



June 17, 2024

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Tree Advisory Committee Applicants,

We are pleased to review the applications for the Tree Advisory Committee. ReLeaf Petaluma is excited to see so much local energy to increase and preserve our urban tree canopy throughout our town. We applaud each candidate for their support of urban forestry, building climate resilience and a healthier city for everyone.

**We invite all applicants that are not chosen to serve on the Tree Advisory committee at this time, to consider joining our fun and hard working volunteers with ReLeaf Petaluma.**

We offer many terrific opportunities to grow and support a healthy urban tree canopy, in roles that offer similar visibility, responsibility and leadership that the Tree Advisory Committee service offers.

Please reach out to [releafpetaluma@gmail.com](mailto:releafpetaluma@gmail.com) to get involved. We look forward to a fantastic 2024 and hope you can join us.

ReLeaf Petaluma  
[www.releafpetaluma.org](http://www.releafpetaluma.org)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** -- City Clerk  
**Subject:** Public Comment to Council Agenda Item #9 from Eric Leland  
**Date:** Monday, June 17, 2024 3:00:15 PM

---

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Congratulations on getting many applicants for committees and commissions! There are many terrific candidates which is great to see. I recommend the following applicants based on my own personal experience of the great work they do.

### **Public Safety Advisory Committee:**

We should recognize that both the police department and the Independent Auditor have many people highly trained in the discipline of policing. **I encourage you to select candidates who offer a different experience besides policing**, as we already have significant input from those with a policing perspective.

- Ellen Obstler: Ellen has been a long time consistent advocate for the safety of all Petalumans, and very active in public safety projects locally. Ellen brings an analytical rigor to conversations combined with empathy and a motivation to take action to solve present problems that help to dismantle systems of oppression.
- Michael Miller: As a member of the AHCAC, Mike repeatedly offered passionate, detailed and well supported arguments pushing priority projects to increase the safety for Petalumans. I found his input particularly valuable, and inspiring as it caused me to learn more deeply about use of force and visible displays of tools of violence particularly within communities disproportionately harmed by police violence.

Councilmember Pocekay is a great selection for Council liaison to the PSAG. He has consistently championed its formation, and his work on policies increasing equity and safety in town is much appreciated.

### **Art:**

- Kristi Quint: She is an artist with a strong motivation to support equity projects in town. She has been a volunteer with the Deviled Eggery including helping to marshal donations of art for a art show benefitting Una Vida and bringing in other artists to participate directly in the event. She brings enthusiasm and an openness to the creative process that is refreshing and much needed. I think she would be excellent at navigating the sometimes controversial nature of public art projects.
- Dorothy Leland: My mom! Dorothy is someone with a tremendous background in commissioning art in relation to her work as a university executive. She is an experienced leader of large institutions, and knows how to manage crises and controversies in a way that finds a win-win solution. Dorothy would be an excellent advisor, and brings a particularly rare and valuable combination of experience to the position.

### **Transit Advisory Committee**

- Dave Alden: You all know Dave much more than I do. I have learned so much detailed information from Dave on a variety of city planning issues, He is very approachable, thinks very deeply about the issues before him and brings a huge base of knowledge and experience that is second to none in town. I feel very lucky to have access to such a wealth of knowledge and insight, and the city is fortunate to have such a strong advisor at the ready.

### **Planning:**

- Blake Hooper: He is well known to all of you on the Council. He is someone that puts fairness and equity at the forefront, and brings a deep understanding of the planning process to every decision. His leadership on the Planning Commission has been strong. Even in disagreement I have found him to be a good listener, to consider the options presented and make a sound argument for his position.

### **Tree Advisory Committee:**

You have wonderful applicants. The current committee members running again have done a great job - they ask probing, thoughtful questions and put the time into understanding the value and benefits of expanding our tree canopy. You have a wealth of opportunity here - I am heartened that so many strong people are coming out in support of trees. Between the city, ReLeaf and other conservation groups locally - we should have no problem giving all of these applicants very rewarding roles supporting urban tree canopy.

Thank you,

--

-----  
Eric Leland (he/him)