

PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025, at 6:30pm

Chambers Conference Room, Town Hall 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA

1. Call to Order (roll call)

- Present: Nick Erndt, Mike Orlando, Richard Partridge, Marc Gurwith
- Not Present: Mike Henshaw, Rajesh Shakkarwar
- A quorum is present and the meeting was called to order at 6:40pm

2. Agenda Review

- All committee members present read through agenda
- Nick proposes we move New Business item 8a (Pinewood) to after Item 4

3. Review & Approval of Minutes for August 25 PWC meeting

- Richard moves to approve, Mike seconds
- Unanimous all in favor to approve minutes

4. Ex Parte Communications (Written or oral communications with parties relevant to an item on tonight's agenda)

- Nick had a meeting with Bob Elson for a while to give Nick recommendations on role of PWC chair
- Nick had some email discussions with Astha about Summerhill pathways and with Carol Gottleib and Sue Welch to collect more information on which addresses in town might have more information about approved pathways and recorded on deeds
- Richard talked with Alisa Guido at the dinner, she inquired about Lower Page Mill
- Mike has had conversations with a friend/town resident about joining pathways

5. Staff Update on Pathways (Projects, Maintenance, etc.)

a. Magdalena Road Pathway

Update from Astha: 2000 feet of pathway to be constructed. Currently the town is awaiting CAT files and topographic survey before starting on design. She shared the general PDF files of the GIS and there was some discussion about how to read the GIS file. She discussed the specific links of the Magdalena pathway that would be constructed. She said that the pathway could be walked next week with committee members. Potential schedule: complete the plans and specs by December 2025, and take to council for bid in Feb 2026, start construction in Summer 2026 and finish construction 2-3 months from the first day. WooJae indicated that the total cost is \$350-\$400K for this 2000 feet.

Nick asked when the segment was initially approved, WooJae discussed the overall timeline and indicated that it was about 14 months from idea to construction for this. Nick indicated that as Pathways we want to make sure we prioritize our time/energy. WooJae clarified at the end of this year we will get a list of town priorities.

b. Fremont Road to Redwood Grove Pathway update/discussion

Peter Prinejad brought this to discussion. He wanted to alert us that he's had conversations with LA city manager about extending the pathway into Shoup Park. Concern is that people are still walking the path across city limits, to a set of stairs, crosses dry creek and into Shoup Park.

Los Altos would like to either:

1. remove the noncompliant stairs and place a barricade to keep people from accessing the steep unprotected portion of the trail. This would be sometime in 2026.

2. LAH building a compliant stair set on Los Altos property, which Los Altos would maintain, however, this would expose LAH and Los Altos to liability of ADA lawsuits; this option was not entertained because of liability issues.

Peter indicated that to build stairs would be several hundred thousand dollars and need to be built to LA standards. There was discussion around how people are accessing Shoup Park in alternative ways as well as ways that residents and LA are blocking this unofficial access. Nick indicated that this is really a Los Altos issue and not a LAH issue. Peter will keep PWC updated as necessary.

c. *Summerhill Avenue*

Astha has updates. She shared the GIS location and the specific LAH town limits as to Summerhill Ave. While the segment of Summerhill we are discussing there are LAH easements as well as segments constructed by homeowners to create a continuous path from El Monte to Magdalena. Nick noted there are $\frac{2}{3}$ of this path connected already.

Updates from August meeting: Connecting with Maryam Farshadfar(homeowner at 24130); Astha emailed her twice. Nick suggested that the pathways committee or LAH could contact the county to help deal with the speed limits. WooJae indicated that he contacted the county to make some improvements to Summerhill; LAH can let the residents know that the town is working with the county. WooJae made the observations that pathways needs to work with the resident and Nick agreed. WooJae and Astha confirmed we have easements at all the properties on Summerhill except 24130. WooJae confirmed that the county would want curb ramps at corners. Astha said that the county still had comments on the plans and that LAH would work up a response and then set up a meeting with the county to get past encroachment permit roadblocks. Summer 2026 is still the construction deadline. The town's ideal plan is to connect this all-in-one shot and not miss this homeowner. Astha will call the homeowner at 24130 and follow up with Nick.

She also is looking for someone from Pathways to reach out to the homeowner at 12480 Hilltop one final time, but Nick clarified that once we have the encroachment permit the town can construct the pathway.

d. *Benches update*

Emina has reached out to the chair of Open Space to get their opinions on this. Nick underscored that benches are more of an open space than pathways concern though. There was consensus that this should be owned by open space

e. *Pathways on new development parcels/Implementation of FY26 Pathway Impact Fee*

Nick commented that this is a more efficient system; if new construction can build pathway before final permit they can avoid the fee.

WooJae noted that the Town will be more transparent with Pathways around new construction when/if time allows with various new construction projects. Nick indicated that a potential pathway would be indicated on all site plans.

WooJae indicated that perhaps a small ad hoc team of Pathways committee members could consult on fast-track projects.

There was discussion about this and Nick suggested this ad hoc committee be put on the new items agenda for October Pathways meeting.

WooJae indicated that there is construction of an ongoing database of site records for individual properties as to who has paid pathways assessments. He also indicated that there was a rec from the planning commission to allow native surface pathways to be built on a different fee schedule or for the fee to be waived.

f. Maintenance update/issues

Nick indicated there were a few minor issues he had noticed. WooJae indicated that we should send any of them into the town. WooJae indicated he will strategize the best plan for the Altamont Segment. Nick noted that there has been significant vegetation abatement in the past few months.

6. Property Review

- Richard and Nick indicated that on the survey itself (not just the site plan) that the pathway easement/proposed route be indicated. Carol noted a few specific properties that there were some discrepancies between the pathways map and actual pathways.
- Nick indicated that he would like pathways notification when there is new construction. WooJae said he will bring this issue up to the planning department and alert pathways whenever there is new construction or remodeling and the property is along the MPP.

7. Old Business

- a. Bicycles on pathways – identify pathways where additional signage may be useful.
Richard: Taafe path with many switchbacks and Natoma Oaks Path could benefit from signage
WooJae will order signs (6-12 of them). Stirrup Way is another place where signage could be helpful.

8. New Business

- a. MONIQUE WOOD from CAW Architects to give 5-minute presentation on Pinewoods development
Scott Riches is HOS at Pinewood. Monique Wood chief architect. Monique presented and discussed a detailed PowerPoint on how the campus revitalization will affect pathways surrounding the campus. She discussed current conditions of the pathway on both Fremont Road and off-highway pathway, as well as what changes will occur. There will be construction and re-grading, but at the end of the project, the pathway will be similar as before. Nick noted that log placement should ensure that no cars can park on the pathway. Monique discussed the plantings and foliage that would be used. The easement pathway currently has a chain link and a tree canopy. Community forums indicated that neighbors enjoyed being able to see into the campus, and Pinewood will maintain this. The back gate will be maintained in the same place. Their intent is to protect/maintain all the trees that are currently in the easement so long as they are healthy. Nick emphasized that the Fremont Road pathway might use cinder as on Fremont Road in front of Bullis.

Carol Gottlieb noted that plantings need to be 3 to 5 feet away from the pathway, as well as to plant trees that didn't require pruning by the town to maintain pathway clearance.

Pinewood is waiting to hear back from the town on next steps- Open Space, Pathways, EDC, and then the Planning Commission.

- b. Recruit *new members for the Pathways committee*

Weekly descriptions are thorough; Mike is working on a lead of a possible committee member.

- c. Planning *Commission Recommendations to Council on off-road pathways and pathway fee database*
Already discussed above.
- d. Discussion *on ways to add more pathways easier/faster*
Nick: for any off-road pathways where we have the easement, the Town immediately clears brush without doing the engineering. WooJae said that staff started looking for these segments (Stirrup Way is one example).

9. Presentations from the Floor

None

10. Reports from Other Meetings

- a. September 18 City Council meeting
Linda pointed out the FY2026 Impact Fee was approved.

11. Pathway Promotion & Communications

- a. Hoedown follow up from Mike Orlando
Gave away a lot of maps, publicized that Pathways is looking for new members.

12. Agenda Topics for Next PWC Meeting

- New Year's Day Hike
- WooJae also indicated that Town staff would like a wellness hike link.

13. Adjourn

8:59pm Richard moved for adjournment, Nick seconded, all in favor.