



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

**From: City Clerk**

**Report Type: ACTION**

**Lead Department: City Clerk**

**Meeting Date: March 13, 2023**

Report #: 2301-0838

### **TITLE**

Review Revised list of Applicants for open Board and Commission Openings on the Historic Resources Board, Human Relations Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning and Transportation Commission, Utilities Advisory Commission and provide direction for interviews and appointments.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Review revised list of applicants, discuss and provide direction for conducting interviews with selected applicants for scheduled vacancies on the Historic Resources Board, Human Relations Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning and Transportation Commission, Utilities Advisory Commission.

### **BACKGROUND**

The 2023 Board and Commission Recruitment closed on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A total of 56 applications were submitted during the recruitment period. At the March 6, 2023 meeting the City Council was presented with the list of applicants submitted for the current openings on the above Boards and Commissions and deliberated on the process to selected candidates to interview. The direction provided was to allow each Council Member to submit names of their select applicants to interview based on the Board or Commission as listed below:

- HRB – 3 openings, 3 applicants, Interview all
- HRC – 2 openings, 5 applicants, Interview all
- PRC – 4 openings, 18 applicants, 6 votes each
- PTC – 3 openings, 11 applicants, 5 votes each
- UAC – 4 openings, 18 applicants, 6 votes each

Council members submitted their selected applicants to the Clerk. The following individuals were recommended to be interviewed for the following openings. Names listed with an \*

indicate they are an incumbent. All applications are available in the March 6, 2023 City Council Agenda packet<sup>1</sup>.

- Three (3) positions on the Historic Resources Board with terms ending 3/31/2026.
  - Alisa Eagleston-Cieslewicz\*
  - Christian Pease\*
  - Samantha Rohman
- Two (2) positions on the Human Relations Commission with terms ending 3/31/2026.
  - Amy Hsieh
  - Daryl Savage\*
  - Katie Causey
  - Mary Kate Stimmler
  - Niklas Miles Goodman
- Four (4) positions on the Parks & Recreation Commission with terms ending 3/31/2026.
  - Adriana Flores-Ragade
  - Amanda Brown\*
  - Bing Betty Wei
  - Jeff LaMere\*
  - Joy Oche\*
  - Laura Granka
  - Nancy Howe
  - ~~Niklas Miles Goodman~~ *Withdrew Application*
  - Shani Kleinhaus\*
  - Sierra R Peterson
  - Star Teachout
  - Sunny Paul
  - Yudy Deng
- Three (3) positions on the Planning & Transportation Commission with two terms ending 3/31/2027 and one unexpired term ending 3/31/2025.
  - Alex Comsa
  - Allen Akin
  - Arthur Keller
  - Brian Hamachek
  - Brigham Wilson
  - Cari Templeton\*

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<sup>1</sup> March 6, 2023 City Council Staff Report 2203-1055 Commission Applications  
<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=65469&repo=r-704298fc>

- Forest Olaf Peterson
  - George Lu
  - James Domine
  - Leonard Ely
  - Scott O'Neil
- Four (4) positions on the Utilities Advisory Commission with three terms ending 3/31/2026 and one unexpired term ending 3/31/2025.
    - Benjamin Piiru
    - Bob Wenzlau
    - Chris Tucher
    - Claude Ezran
    - Greg Scharff\*
    - Jason Titus
    - Katie Causey
    - Maximillian Rayner
    - Meagan Mauter
    - Natalie Geise
    - Rachel E Croft
    - Ramarao V Digumarthi
    - Robert Foley
    - Robert Phillips
    - Siyi Zhang
    - Terry Martin

## DISCUSSION

This item is up for discussion for how the Council chooses to proceed. Suggested ideas to vet the candidates as well as manage the Council's limited time could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Review the above list of selected applicants and allow Council Members to again select candidates; requiring multiple votes to proceed forward to the interview phase
- Appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to conduct interviews with recommendations being made to the full Council for appointment. Interviews can be recorded and provided to the full Council prior to voting.
- Allow all applicants to submit their interviews via the City's HireVue platform or other video interview platform, and have the Council Members watch the interviews prior to the decision

- Hold a series of special meetings over the next two months to interview all selected applicants prioritizing Boards that may have issues with obtaining a quorum for their next meetings.

Staff remain ready to implement the Council direction, once provided.

## **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

Each Board or Commission has different requirements for appointment such as mandatory residency, specialized training, or professional service in a specified area. For each of the Board or Commission with current vacancies, the requirements are listed below. Additionally, appointed members cannot be council members, officers or employees of the City of Palo Alto.

Historic Resources Board:

- Demonstrated interest in and knowledge of history, architecture or historic preservation. (PAMC 2.27.010)
- One member shall be an owner/occupant of a category 1 or 2 historic structure, or of a structure in a historic district. (PAMC 2.27.010)
- Three members shall be architects, landscape architects, building designers or other design professionals. (PAMC 2.27.010)
- At least one member shall possess academic education or practical experience in history or a related field. (PAMC 2.27.010)

Human Relations Commission:

- Palo Alto Residency. (PAMC 2.22.010)

Parks and Recreation Commission

- Demonstrated interest in parks, open space and recreation matters. (PAMC 2.25.010)
- Palo Alto Residency. (PAMC 2.25.010)

Planning and Transportation Commission:

- Palo Alto Residency. (PAMC 2.20.010)

Utilities Advisory Commission:

- Each member of the commission shall be a utility customer or the authorized representative of a utility customer. (PAMC 2.23.010)
- Palo Alto Residency for at least six members of the commission. (PAMC 2.23.010)

**APPROVED BY:**

Lesley Milton

