



### **Menlo Park 2019 “Nuts and Bolts”**

Following the MPNA Focus Areas, the MPNA will focus on the following deliverables in 2019, powered by engaged committees of neighbors, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and jurisdictions

#### **Transportation and Traffic**

- Develop plans and timelines for putting in streetcar signaling along Cushing at streetcar ingress and egress points.
- Proactively establish a strategic plan with ParkTucson forecasting any neighborhood permitting and parking plans, and for Mercado district parking overall.
- Work to activate the State parking garage on the east side of the I-10 for weekend and event parking.
- Have close communication with Rio Nuevo, Gadsden, Ward 1, and City of Tucson about underground parking plans across from the MSA.
- Get updated traffic count numbers from Ward 1 at least twice a year (Jan 2019 and TBD).
- Evaluate the proposed Complete Streets Policy going through Mayor and Council, for relevant initiatives for traffic calming and overall livability that can be applied to Menlo Park.

#### **Development and Preservation and Compatible Use of Open Land (including Historical Preservation)**

- Work with Mission Garden to better advertise to the Menlo Park and broader Tucson community.
- Work with Rio Nuevo, County, City and relevant neighborhood and community stakeholders to develop and execute open space plan for the A mountain landfill site.
- Work with relevant stakeholders to develop a strategic neighborhood and development vision/plan for how remaining open land is preserved and/or developed.
- Work with relevant jurisdictions and community stakeholders to ensure **Barrio sin Nombre Improvements** (Westside Development Projects (Ward 1) Memorandum, August 8, 2017) expenditures and improvements are carried out in good order.

## **Housing Affordability and Gentrification**

- Work with census and Ward data to figure out areas where older seniors are at risk of being displaced by rising property taxes, and/or predatory prospectors who want to buy homes for less than they are worth
- Work on a property tax exemption/abatement initiative for seniors
- Run a neighborhood campaign informing at-risk residents (seniors especially) about the correct market-rate for their home so they can make an informed decision as to the sale or retention of their home.
- Look into ways that the housing stock in Menlo Park can be increased appropriately to balance supply-and-demand that keeps housing costs lower.
- Explore use of HUD CDBG money for homeowner renovations, and home renovation mortgage programs that make it easier for homeowners and homebuyers to maintain and purchase homes at a lower cost.
- Explore establishment and implementation of a Neighborhood Stabilization and Loan Program to assist low-income homeowners to provide long-term, low-interest loans to those who are paying for more than 30 percent of their income on housing (see University of Texas Study and Austin anti-displacement strategy).

## **4. Children, Youth and Families**

- Works with the Clean and Beautiful committee to clean up and fully activate the Menlo Neighborhood Park
- Assess opportunities, with Menlo Park's current growth, to re-open the Menlo Park School.
- Assess child care options in Menlo Park as a resource for families and promote those opportunities to working families.
- Engage El Rio as local health care providers to promote local healthcare services.
- Collect and market services for helping families with financial planning and fitness.

## **5. Water and Environmental Sustainability**

- Work with the Tucson Emerging District 2020 to develop and implement a residential application in Menlo Park, involving homeowner energy and water conservation that saves neighbors money monthly and annually.

## **6. Development of a Neighborhood Plan**

- Work with City staff and neighbors to develop a comprehensive and inclusive neighborhood plan that encompasses the areas and focus of this strategic plan.

## **7. Engagement and Outreach**

- Ensure that the three areas of Menlo Park (Old Menlo, Mercado District, and Barrio Sin Nombre) are equally represented at Neighborhood meetings.
- Increase participation in the Menlo Park Neighborhood meetings by 50%.
- Work with Menlo Park NA board to schedule “Listening Tours” throughout the year that are hosted in neighbors’ houses in different parts of the community to engage neighbors who can’t/don’t come to the Neighborhood meetings
- Work with MPNA board to schedule more frequent, bilingual newsletters for delivery in the community for neighbors who don’t have email, and work with Fundraising to pay for it.

## **8. Fundraising**

- Establish crowdfunding platform for neighbors to contribute small funds to specific projects.
- Locate and research neighborhood grants that could be available to fund the elements of the strategic plan.
- Schedule events and fundraisers for funding different projects.
- Work with the various subcommittees to develop fundraising budgets.

## **9. Events**

- Work with fundraising and other subcommittees to schedule, plan, and execute relevant events and programs.

## **10. Menlo Park “Clean and Beautiful”**

- Ensure that public areas are clean and accessible (parks, for example).
- Assist older residents with upkeep of yards and walking spaces.
- Assist with annual A-Mountain buffelgrass and monsoon season maintenance.