

**MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of VIRTUAL meeting

because of COVID-19

**February 11, 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 22 neighbors in attendance. Katie Herder, intern from Mission Garden attended.
<b>January 2021 Minutes</b>	Motion to accept was made by Diana; seconded by Matt; and Anthony thirded the motion to accept the January minutes which were approved unanimously.
<b>Treasurer’s Report—Isabel Doe</b>	\$1,055.93 balance in bank account with only expenditure being the \$10.00 monthly bank fee.
<b>TPD Report and Community Feedback-traffic, graffiti, speeding</b>	Zach informed MPNA that TPD had to attend to an urgent incident and may or may not be present for meeting. If not present, a report will be forwarded concerning agenda items.
<b>Transportation and Traffic Committee initiatives update</b>	<p>Mac Hudson reported that there were 1/2 of needed signatures required to install a traffic circle on West Alameda and North Melwood. A traffic circle can be placed there now because the #22 bus has been replaced with an on-demand transportation program. Mac offered his email in order to assist those who would like to sign petition and asked that those who support this effort contact the Ward 1 office. <a href="mailto:mac.hudson@gmail.com">mac.hudson@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p>Kylie, acting chair of Traffic Committee, reported that there were speed trailers set up on Bonita which did clock speeds up to 50 MPH, when speeding on this street was raised as a concern. Those speed trailers are now gone. It appears that the street is not a priority though it is not only heavily used to gain access to businesses there, but it is a cut through street between St. Mary’s Rd and Congress St. It is a short and divided road where the few residents along the street have a separate access road in front of their homes. Kylie provided her email for anyone who would like to join the committee. <a href="mailto:kwalzak@gmail.com">kwalzak@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p>Isabel commented that Lt. Morales has been effective and responsive.</p>
<b>Board Appointments Discussion and Vote</b>	By-law amendment approval from previous meeting was reviewed: The President can provide nomination of the 2 additional members pending Executive Board approval and a final vote by the MPNA membership. The change was initiated by our Menlo Park’s Neighborhood Plan to increase participation and engagement. Neto moved to accept the nominees. And with a second by Raul, Anthony Nelson and Gilbert Fimbres from Barrio Sin Nombre were unanimously approved as the 2 appointees. Raul informed MPNA that Gil had been in the neighborhood a very long time and served on the MPNA Board. Gil’s son currently lives in the home that Gil owns. Anthony reported that he grew up in Menlo Park and now lives in the family home.
<b>President’s Report</b>	<p><b>Westmoreland housing site planning is moving along well.</b> Isabel is developing a survey that will focus upon what immediate community members would like to see with the development of affordable housing for that space. There may be a way to partner with the UA Professor Jonathan Bean to design sustainable housing options, per David and Zach.</p> <p>Helen Ericson is another UA professor who has worked with the neighborhood before has proposed applying for a <b>Mellon Grant that defines “monument” in loose terms to maybe include open land set aside as an honorific of the Tucson Origins project.</b></p> <p>Police and Ward 1 are working to resolve <b>the homeless and RV parking situations</b> just south of Mission Lane. Isabel has been instrumental in this effort.</p> <p>On February 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a <b>tree planting in Menlo Park</b>. A flyer will be available to further notify neighbors they can order 2 free trees through the One Million Tree project.</p>

	<p>Today the steering committee for the <b>Garden of Gethsemane</b> met and will start to develop concepts and plans for added security and the beatification with a planning firm. The plan will be drawn up with public input and presented to Mayor and Council in June or July. The execution should be completed within 12 months. Currently, TPD has increased patrolling to decrease vandalism. There have been no recent incidents of destruction.</p> <p>Isabel pointed out that there is lots of <b>trash created in and along the banks of the river</b> by the homeless camps (especially near the old Chinese restaurant). David suggested an ongoing or regular clean up be held (as he has recently participated in a river clean up and he has trash bags from Tucson Clean and Beautiful. Sophia is a new neighbor who works for Tucson Clean and Beautiful suggesting she could put out a list serve to garner volunteers. Neto pointed out Ward 1 would have to work with COT to obtain a roll-off but cannot provide mechanized equipment or tools. Raul raise a question of whether it was the responsibility of Pima County Flood control. Steve reported that the Presidio Rotary conducts trash p/up on the first Saturday of the month and the city could provide trash bags for the clean-up efforts.</p> <p>Menlo Park School will become available for our MPNA meetings when it is safe to gather. The meeting space will be for 40-50 people, with restrooms available. There is a court yard for outdoor meetings until inside meetings are safe.</p>
<p><b>Neighborhood Plan Update-Wendy Sterner</b></p>	<p>Updates are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The committee is working on a plan to activate our “Vecinos” program to do community outreach.</li> <li>-In the next few weeks the survey will go out to determine “how” residents get their information.</li> <li>-The web page administrator and upkeep issues will be addressed.</li> <li>-The consultants would like to do a podcast with residents who have lived in the neighborhood for a long time.</li> <li>-The Plan creation will be a 12-18 month process.</li> <li>-The virtual walking tour map will be finalized soon so the the consultants know what the specific issues are with specific areas of the neighborhood.</li> <li>-The Planning Center will develop a document that will function as a “place holder” for our Neighborhood Plan while we develop the Plan. This will provide documentation of our values and desires; to function as the neighborhood’s voice with the COT and developers until The Plan is ready during the 12-18 month development period.</li> </ul> <p>Wendy’s email is <a href="mailto:wendysterner@gmail.com">wendysterner@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Community Garden-Mission Garden</b></p>	<p>Katie invited the neighborhood to take part in the neighborhood <b>food pantry at Mission Garden</b>. The Garden grows a large amount of produce, greens and fruit. If you live in the area you can obtain some of the produce for free through their outreach program.</p>
<p><b>Call to the Audience</b></p>	<p>-Diana reported that there are <b>organic eggs that are for sale at Mission Garden</b> produced by heritage breeds such as Blue Andalucian, Black Face, and Mayorca hens. <b>Agave planting day</b> is 02/24/21 which is free. There will also be <b>a bat conservation program</b> at Mission Garden.</p> <p>-Matt raised some issues about what may still be needed for the virtual walking tour (history of the school and the pool) for the <b>Plan</b> and the consultants. Diana and Raul agreed to provide Liza and Greg with a map of where the “Festival Area” is actually located to aid the virtual map effort.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<p>Diana moved and Wendy seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM which was thirded by Isabel and unanimously approved.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>March 11, 2021 via Zoom (link will be sent out) because of COVID-19 safety concerns.</b></p>