

**MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**Meeting In-person**

**March 10, 2022**

ITEM	ACTIONS
<b>Board Members present at hybrid MPNA meeting</b> <a href="mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com">menloparktucson@gmail.com</a>	<b>Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Raul Ramirez-Vice President, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Isabel Doe-Treasurer, and Steve Brown-Parliamentarian</b>
<b>Introductions</b>	Board members were introduced to the attendees at Menlo Park Elementary School. All attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 14 neighbors in attendance at this hybrid meeting. Guests (3) included Lt. Morales TPD, Keith Bagwell from PCBOS (District 5), and Flor Burruel from Ward 1 and Kaila from the Cushing Street Skate Park project, and Alex Jimenez (Tucson Water Artist-in-residence).
<b>February 2022 Minutes</b>	The February minutes were approved with motion made by Stanley and a second from Derrick (AKA Nate). Zach extended his thanks on behalf of the Executive Board for the trust placed in the current slate of officers to serve the neighborhood until the election in September.
<b>Treasurer’s Report—Isabel Doe</b>	Checking=\$547.18 and Savings=\$115.00 (with a \$10.00 monthly fee).
<b>MPNA Process Change—MPNA Minutes</b>	<p>Zach reported that the issue of whether names of meeting attendees, in any format, are to be included in the meeting would require a process change. The Executive Board agreed to bring the decision to the MPNA members. Zach reported that he checked with Neighborhood Resources at the COT and was informed that there was not an official format or regulations that had to be followed. It was explained that some very small neighborhoods’ minutes included the list of attendees (5-10 people) at the annual meeting, often only meeting once a year. He checked with multiple Tucson Commissions and only board members are listed and not community members. Neighborhood associations are not subject to open-meeting laws. There is not a requirement that one “signs in” on the sign-in sheet. Discussion included need for transparency, not fearing one another, and need to “leave a history” as well as the increased amount of labor for a non-necessary task, the breaches to personal information, and that the practice is a rare one for many types of organizations. The two motions for proposals to change the current process to add attendees’ names were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposal to have the minutes include the first name and last initial of all the attendees (added from the sign-in sheet) failed.</li> <li>2. The proposal to have the full names of all the attendees failed.</li> </ol> <p>The current process for completion of the monthly MPNA minutes will remain the same.</p>
<b>TPD Report and discussion on homelessness and public safety concerns--LT Belinda Morales</b>	<p>Lt. Morales informed the MPNA that she is being re-assigned to being the commander of the Downtown Entertainment District but will continue to aide Menlo Park and will have a representative present at each meeting. Currently the NCAA March Madness events are a priority because of the propensity for unruly behavior.</p> <p>Lt. Morales reported that crime is down 6.7% (60 incidents last year compared to 56 now) though it may not appear so. There has been an uptick in homeless persons involved issues at the Safeway, 7-11, and at the park. There are a number of resources available for the homeless and housing at the Wild Cat Inn. There have been offers of shelter but there are homeless that have refused resources; those who want to live in the open without any restrictions and with their pets. The top crimes include: Larceny from motor vehicles which tends to be fueled by need for money to purchase drugs. Burglaries. And an increase in shoplifting which often results in assaults to business owners when they attempt to stop the shoplifters. Lt. Morales would like to meet with business owners to get a handle on the shoplifting/assaults. The staffing shortage plays a part in the inability to effectively accomplish this.</p> <p>Lt. Morales asked that we contact Zach and the Ward 1 office when we see illegal dumping and graffiti. Lt. Morales encouraged neighborhood cleanups and will mobilize law enforcement to participate. With homelessness up 60% (large encampment along the bank of the Santa Cruz River) and increased “stealing” and arsons, we can get a handle on some of this by securing property and cars. Do not keep valuables, firearms or money in cars. Well lit areas deter crime.</p>

	<p>Lt. Morales will provide resources to assist including the scheduling of the SURT officer Sergeant Erica Stropka with MPNA. The City of Tucson is looking at humane ways of handling the homeless issue and the complex problems that often accompany this population. Keith Bagwell indicated that Pima county has a team to address issues with the encampments along the river. Pima County Flood Control has cleaned up the areas twice in last year.</p>
<p><b>Menlo Park Strategic Priorities Report-Zach Yentzer</b></p>	<p>Zach provided a list of MPNA priorities (in paper form) that included topics from 2019 and the conversation with MPNA meeting in January 2022. These priorities drive the Executive Board and each meeting, being the public roadmap for the Executive Board. Please contact us with any additional input and feedback. Raul pointed out updates on a couple of items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bautista has a new parking plan and is asking for a variance to increase available parking. There will be public input for those that live 400 feet around the variance request.</li> <li>2. Under HOUSING there is a subcategory of gentrification and displacement. There are brochures in the back of the room with a list of resource as well as a glossary of housing terms. Additionally, the Barrio Neighborhood Coalition has signs “Mi barrio no se vende” and “My neighborhood is not for sale” to curtail predatory behavior of realtors and house flippers and encourage homeowners to locate resources. Raul will bring signs to the next meeting along with a presentation on the origins and purpose of the movement.</li> </ol> <p>There is also a 1-page housing resource list along with Raul’s materials. MPNA will likely create a housing resource fair later this year.</p>
<p><b>Cushing Street Bridge Skate Park Update—Flor Burruel</b></p>	<p>Flor reported that the Skate Park survey closed with over 700 responses. Within the next month the design concept should be complete with construction beginning late summer.</p> <p>Kaila indicated that though the survey is closed there will be opportunities for community input. Not only will there be multi-level skill areas there will be a focus on socialization for youth, including those that are not skaters.</p> <p>Flor reported that the listening session with the new Chief of Police, Chaz Kasmar went well and that Ward 1 residents made their concerns known.</p> <p>Flor reported that Ward 1 will hold a painting event on South 12<sup>th</sup> Ave on April 23 and 24. The Ward office is seeking 200 volunteers for this family friendly event. Registration will begin next week.</p> <p>Flor was informed that that concerns about illegal dumping and trash left by homeless persons was addressed with Lt. Morales. Flor indicated that the issue is “out of control” city-wide. The Ward office can enlist Environmental Services to assist with cleanup. Keith will also notify the Pima County Flood Control Department in the morning about the growing concerns.</p>
<p><b>Call to Audience/Announcements</b></p>	<p>Alex Jimenez introduced herself as the Artist-In-Residence at Tucson Water. She is operating from a grant received from the U.S. Water Alliance working with Arizona Arts Live. She has orchestrated a library of monsoon sounds to launch a project on Día De San Juan. The project is comprised of 1. Sound Stations and 2. Original music compositions created from the sound library and 3. A YouTube “Chubasco Channel” and 4. A possible visual installation.</p> <p>Wendy provided the left-over water and chips from the picnic in the park.</p> <p>Raul reported that the Roll-Off provided for BSN was completely full.</p> <p>Zach reminded everyone to encourage neighbors to participate because neighbors are the foundation of a city!</p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<p>Stan moved and Raul said “Amen!” as a second to the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM which was unanimously approved.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>April 14, 2022, in-person at Menlo Park Elementary School. Masks and social distancing recommended.</b></p>