



Item No. 6 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – CONSENT AGENDA

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

FROM: ANTHONY SUBER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER/ CITY CLERK

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE
AND COMMISSION RESOLUTION DISSOLVING THE RAIL
COMMITTEE**

RECOMMENDATION

Consider modifications to Town Committees and Commissions governing Resolution dissolving the Rail Committee as a formal Brown Act Committee and redesignating it as a resident lead committee.

BACKGROUND | ANALYSIS

The Rail Committee was last updated with Resolution No. 20-26 reducing its membership down to seven (7) members. The Rail Policy was also updated to reflect the status of High-Speed Rail, Caltrain Electrification, and the permanent closure of the Atherton Rail Station. This decision was made with fall-off through attrition and challenges in getting new applicants.

The proposed amended Resolution dissolves the Rail Committee effective immediately per the City Council's direction. Each member of the Rail Committee was notified of the proposed dissolution of the Rail Committee as a formal Brown Act committee and its re-designation into a Town-supported and resident-led committee. This structure would be like the Town's Tree Committee.

At the June 21, 2023, City Council meeting, the Council recognized the great impact the Committee has had in assisting the Town with rail-related issues, Council proposed the dissolution and a redesignation due to the declining rail-related issues affecting the Town.

The Rail Committee met on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, and discussed the dissolution and re-designation. The motion to support the dissolution and re-designation passed 4-2.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

This Report and its contents are in alignment with the following Council Policy Goals:

- Goal Area E – Strengthen Community Engagement and Transparency

POLICY FOCUS

Town Commissions and Committees represent a key component of civic engagement within the community. The participation of the members is a vital part of the Town's public engagement and review process. These groups have the ability to gather public input on an issue and provide feedback and recommendations to the City Council for consideration. The Council has the authority to create, modify or dissolve Committees by Resolution.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,400 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders –to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

Rail Committee (meets the 1st Tuesday every other month)

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 23-XX Rail Dissolution and Re-designation