, Counseling Psychology, San Francisco State University

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, University of Oregon

Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees

Planning Commission, City of Menlo Park, 2008-2016

Citizens Budget Advisory Ad Hoc Committee, "Your City/Your Decision" 2006-2007

Planning Commission Representative for the two back-to-back Housing Element Update cycles between 2012-2015, City of Menlo Park

Committee to Support Menlo Park Schools (Co-chaired one bond measure and one parcel tax campaign leadership team member), Yes on W Nov 2013, Yes on X 2017

Encinal Elementary School PTO President 2011-2012, Vice President 2010-2011

Laurel Elementary School PTO Financial Secretary 2006-2007, then Treasurer, 2007-2008

Nonprofit and local business advocacy organization boards:

Menlo Spark, founding advisory board member, 2014-2020, then returned to the board 2022-present

Housing Trust Silicon Valley, 2021- present

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2018-present

Joint Venture Silicon Valley Board of Directors, 2021-present

SV@Home founding board of directors, 2015-2020

Sunnyvale Community Services Board of Directors, 2014-2020

Mountain View Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2015-2022

Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the advisory body that you are applying for and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities

**The Planning Commission supports the city's General Plan for the orderly development of the city. As a council-appointed advisory body, we make recommendations and, in some cases, decisions about land use applications before the city and serve as a recommending body to Council for significant land use updates and zoning changes.**

In my professional experience, I served on the district staff for US Congresswoman Jackie Speier between 2009-2014 focusing on congressional district resident needs and issue areas related to the federal government that local residents were in need of assistance with. In early 2014, I started my job at LinkedIn Corporation as their local government affairs representative, including working with their Community Development applications for their commercial development developments globally.

I serve on the Board of Directors for Housing Trust Silicon Valley, which provides innovative financing for Affordable Housing developers in the region.

I was a founding board member for SV@Home between 2015-2020, a nonprofit dedicated to Affordable Housing advocacy in the region. All of these experiences have been instrumental in deepening my understanding of the need for and challenges of creating affordable housing. I've also served on two Chamber of Commerce boards, San Francisco and Mountain View, giving me a solid foundation of understanding of the community's small and large business needs. Specifically, understanding how land-use decisions, the pace city decision making, and the policy direction at the local level which impact housing, office, and retail development all have a massive impact on the economic viability and vibrancy of a city.

Being able to leverage community service, including volunteer work for our local schools, as well as my professional experience to help ensure Menlo Park continues to make smart zoning and land use decisions that move our community forward would be an honor. It was a privilege to serve in this capacity between 2008-2016 and doing so again after having learned so much more from other local cities, I believe I could be a strong asset to the council and to city of Menlo Park.

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


**Since serving on the Planning Commission eight years ago, I've continued to learn more about local public policy, issues including widening economic inequality, local and regional economic development, and the region's housing affordability crisis-- all of which are connected. I hope to bring a broad and deep perspective to Menlo Park to help the city with decisions that are informed by my 20+ years of living in Menlo Park and by my experience in business, about the needs of residents, businesses, and the environment. We all need to work together to solve our largest issues so that everyone has a place and opportunity to thrive.**

Contact and residency information

Email	[REDACTED]
Cell phone	[REDACTED]
Home phone	
Business phone	
Address 1	[REDACTED]
Address 2	
City	Menlo Park
State	CA
Zip code	94025
Business address	
Number of years as a Menlo Park resident	20
Current City Council district	District 2
How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)	Other: current planning commissioner who is moving out of state
If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):	Cellphone: Yes Business phone: No Home phone: No Email: Yes

### Application acknowledgement and submittal

I certify that the answers given here are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree

Signature 

[Link to signature](#)

# Advisory body application



Submitted on date: 16 March 2023, 2:59PM

Receipt number: 51

Related form versions on: 6

Applicant's full name (first and last) **Stuart Soffer**

Desired advisory body (check all that apply) **Planning Commission**

## Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education **BS Computer Sciences, University of Wisconsin**

Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees  
**Former MP Planning Commission  
 Former MP Finance Committee  
 Former MP Chamber of Commerce Board**

Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the advisory body that you are applying for and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities  
**The Planning commission receives applications for zoning changes, variances and significant projects; holds public hearings for certain projects, and reviews certain projects for compliance with local and state laws. In my experience I would visit projects before the meetings to exemplifying the immediate context of the project. The PC also holds hearings on local zoning changes.**

Describe why you want to serve on this advisory body and what you hope to accomplish as a member  
**I'd be an extremely experienced commission member, bringing historic memory and context to discussions.**

It looks like there's an error in this form:.. (Field If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one): is required). Do you mean "preceding" instead of "following?"

## Contact and residency information

Email **[REDACTED]**

Cell phone **[REDACTED]**

Home phone **[REDACTED]**

Business phone **[REDACTED]**

Address 1 **[REDACTED]**

Address 2

City **Menlo Park**

State **CA**

Zip code **94025**

Business address



Number of years as a Menlo Park resident

27

Current City Council district

District 3

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

City website

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

Cellphone: **Yes**

Business phone: **Yes**

Home phone: **Yes**

Email: **Yes**

## Application acknowledgement and submittal

I certify that the answers given here are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

**I agree**

Signature

[Link to signature](#)

# Advisory body application



Submission date: 30 March 2023, 11:33AM

Receipt number: 56

Related form versions: 6

Applicant's full name (first and last)

Wonman Lee

Desired advisory body (check all that apply)

Complete Streets Commission

Housing Commission

Parks and Recreation Commission

Planning Commission

## Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education

Rutgers University, B.A. Political Science

Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees

Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the advisory body that you are applying for and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities

I currently work as a software engineer but I spent nearly 8 years in Washington, D.C. working in the U.S. Senate and am hoping my experiences there can translate to material improvements to quality of life and good governance in Menlo Park.

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

My family and I recently moved to Menlo Park and I wanted to get involved with local government in particular to improve the overall quality of life in District 1 which is where we live.

## Contact and residency information

Email

[REDACTED]

Cell phone

[REDACTED]

Home phone

Business phone

Address 1

[REDACTED]

Address 2

City

Menlo Park

State

CA

Zip code

94025

Business address

Number of years as a Menlo Park resident

2

Current City Council district

District 1



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

City website

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

Cellphone: **No**

Business phone: **No**

Home phone: **No**

Email: **Yes**

## Application acknowledgement and submittal

I certify that the answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I agree

Signature



[Link to signature](#)

# Advisory body application



Submission date: **28 March 2023, 8:26PM**

Receipt number: **55**

Related form versions: **6**

Applicant's full name (first and last)

**Andrew Ehrich**

Desired advisory body (check all that apply)

**Complete Streets Commission**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Planning Commission**

## Applicant interest, experience and qualifications

Education

**Masters - Public Management and Governance - London School of Economics (2012)**

**Masters - Regional and Urban Planning Studies - London School of Economics (2011)**

**Bachelors - Mathematics - Stanford University (2009)**

Civic affiliations and community activities, including service on other advisory bodies, commissions or committees

**City Data Lead, City of San Jose**

**Development Committee, Hillel at Stanford**

**Intern, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition**

Describe your understanding of the responsibilities of the advisory body that you are applying for and how your personal community or professional experience relate to these responsibilities

From November 2019 - January 2021, I was the City Data Lead for the City of San Jose, working in the City Manager's Office. During that time, I also served as the Deputy Director for San Jose's Emergency Operations Center in charge of coordinating the response to COVID-19 for the entire city. This role required not only coordinating with Santa Clara County on the public health response, but also managing the response to all the downstream repercussions of the pandemic: food insecurity, housing insecurity, economic development, homelessness, renters policy, functioning of parks during the pandemic, and more.

As the person at the City entrusted to help use data to address these challenges, my job was to help bring quantitative rigor to decision making, program design, and policy. However, data without clear goals in mind is not all that useful. The job of City staff was to recommend and design the best way to address problems based on the priorities defined by the City Council and the community, and I could best use data to help them if City Council and the community could readily clarify the goals that were most important to the City.

As a former City staff member in a council-manager form of government, I deeply value the expertise that City staff bring to problems. My goal as part of an advisory body in Menlo Park would not be to dictate to City staff what or how to do their jobs. Rather, I see advisory bodies as helping to clarify priorities and ask the right questions so that City staff can best develop solutions in line with what matters to the community. Advisory bodies help to make clear the goals of the community so that the expertise of City staff -- and data of course! -- can be brought to bear on those goals.

In my role in San Jose, I really valued when an advisory body or a commission could help set clear direction and ask really good questions. It helped me to use data in a way that aligned most closely with the goals of the community. I hope to serve that function as part of a commission in the city where I live.

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

This is my second time applying to serve on a City commission, and I am even more excited for the opportunity. Through my first application process, I was able to have conversations with City Councilmembers and observe commission meetings, which gave me a glimpse into why it's so critical that commissioners are excited about both thinking big and thinking small. It's lots of small decisions and details that make a city like Menlo Park, but each decision needs to be taken in the context of broader priorities.

Menlo Park is an amazing place. In the heart of Silicon Valley, it is rife with opportunity. It is beautiful. It is community oriented with distinct neighborhoods that each have a unique character. I have now lived in 3 different neighborhoods in my 6 years in Menlo Park -- Downtown, Linfield Oaks, and The Willows -- and in each one I have found friends and neighbors invested in creating a wonderful community.

I want to help make sure that Menlo Park is preparing for how it will extend what is special about its present into its future. I want to see the City make the right investments in housing, transportation, infrastructure, and public space, such that it can grow in a way that maintains what is special while also expanding the City's ability to serve as a opportunity-rich home for all the communities it houses--as well new residents who want to join.

Planning and adapting for the future requires engaging as much of our community as possible in envisioning and imagining what we want our city to look like in 10 years, 20 years, 30 years. It is not realistic to believe that we can maintain everything as-is, but it is wholly within our grasp to capture what is special about Menlo Park and ensure we build that into plans for the future. I think advisory bodies have an important role to play in engaging the community to help shape that vision. In so doing, they can help City Council and City Staff do their jobs with as much information and community input as possible, which can ultimately lead to tangible outcomes and considered planning that will guide Menlo Park into the future.

## Contact and residency information

Email	[REDACTED]
Cell phone	[REDACTED]
Home phone	
Business phone	
Address 1	[REDACTED]
Address 2	
City	Menlo Park
State	CA

Zip code	<b>94025</b>
Business address	
Number of years as a Menlo Park resident	<b>7</b>
Current City Council district	<b>District 2</b>
How did you hear about this opportunity (check all that apply)	<b>Email</b> <b>Other: Conversations with Councilmembers Drew Combs, Jen Wolosin</b>
If I am appointed, the City is authorized to post the following information on the city website (please select at least one):	Cellphone: <b>Yes</b> Business phone: <b>Yes</b> Home phone: <b>Yes</b> Email: <b>Yes</b>

### Application acknowledgement and submittal

I certify that the answers given here are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. **I agree**

Signature 

[Link to signature](#)