MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes

May 09, 2019

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **ACTIONS** |
| **Board Members present** | **Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Raul Ramirez-Vice President, Isabel Doe-Treasurer, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, and Matt Perry-Historian** |
| **Introductions** | Board members were introduced to the attendees. Attendees and special guests introduced themselves to the group. |
| **April Minutes** | Isabel motioned to accept the minutes. Lorraine seconded the motion to accept the minutes. March minutes were accepted without objection. |
| **Treasurer’s report by Isabel Doe** | There is a balance of $1,005.27 in the MPNA account. |
| **Menlo Park NA Summer Items and Progress Report. Zach explained that there were a number of items that are fast-moving and warrant meeting through the summer.** | * Neighborhood Business items   Raul reported that the by-laws of our charter need to be changed to reflect the change that was made at the last election, electing 2 vice-presidents, before the next election. This would result in the following actions:   1. Amendments to the by-laws need to be voted on. 2. The composition of the Executive Board would change. 3. This would change the ratio of votes necessary because a quorum is required. 4. The Executive Board decided it would be a good idea to have two members of the EB identified to sign off on financial transactions given that MPNA would receive $75k from the cell tower in the park. 5. Additionally, it was agreed that there had to be a 10 day notification of meeting. |
|  | * Ward 1 and Mayoral Candidate Forums   The Primary Elections are important in Ward 1 because it is a winner-take-all situation. MPNA is co-sponsoring a candidate forum on June 22 from 12-3PM at the El Rio Neighborhood Center for Ward 1 and Mayor primary candidates. There will be bilingual translation and babysitting.  On July 13 from 10AM-2PM there will be a forum at the YWCA which we will partner with as well. |
|  | * Rebooting Taskforces   -We are rebooting taskforces. Half of our committees are underway. Please see Zach or Wendy to become involved.  -Menlo Park is the first 2030 district in the country to have a residential component. We will have a committee to work in the neighborhood to help neighbors with reducing cost of sustainability. Gene will work with members to reboot the committee. |
|  | * Progress Report   -In June we would like to address the by-law issues and the use of the $75k from the cell tower (possible use for the Neighborhood Plan.  -In July we would like to address the Neighborhood Plan. Menlo Park does not have a plan of our own. If we had a plan it would become part of the Tucson Plan. |
| **Menlo Park T-Shirts by Gene** | Gene reported that there was a limited supply of t-shirts that he thought would benefit the MPNA as a fundraising opportunity if we added popular sizes to the supply. Gene requested that the association provide $320.00 for this project. Diana moved that MPNA go ahead with the t-shirts and Laura seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. |
| **Dia De San Juan report by Liza** | Dia De San Juan committee will meet next Tuesday the 14th at the Pima County Housing Center. James MacAdams from Tucson Water will attend and discuss the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project. On June 24th, in conjunction with DDSJ, the Water Department would like to initiate the release of water into the Santa Cruz. |
| **Santa Cruz River Heritage Project by James MacAdam** | James (who identified himself as a Menlo Park resident) presented the project which will sponsor a water release party at 4:30 PM with the official ceremony to begin at 5PM. The water release will consist of 3 million gallons a day of treated, reclaimed water from the treatment plant. The water is not potable. Water will not be released when it rains. The reclaimed water release is to restore the environment to meet several goals which include: Water to reach Cushing Street and possibly further north, restore the bank of the river with native plants and cottonwood trees--water is to be dechlorinated; Recharge the aquafer; Full use of reclaimed water; attract wildlife and support native plants. Tucson Water works closely with the Pima county Regional Flood Control agency. Additionally, the sediment had made the river very shallow which could contribute to flood problems during the monsoons. The purpose of the dredging is to increase flood capacity. Placement of the dredged material on the A Mountain landfill has been put on hold. |
| **Menlo Park Preservation Plan by Helen Ericson and students of College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture.** | The report is available electronically. The presentation was made by the students who began with the 5 Historic Periods of the neighborhood: 1. Early/Pre-Historic, 2. Railway 1880, 3. Health Haven, 4. Post WWII Boom, 5. 3 sub-communities that we now have. Sub-divisions of the presentation/report include Physical Resources, Geographic Resources, Infrastructure, Legal Issues and Zoning (including national and local historic zoning tools-Proposition 207 of 2006 which imposes restrictions), Community Participation-prevention of displacement, increasing affordability, and community benefit agreements with developers, and the Park which is 14.46 acres which was part of Post WWII greenspace . |
| **Call To The Audience** | -Liza asked that MPNA donate to help fund Dia De San Juan. Laura motioned that funding be made available. Andrew seconded the motion which passed without opposition.  -Gilbert raised the lack of transparency with Rio Nuevo regarding in-fill vs. developers as well as the fear of gentrification. Zach did indicate that Fletcher McCuster had said he would attend MPNA meeting to explain plans. Brit asked about the possibility of more than 1 person attending-Edmund Marquez was mentioned by Zach as a possibility.  -Karen Green updated all the happenings at the Main Pima Public Library which included: Idea Space presenting seminar on Running a Non-Profit. She presented the Calendar of Events which included an event on the 18th (Poetry) about the first female fire fighters; on the 21st there is a presentation on “edible flowers”. The featured seed is the Black Russian Sunflower which she had available for the neighborhood to plant, asking that seeds from the grown flower be donated back to the seed library at the end of the season.  -Gene announced that on the 15th Mission Garden was hosting “Bat Night” from 7-9:30 PM with free admission. |
| **Adjournment** | Wendy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Brit 2nd the motion which passed without objection. |
| **Next Meeting** | **June 13, 2019** |