

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Meeting In-person and Zoom platform
January 13, 2022

ITEM	ACTIONS
Board Members present at hybrid MPNA meeting menloparktucson@gmail.com	Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Raul Ramirez-Vice President, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Isabel Doe-Treasurer, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, Keren Torres, and Anthony Nelson.
Introductions	Board members were introduced to the attendees at Menlo Park Elementary School and the Zoom platform. All attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 24 neighbors in attendance at this hybrid meeting. Guests (4) included Lt. Morales and Sargent Malovich from TPD, Keith Bagwell from PCBOS (District 5), and Paul O'Rourke from Intermountain Academy and Sensory Park.
December 2021 Minutes	The December minutes were approved (with one Nay). Statements included issue regarding no inclusion of names of all attendees in the Minutes. Concerns about members' privacy and testimonies that other organizations do not include a list of attendees in the Minutes were voiced. Zach agreed to address this.
Treasurer's Report—Isabel Doe	\$597.09 is bank account balance. (Checking=\$597.09 and Savings=\$115.00, with a \$10.00 monthly fee).
TPD Report on the January 7th shooting on Alameda St.-LT Belinda Morales and Sergeant Malovich	<p>The occurrence began on 01-06-2022 at 842 E. Alameda and involved 3 residents that were renters. 1 person shot a roommate who sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Officers contained the situation to include evacuation of surrounding residents to avoid stray bullets. Communication was established. There were apparent psychological issues as well as narcotic use present. The procedure was as followed: "Flash bangs" were used to get attention and establish communication. A "robot" with small explosive device was utilized to "defeat door hinges". A K-9 officer was deployed. Victim Services would have been contacted by TPD.</p> <p>Issues of traffic raised on Cedar St. Lt. Morales indicated that community members would have to work with Ward 1, and DOT to have traffic mitigation measures installed such as signs and speed bumps. TPD would then be able to enforce those measures. TPD can reach out to Ward 1. Motor officers could be stationed there or perhaps a speed trailer could be set there prior to permanent features are installed.</p>
Intermountain Sensory Park update-Paul O'Rourke	<p>The Intermountain Center Sensory Park will be one of the few in the entire country (only one west of the Mississippi). It will be a park situated on City owned land. The cost for developing the park will be just under a million dollars. Half has been raised. The entire park will be fenced and grassed. There will be 5 zones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wild Animal. There will be very large animals including a 12-foot alligator, giraffe, and grasshopper. 2. Outdoor Music venue. 3. Beach. It will be wheelchair accessible. 4. Woodland. 5. 50-foot zipline. <p>Visit Tucson will market the park. It will be open to the public from dawn-to-dusk, except during school hours. Park security will be provided by the City of Tucson. MPNA can assist in 2 ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact city leaders in support of a \$200,000 grant from the American Rescue Plan. 2. Anyone can be a part of the development by purchasing an engraved paver for the brick paths; 6 x 9=\$200, 9 x 9=\$250, and 18 x 18=\$1,000 which is suitable for a business logo.

	Derrick motioned, and Stan seconded it, to support the project for the community which passed. It was agreed that a tour of the park would be set up for MPNA (Paul and Zach to arrange).
Menlo Park NA Clean and Beautiful Update-Andrew Stockard	Andrew reported that there will be a clean up of a small area, in the northwest of the park, on Saturday, January 29 th , from 9-11 AM. It will be a socially distanced event for the neighborhood. Some suggestions were made to assist with clean up efforts. They included: Maybe get the apartment complex there, next to the northwest corner, to possibly participate. There are several organizations that do help with community clean ups that may be willing to help with that area that has a high occurrence of trash-dumping.
Menlo Park Strategic Planning-What should we focus on in 2022?	<p>The following suggestions were made for focus in 2022:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Intermountain sensory park. 2. Menlo Park needs infrastructure improvements (such as the sink hole) 3. Affordable housing (ownership and rent) 4. Gentrification and displacement. Barrio Neighborhood Association is heading a campaign of “No se vende mi barrio/My neighborhood is not for sale”. There are predators who buy up houses to flip the. For example, a house bought for \$88,000 was “sat on” and then was sold for \$225,000. 5. Loss of long-standing businesses. There have been increases in neighborhood graffiti when businesses are not occupied such as Menlo Park Liquors. Maybe a specific invitation to the new owners of Menlo Park Liquors as well as other businesses to the meetings would be beneficial. Two anti-graffiti apps were presented MyTucson and SeeClickFix to report graffiti on private and public property to have the City of Tucson cover it. 6. How might we further engage Ward 1. 7. Increase engagement events such as a Movie-in-the-park or a block-party. <p>Please submit any additional suggestions at menloparktucson@gmail.org.</p>
Special Meeting/Election Notice + President’s Report	<p>Our Annual Meeting and Executive Board Election has been postponed due to COVID so that we may have an in-person meeting for the election. In an effort to support those neighbors who cannot attend an evening meeting during the week, the meeting and election will be held on Saturday, February 12th, from 11 AM to 1 PM, outdoors, at Menlo Park. It will also be a pot-luck and a celebration of the MPNA Vecinos. A special drawing for gift certificates to be used at local businesses will be held. The Ready-Set-Recreation van from the Parks Department will be there as will a number of resources including the possible offer of COVID vaccines. The information will be sent out in a mailer to the entire neighborhood. Please bring your own chair.</p> <p>On January 22, 2022, Saturday 10 AM there will be a listening session held by then Tucson Housing and Development Department regarding the Westmoreland affordable housing proposal by the design firm. It will be outdoors, in the cul-de-sac named Menlo Park Place. Bring your own chair. Masks required.</p> <p>Kylie reported that the Road Safety Assessment by the Pima Association of Government of Congress/Grande was completed. There is research being conducted to offer mitigation strategies for the top issue of red-light running (and speed).</p> <p>Zach reported that this year we have “pulled in, been granted, or repurposed \$90,000” for multiple projects.</p>
Call to Audience/Announcements	<p>Stanley raised privacy issues regarding the inclusion of names of attendees in the meeting minutes-not knowing/consenting that their names would be “published” and the possible effect on their safety.</p> <p>Steve thanked everyone for their participation in “grass roots democracy”.</p> <p>Derrick offered flyers with discount codes for the Zappe Family Circus being held at the Mercado San Agustin. It is a European style tent circus that is animal cruelty-free.</p>

	<p>Mark requested information regarding the historical relevance of the land behind Caterpillar next to the Santa Cruz River that may be prime-development land. Zach brought up the history of the intent of Ward 1 repatriating the land to the Tohono O’odham (TO), if they possibly desire it. The land has 3 current legal owners including the City of Tucson, Pima County, and Rio Nuevo, with a price tag of at least 1 million dollar an acre to remediate the landfill. Ward 1 will include MPNA in the planning and Zach will inform the neighborhood.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Stan moved and Derrick seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM which was unanimously approved.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>February 12, 2022 in-person at Menlo Park (the Park). Masks and social distancing required.</p>