

**MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of VIRTUAL meeting

because of COVID-19

**January 14, 2021**

ITEM	ACTIONS
<b>Board Members present</b> ( <a href="mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com">menloparktucson@gmail.com</a> )	<b>Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Raul Ramirez-Vice President, Isabel Doe-Treasurer, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, Matt Perri-Historian</b>
<b>Introductions</b>	Board members were introduced to the attendees via ZOOM meeting platform. There were 16 neighbors in attendance.
<b>December 2020 Minutes</b>	Motion to accept was made by Isabel and Wendy seconded the motion to accept the December minutes which were approved unanimously.
<b>Treasurer’s Report—Isabel Doe</b>	\$1,065.92 balance in bank account with only expenditure being the \$10.00 monthly bank fee.
<b>The Planning Center Introduction</b>	The Planning Center is the consulting firm chosen to assist in the development and production of a Menlo Park Neighborhood Plan. The following members were present at the meeting and introduced themselves: Linda Morales, Corky Poster-architect, Lexy Wellot-Project Manager, and Maria Masque-Spanish speaking Community Planner.
<b>Bylaws Amendment Discussion and Vote</b>	Changes to MPNA Bylaws under <b>Article II Purposes</b> and under <b>Article II Officers</b> were agreed upon as motioned by Diana and seconded by Raul, in order to provide greater engagement possibilities, especially with the development of the Neighborhood Plan, as well to expand the skill set of the existing Executive Board. The changes included language to support representation and participation with action to allow the appointment of 2 additional board members. The President can provide nomination of the 2 additional members pending Executive Board approval and a final vote by the MPNA membership. The accepted wording of the amendment will be distributed to the membership.
<b>President’s Report</b>	<p><b>Transportation and traffic issues</b>, per Ward 1 will be addressed as part of the Neighborhood Plan. However, a traffic circle is planned for Alameda &amp; Melwood. Additional traffic mitigation will include “speed trailers” and increased police presence on Bonita, between Congress &amp; Alameda. Traffic mitigation efforts for Congress and Grande will be part of long-range goals because of the need for COT engineer’s involvement as they are main thoroughfares.</p> <p><b>Open Space and Development</b> issues require long-range planning of the Westside.</p> <p><b>Housing Affordability and Gentrification</b>-A survey will go out to address neighborhood input for the Westmoreland property. Isabel reported that Ann Chanecka will bring in UA students to assist with the project that will include the possibility of re-zoning to include Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU’s). The ADU re-zoning issue is actually being considered for the entire city in order to increase the access to affordable housing.</p> <p><b>Menlo Clean and Beautiful</b>-There has been an increase in graffiti (including hate graffiti). Incidents have been noticed on the Cushing Street Bridge, utility boxes and Garden of Gethsemane. It was suggested that we install <b>Click Fix</b> which is an app. that can make reporting defacement easy to the graffiti abatement department.</p> <p>Information will sent out regarding February Tree planting.</p>
<b>Neighborhood Plan Update-Wendy Sterner</b>	As part of the development of the Neighborhood Plan a walking tour of locations of concern for The Planning Center is envisioned. However, with COVID-19 at such high levels, an in-person meeting is still not safe. Currently a virtual tour is planned. Greg Smith has been instrumental in including written narratives along with those locations of concern on an interactive map. Volunteers to complete those narratives so far include Raul (Barrio Sin Nombre), Liza (Día de San Juan), Zach (Westmoreland housing development), Steve (Mercado San Agustin), Diana (A Mtn landfill), Liza and Wendy (Congress and Grande), Brit, Isabel, and Matt (Menlo Park School). Additional volunteers will be sought out for other areas. Narratives should be sent to Wendy by 01-31-21 via email <a href="mailto:wendysterner@gmail.com">wendysterner@gmail.com</a>

<p><b>Menlo Clean and Beautiful— Buffle Grass and Santa Cruz clean-up</b></p>	<p>David reported that there will be several “buffle grass pulls” in the near future. The first will be scheduled for 01-31-21, Sunday from 9-11 along the river. This pull is being sponsored by The Heritage Project, The Desert Museum, Sonoran Institute and Tucson Water. COVID-19 safety protocols will be adhered to in the 3 areas of the pull including Mission Garden, Desert Survivors, and southern part of the river area.</p> <p>In reminding us that February is “Save The Saguaro Month”, he described buffle grass is a great threat to the survival of our native plants. David informed us that every Tuesday, 4-6PM he will head up to A Mntn. to pull the buffle grass and invited us to join him. His email is <a href="mailto:frijoles1234@gmail.com">frijoles1234@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<p>Wendy moved and Isabel seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM which was unanimously approved.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>February 11, 2020 via Zoom (link will be sent out) because of COVID-19 safety concerns.</b></p>