

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes

November 14, 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 Perri-Historian
Introductions	Board members were introduced to the attendees. Attendees and special guests introduced themselves to the group.
September and October Minutes	Both set of minutes were accepted without objection.
Treasurer's report by Isabel Doe	\$541.22 is current balance in checking account. \$228.78 was utilized for t-shirts.
Pima County Flood Control-Santa Cruz Dredging-A Mtn update	<p>-Eric from Pima County Flood Control reported that our section of the Santa Cruz River has not been dredged yet and presented some history: Dredging/removal of sand is imperative because the river has not been maintained since "the flood of 1983" and is currently 2/3 full. There are 170 homes that may be impacted if another flood occurs. Because of the urgency to dredge much of the dirt from the other sections of the river has been put in other areas so far. The agreement that Rio Nuevo made to stock pile the removed dirt on some of the land fill area has taken 6 months to sign and will go before their board on 12/03/19.</p> <p>-Of note, is that once dirt is placed on the landfill area Rio Nuevo will own that dirt. This delay will postpone the removal of the remaining dirt until next July, to not interrupt the migratory patterns of birds. The vegetation that was removed (having worked with preservation groups) will be mulched and mixed with the dredged dirt for an organic mix. If money becomes available, dredging could begin as early as May. Because of the lesser amount of dredged material there maybe a smaller footprint or change in the height of the landscaping with the dredging. Having met with Mission Garden this morning it was agreed that steep slopes will be avoided, and Tres Mesquites will be preserved. The dirt will be hydroseeded with native plants; desert adaptive plantings will be included as will creosotes. Eric will provide a plant list for the area. City of Tucson (COT) and Ward 1 could adopt an ordinance that prohibits dirt bikes and ATV's from the stock pile so as not to disturb the planting.</p> <p>-The Historic Commission has officially approved the application for Landmark designation of the area. The neighborhood will need to "keep track" of the dirt though it becomes property of RN. There will have to be public meetings within 300' of the site and a public meeting with the neighborhood. The tallest mound of dirt will be 13' high and gently sloped so as not create flooding and erosion. It is an extra cap on the landfill. Pima County administration and the MPNA wants the area to remain as open space. Curious fact: The 10' to 13' piles of dredged dirt on the landfill will add to the expense of complete remediation because it's removal will become necessary too!</p>
Menlo Park School Centennial update and call for volunteers to set up by Isabel Doe	<p>"Everything is ready!" Carmen Duarte of the AZ Daily Star will write an article and interview Matt and Isabel on 11/21/19.</p> <p>The date has been set for 11-23-19 from 12-5 PM at the school. Bring stories and photos!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There will be White Elementary School "mini-mariachis" called Los Toritos on the stage. -A neighborhood band/alumni of Menlo Park will play. -There will be a Power Point/Slide show presentation of scanned pictures. -Food trucks will provide eats. -After 5 PM, at the ramadas, in the park, there will be menudo sold. -MPNA will sell T-Shirts. -There will be a cake to celebrate the Centennial -Face painting will be available. -Since there will not be a photo booth there will be a Photo Frame. -Marcos from Pima County Housing Center provided the projector for the cafeteria/auditorium/multipurpose room. -Volunteers will arrive at 11 AM: Chairs and table need to be set up in the patio. The musicians will need help with equipment. -Unfortunately, there will not be a tour because Intermountain Academy is still an occupant. -The entrance will be on the west side of the school, into the cafeteria.

	<p>-Parking will be in the back, on the westside, by the fields.</p> <p>-Write something, tell a story, and give it to Danny, Brit, or Matt.</p>
MPNA Resources and Projects Discussion	<p>-It was reviewed that the MPNA was made recipient of an upfront concession of \$75K from the placement of a cell tower in the park. There has been discussion on how to best utilize the money, but a decision has not been made. The list of priorities have included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of a neighborhood plan that would better protect our interests as a neighborhood, hopefully aligning any development with our neighborhood ideals. 2. Setting up MPNA as a nonprofit organization in order to further apply for funding for our neighborhood for any number of projects. 3. Accelerate projects for the park. There was a bond that did provide funding for park improvements over a longer frame of time. <p>-Discussion included the status of the neighborhood plan such as the "Scope of Work" is completed. RFP's will go out and then community engagement will ensue to produce the plan. The newly elected mayor has a tradition of neighborhood input which the plan can clarify as well as include community stakeholders to include events such as Día De San Juan. Though zoning is in place it has "a range" of specifications. Our plan can influence preference and "lower limits" of the zoning; a strong negotiating tool prior to development.</p> <p>-There are examples of neighborhood plans on the COT website. MPNA is the first to not use COT staff to develop their plan.</p> <p>-Community Benefit Agreements (CBA's) of the type that 4th Avenue has, are strengthened with neighborhood plans. The plan may help us at re-zoning meetings, providing support for neighborhood priorities.</p>
Bautista/Westside Developments update	<p>-Bautista will be a 253 residential, mixed use building with twin towers. The sketches are on the Gadsen website and appears to be about 7 stories. The development is south of west Congress St., behind the Sentinel Senior housing, north of Cushing, on the bank of the Santa Cruz River. The project will begin as the Monier is completed in June /July of next year. A large public plaza and pathway with a fountain at the river's edge and a mesquite bosque is proposed. More service-oriented business as well as a small grocery store are proposed along with underground parking.</p> <p>-Though the MPNA has repeatedly requested that the height of building not exceed 4 stories the underlying zoning is what determines the building structures, which the COT cannot change. Preference statements "have no teeth". A traffic study will need to be completed because of the number of units being built as well as the retail space available and the increased traffic.</p>
Friends of Tucson Birthplace (FOTB) update by Bill Dupont/ Diana Hadley	<p>Diana reported that "2 hours ago" it was agreed that the Tucson Origins would include the Festival area and that there will be open space at a minimum. Landmark status means there will be no high rises or commercial buildings.</p>
TPD and Public Safety update-Zach Yentzer	<p>TPD representative, CSO Erin Peters will be at each of our MPNA meetings. However, tonight she is attending the city-wide TPD open house. There will be consideration to traffic calming on Congress as well as Mission, around the base of the mountain. There were 166 calls (a 20% decrease) which included assault, disorderly conduct, shoplifting but "nothing major".</p>
Call to audience/Community Updates	<p>-Kevin reported that there has been an increase in helicopter noise in the north end of the neighborhood and wanted to run it by TPD. It was suggested that it may be due to the helipad at St. Mary's Hospital or issues in the barrio north of ours, given the report of decrease in crime report calls.</p> <p>-Andrew reported on the Ironwood Tree Experience: Youth (12-20 years old) engage with the natural world and will host the "Beyond Event" in January 2020. This a 12-zone trail including the Chuk-Son trail, Mission Gardens, and go through Downtown. Volunteer guides are being sought. Sign-up begins 12-07-19 and training begins on 12-14-19.</p> <p>-Anthony reported that there will be an attempt to get Sin Nombre members to be more active which may include a small stipend incentive that may be available with some grant funding.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM</p>
Next Meeting	<p>December 12, 2019: <i>Menlo Park meet yourself with a potluck dinner!</i></p>

