

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes
July 11, 2019

ITEM	ACTIONS
Board Members present	Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Raul Ramirez-Vice President, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, and Matt Perri-Historian
Introductions	Board members were introduced to the attendees. Attendees and special guests introduced themselves to the group.
May and June Minutes	May minutes were accepted without objection. There a couple of corrections to June minutes which will be submitted; but were accepted with the corrections to be made.
<p>Intermountain Academy Park Proposal by Rose Lopez, Pres. & CEO</p> <p>TUSD representatives were present as well.</p>	<p>Rose Lopez provided updates to the Intermountain Academy’s leaving the Menlo Park Elementary School building. She also expressed the Academy’s desire to be a good neighbor:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Academy will completely move out of the building by 01/20. 2. The Academy will move to the PCC Bldg. on Bonita which they are purchasing. This building is in our neighborhood. 3. The site will include students, consolidated administration, and a 1 acre sensory park designed specifically for children on the autism spectrum. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. There will be 60 staff members at the site. This will increase patronage of the restaurants and stores in the area. B. This is the only such park west of the Mississippi which will be open to the public after 3PM. Monday through Friday, as well on the weekends. It will be gated and developed with collaboration of COT and consider the water conservation efforts that are on the property. 4. The Academy is working with TUSD to locate a new tenant for the school. 5. Ward 1 has been working closely with the Academy to assure all processes are followed. <p>TUSD representatives indicated that they were unaware of any plan that would re-populate the school with “an alternative middle school”, per Superintendent Trujillo’s visit to the MPNA. The hope that the school would remain an educational entity was expressed, especially since the school’s 100th anniversary will occur in a few months. TUSD agreed to take MPNA’s message back to the administration.</p>
<p>Conversation with Caterpillar’s Chief Engineer, Brian Weller, and Community Relations representative, Amy Madsden</p>	<p>Brian Weller reviewed the history of the development of the site/his involvement which began in 2015 when it was decided that Tucson would be their home, over Denver and Dallas. The 150,000 sqr ft building was done in April of this year, but the interior is not complete. They have been transitioning staff from the Midwest, Germany and Indonesia. It was reported that the capacity of the building is 630 employees. Now there are 450 with 300-350 there on any given day.</p> <p>Building design instructions included not to disrupt A Mountain view; a sunk-in parking lot, present a transition into the community from East to West, and blend into the river view. The historic pieces on the property are of significance only to Caterpillar-rescued pieces of machinery from the proving ground in Green Valley-not the neighborhood. There was no recollection of a “green buffer” around the property, separating it from Tucson Origins Park area to transition the landscape. There was no knowledge of cottonwoods or ash trees being planted along the river. There were questions presented about when there may be info about the historic pieces of machinery as well about the employees being educated about the area the company occupies.</p> <p>Brian responded to other questions of concern. There will not be a “tour” or a celebration of the opening. There will be a “quiet visitation” with Rio Nuevo, Neighborhood Associations, and contractors. Through an informal survey of employees 90% enter/exit off I-10 and not neighborhood streets. There will not be a “night shift” because of time zones between Germany and Indonesia (there are also 2 facilities in Mexico). The building had to be raised because of the possible flood issues. There will be no utilization of the parking facilities for public events as had been suggested by Rio Nuevo. Security and liability issues were cited.</p> <p>Amy Madsden has been in Tucson since she exited the Air Force in 1995. She has been employed by Caterpillar for 1 year. She reviewed the company’s community engagement which</p>

	<p>includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The Caterpillar Foundation</u> which provides grant funding for community organizations that have included Youth On Their Own, Our Family Services, Make Way For Books and may include Primavera, Junior League, and Higher Ground this year. Mission Gardens and Dia De San Juan have also received monetary support. 2. Through the employee donation deduction program United Way has received \$151,000. 3. <u>The Experience Council</u> provides a way for employees to give of their time. Additionally, employees are given 1 paid day per year to be involved in the community which has included Youth On Their Own, Habitat for Humanity, Tucson Clean and Beautiful (adopting Cushing St.), and Community Food Bank. 4. Also there are 300+ engineers with tools that could possibly “fix things” and staff that could participate in “local” clean -ups and events. 5. The company participates in local education programs with Pima County, UA, PCC, and has a pilot engineering program with UHS/TUSD. <p>It was reported that it is believed that the company complies with all lighting requirements/limitations but may reduce lighting when the lighting is investigated for actual usage and “dark sky” considerations. The capacity of the building and number of employees will depend upon the economy. The plan would be for the facility to be 75-80% utilized (approx. 500 employees by 2020).</p> <p>The company was invited to attend MPNA meetings on a regular basis and to tap our members to provide area and community education and history.</p>
<p>TPD Updates and Initiatives by Lt. David Leotaud and Officer Martinez</p>	<p>Officer Martinez presented his Community Outreach Program (COP) to include a resource fair on 07-20-19 from 8AM to 12PM at the MP Pool. The pool will be open for swimming. There will be 15-20 organizations participating.</p> <p>Lt. Leotaud apologized for not being at previous mtgs because he was unaware that MPNA was meeting during summer months. The report included that A Mountain did not catch on fire. He did explain that there has been an increase in call-load. However, there has been no serious activity. The homeless displaced by the river dredging have moved north. He reported that the Center Of Opportunity has opened as has taken in many of the homeless, offering many services in one place. There are increased patrols at the Garden of Gethsemane and A Mountain. There will be a meeting soon to finalize plans for that area. He noted that the traffic has not responded to the slowing that should occur at the round-abouts. He did respond to issue regarding bicyclists that do not follow the rules-of-the-road and will have section officers educate the riders. He also reported that there were employment opportunities as Community Service Officers available.</p>
<p>Barrio Sin Nombre updates by Raul Ramirez</p>	<p>Boundaries of Barrio Sin Nombre were reviewed as was the history of the funding for the infrastructure improvements. The “sidewalks” have been put aside because people will lose the parking in front of their houses. There will be street lights which will solar fueled with sensors built into the poles so they can power up by 50% when someone walks by. There will be speed bumps to mitigate neighborhood “cut throughs”. The re-pavement should be 60% complete by September. There will be meetings for the residents.</p>
<p>Community Updates and Call to the Audience</p>	<p>Karen Green provided Pima County Library calendars for upcoming events including exhibits by artists and Megamania Cosplay. Beethoven’s Hair is the featured book.</p> <p>She also informed the MPNA that they are forming a task force to focus on gentrification to mitigate displacement of residents (Raul, Gigi, Zach, and Gene participate).</p> <p>Zach reported that on 07-25-19 from 5:30-8PM there will be a meeting with Barrio Kroeger Lane and COT Parks and Rec. to learn how the bond benefits of 407 can be used and the priority of projects are changed.</p> <p>Zach also encouraged that applications for the 2030 District project be filled out which can be found in the email he sent out.</p> <p>Liza thanked everyone who made the Dia De San Juan Fiesta such a success!</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>August 8, 2019</p>

