

**MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**Meeting In-person**

**April 14, 2022**

ITEM	ACTIONS
<p><b>Board Members present at in-person MPNA meeting (<a href="mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com">menloparktucson@gmail.com</a>)</b></p>	<p><b>Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Raul Ramirez-Vice President, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Isabel Doe-Treasurer, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, Matt Perri-Historian, Anthony Nelson and Keren Torres--members at-large.</b></p>
<p><b>Introductions</b></p>	<p>Board members were introduced to the attendees at Menlo Park Elementary School. All attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 29 neighbors (including 9 Board Members) in attendance at this meeting. Guests (13) included Lt. Morales TPD (and 7 TPD officers), Keith Bagwell from PCBOS (District 5), Anthony Ramirez from Ward 1, and skate park designers Owen Long (project manager) and Andre Rioux (project designer).</p>
<p><b>March 2022 Minutes</b></p>	<p>The March minutes were approved with motion made by Gene and a second from Suzanne.</p>
<p><b>Treasurer’s Report—Isabel Doe</b></p>	<p>Checking=\$374.31 (with withdraw of 2 months of \$10.00 monthly fee as well as payment of website domain of \$152.87). Savings=\$115.00</p>
<p><b>Homelessness: Presentation by the TPD Homeless Outreach Team, Mental Health Support Team, and the Substance Use Response Team—Lt Belinda Morales and 7 TPD officers reporting</b></p>	<p>Lt. Morales informed the MPNA that the rate of homelessness is rising. She introduced Captain. Stacy Shaner of the Special Services and Innovation Bureau who emphasized the focus on customer service. She provided the history on the Mental Health support Team from it’s start in 2013 to assist in any case where there maybe a mental health nexus. The program expanded in 2018 to include a substance abuse unit with a program of “deflection” which include case follow up, education and outreach with “peer responders”, and transport to treatment facility. Enforcement is sometimes a necessary tool. TPD resources aim to help solve the underlying reasons for homelessness by coordinating with City services and community social agencies to solve issues that can include obtaining a driver’s license or birth certificate.</p> <p>Officer Jack Stropka presented The Homeless Outreach Team as a multi-faceted approach program when addressing homelessness. Using money to decrease homelessness saves money in the long run with focus on “housing first”. The Community Health and Safety Department goal is to reach functional “0” of homelessness but there are 2000 units below the need. An example of their efforts was when the homeless camp at Golf Links and Swan was emptied and there were no arrests and 53 people were moved directly into housing. If the homeless are willing to accept assistance the teams will provide the intervention. Lt James Brady report that the team responds throughout the city. Email address of the team is <a href="mailto:TPDHot@tucsonaz.gov">TPDHot@tucsonaz.gov</a>.</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic there was a city ordinance that prevented “urban camping”, but the CDC issued guidance that it was a health benefit to allow the homeless to remain in an open environment reducing risk of spreading COVID. The update in the encampment in Menlo Park along the Santa Cruz River includes collaboration and outreach between Pima Co. Flood Control, ADOT, Tucson Parks, TDOT, Pima Co. Parks and Rec. to begin on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Housing is already being offered to camp residents.</p> <p>Tucson does not have safe parking zones for those that live in their cars. Shelters include Gospel Rescue Recue Mission and Salvation Army, but without a secure lot for the cars at the shelters. There is concern that concentrations of homeless people also bring higher rates of crime, in and around camps.</p>
<p><b>Transportation: Congress/Grande Road Safety Assessment Update</b></p>	<p>Road safety study with Kylie and Lt Morales involved Blake, an engineer, from Department of Transportation and Mobility. Blake reported that the roads are safe and meet legal requirements. Some of the minor adjustments that could be made would include more striping, reflective brads, increase the size of the light, green bike markings. However, the most significant issue was found to be speeding and red light running. Blake presented 4 main mitigation strategies to calm the traffic through this intersection after he described the completion of the traffic study: 1. Change Congress with a “road diet” in order to change the speeding context as cars leave I-10 and narrow the road. 2. Provide improved crossings to</p>

	<p>include “bump outs”. 3. Install a modern round-about at the intersection to slow the traffic. 4. Provide larger “bump out” bike lanes, reducing street width and increased bike safety. These options will take money and the support of Proposition 411 which will extend the 0.5% sales tax for roads. Basic speed bumps cost \$500.00 each and a small traffic circle can cost \$10,000-12,000.</p> <p>Wendy reminded MPNA of the workshop to participate in the Neighborhood Plan development to be held on May 7, 2022, from 9-12 at the Sentinel Building.</p> <p>Antonio also recommended contacting the Ward 1 office to possibly look for support and funding for a project. He did report that Proposal 101 can be extended by Prop 411.</p> <p><a href="mailto:Tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov">Tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov</a> was the website provided to report any issue with streets including need for safety measures and repair issues.</p>
<p><b>Parks and Rec: Cushing Street Bridge Skate Park Update—Owen Long and Andre Rioux</b></p>	<p>Owen and Andre presented digital renderings of designs that may be utilized on the North side of the underpass. The Tucson Skateboard Alliance and the skate community wanted to have an outdoor venue which is shaded. This area is close to The Loop and the river, SunLink streetcar (may reduce car traffic), with Downtown being adjacent. The survey had 771 responses with 88% being supportive. The spot will be lighted, have water and restrooms. There are also favorable transitional features. There is a 3-D walk-through on the website <a href="mailto:tucsondelivers@tucsonaz.gov">tucsondelivers@tucsonaz.gov</a>. Comments about the design and recommendations can be left there.</p> <p>Yesterday there was a preliminary meeting at the MSA Annex with positive feedback. Since the “skaters” wanted the Cushing Underpass the feasibility study was performed for that space and not the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Overpass. There were questions about liability and safety for skaters, pedestrians, cyclists and car drivers. Parking and increased traffic will make the area much less safe. There is also concern that the skate park will increase distractions for drivers. There will be further events to provide feedback.</p> <p>Antonio indicated that there will be a third meeting in June for the final approval of the concept plan. He indicated that youth are excited about this project and have become engaged in the process.</p>
<p><b>Housing: Mi Casa/ Mi Barrio No Se Vende advocacy proposal—Raul Ramirez</b></p>	<p>Raul described this project initiated by the Barrio Neighborhood Coalition discourage gentrification practices of predatory buyers or “flippers”. There is an advocacy component to the program to provide education and resources to allow families to keep their homes and for seniors to age in place and build family wealth. Raul brought booklets with a glossary of housing terms and resources to assist with housing issues.</p> <p>Yard signs will be available for the neighborhood in both English and Spanish with the slogans. The website for the Barrio Neighborhood Coalition is <a href="http://BNC.org">BNC.org</a></p> <p>The issue of affordable housing is also a part of this conversation. Often it is difficult for residents to buy homes in their neighborhoods of origin because of inflated prices due to gentrification. The possibility of a policy by the City that rental properties would be required to take Section 8 vouchers was raised. Many landlords have negative opinions about those who would qualify for Section 8 vouchers. Antonio indicated that the City is also looking at programs that would provide funds to repair homes so that they do not have to move.</p>
<p><b>President’s Report</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a digital survey by the Department of Housing and Community Development which should be answered by April 24<sup>th</sup>. It was based on an exercise that the Department held at the Westmoreland meeting where you could place colored dots on “what was important to you”. It was sent out 2 emails ago and will be sent out via email one more time.</li> <li>2. The Next Step in the Neighborhood Plan is the workshop on May 7, 2022, Saturday from 9 AM to 12PM (registration at 8:30). There are flyers. The vecinos will distribute flyers to the neighborhood as well.</li> <li>3. On May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the</li> </ol>

	<p>completion of the Barrio Sin Nombre infrastructure project (4 decades in the making). The celebration will be held on the corner of Cushing and Melwood. There will be tents and food!</p>
<p><b>Call to Audience/Announcements</b></p>	<p>Antonio reported that Ward 1 will hold a painting event on South 12<sup>th</sup> Ave (where lanes have been reduced from 5 to 3) on April 23 and 24. The Ward office is seeking 200 volunteers for this family friendly event. On April 30<sup>th</sup> W1 will host Día De Los Ninos, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. W1 office will provide free bike repair on the first Friday of the month from 12-2 and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 5-7 PM.</p> <p>A number of people complained about the growing graffiti problem, especially at the Congress/Grande Intersection and the liquor store. There has not been any attempt to develop the liquor store so it sits there vacant on the corner.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<p>Liz moved and David seconded to the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM which was unanimously approved.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>May 12, 2022, in-person at Menlo Park Elementary School. Masks and social distancing recommended.</b></p>