

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
December 09, 2021

ITEM	ACTIONS
Board Members present virtual 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, Matt Perri-Historian, and Anthony Nelson.
Introductions	Board members were introduced to the attendees in-person at Menlo Park Elementary School. There were 22 neighbors in attendance at this in-person meeting. Guests (3) included Maria Masque from The Planning Center, Flor from Ward 1, and Lt. Morales from TPD.
November 2021 Minutes	The November minutes were unanimously approved with missing portion read out loud (to be sent out), as Gene moved and Liz seconded.
Treasurer’s Report—Isabel Doe	\$607.09 is bank account balance.
TPD Report and Community Feedback-LT Belinda Morales	<p>LT Belinda Morales concurred with Zach’s report that a city the size of Tucson should have twice as many public safety employees. Safety is an ongoing challenge in our city, especially citing the 2 recent incidents (The event at the Culinary Drop-Out and excessive force/death issue with the individual in a mobility device)</p> <p>The new police Chief Chad Kasmar will host a “listening tour” for the community. What he shares with the previous Chief, is having accountability and working to obtain the trust of the city. Lt. Morales reported that officers engage in 40 hours of Crisis Intervention in a special school with quarterly training. De-escalation is the number one priority.</p> <p>A shortage of officers is indeed a challenge with 120 vacancies and a yield of only 30 officers out of each academy class. What appears to be driving the rate of murders is the lack of staff to engage in prevention which includes not having a dedicated gang unit or enough motorcycle police to be pro-active. It is often that those who commit murder have a lengthy criminal history which has not been able to be addressed through early intervention.</p> <p>The Citizen Police Advisory Board still has vacancies. Ward 1 has applications for members of this community involvement component.</p> <p>There are issues with “speeders” at Cedar and Cuesta where there is a daycare center. There is a process to install traffic mitigation efforts which include performance of a site assessment. There is a proposal for a round-about there but there is a wait for funding.</p> <p>There is a homeless camp next to the Westmoreland property. There is a 3-pronged process that includes: 1. Getting to know who they are (Outreach), 2. Provide education and alternatives, and having them engage in obtaining housing for themselves (Education), 3. Then, Enforcement.</p> <p>LT Belinda Morales Operations Division West, (520) 837-7203, (520) 589-8487, belinda.morales@tucsonaz.gov.</p>
MPNA Board Seat Appointment-Barrío Sin Nombre (BSN)—Zach Yentzer	Zach announced the nomination of Keren Torres to the MPNA seat left open by Gil Fimbres. Her nomination is intended to provide community connection to Barrío Sin Nombre which has seen so much development in an effort to keep the neighborhood as natural as possible. Additionally, Keren meets the demographics of the neighborhood as 1. Under 45 and 2. Hispanic. (In full transparency, it is noted that she is married to Anthony Nelson, but does make independent decisions). The motion to accept Keren’s nomination was made by Liz and seconded by Raul which passed unanimously.
What do neighbors say about Menlo Park—The Planning Center, Maria Masque	Maria Masque is from the consultant group, The Planning Center, that MPNA hired to assist with our Neighborhood Plan. She reported the following: There were 89 surveys answered, with the primary goal to determine how neighbors are best informed of information. Of those, 84 were completed in English and 5 in Spanish, with 8

	<p>answered on-line. It appears that there is a younger population that is not being engaged and we should plan more youth-friendly events.</p> <p>There were 4 Community Conversations, 3 of which were well attended, held (the results are still being processed) but it appears that primary concerns are gentrification and displacement, historic preservation, land use and preserving open space, affordable housing, traffic-speed and noise, and the use of Menlo Park Elementary as a community space. The results will be presented as Current Conditions Technical Report for review to Ward 1 and the Neighborhood Planning Steering committee, then to the "Executive Board and publicly as well." It was suggested the Technical Report include Parks and Recreation.</p> <p>If anyone would like to be a Vecino please see Wendy. If anyone would like to complete a survey, please see her also.</p>
President's Report—Zach Yentzer	<p>On January 22, 2022, Saturday there will be a listening session held by then Tucson Housing and Development Department regarding the Westmoreland affordable housing proposal by the design firm.</p> <p>The team working on the Garden of Gethsemane is working on drafting a Master Plan that will include improved landscaping, signage, and security.</p> <p>West Side Stories by Borderlands Theatre, a project that is funded by the foundation supporting the Garden of Gethsemane, has hired 40 actors to present stories of the "Westside" in March. There will be 3 days of rotating stories (tentatively March 4, 5, and 6), food, music, and informational booths at Bonita Park. There will also be a presentation of how to make adobe brick. Concern will be shown for the residents who face the park, along with security and concern for noise and lights.</p>
Call to Audience/Announcements	<p>Flor of Ward 1 announced that on the 2nd Sunday of the month the Ward 1 office will host "Bicis and Burritos" from 8-11AM, from Ward 1 Office to Bonita Park.</p> <p>Anthony reported on the infrastructure improvements of BSN. The work should be completed by January including speed bumps (but no sidewalks or curbs).</p> <p>Isabel announced that she brought lots of 2022 calendars that she received and would like to offer them to the neighborhood.</p> <p>Maria reported that all the Neighborhood engagement events will be on the calendar.</p> <p>Listing all meeting attendees by name will be considered.</p> <p>Steve reminded everyone that the Executive Board is currently fully staffed and to feel free to "seek us out."</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Wendy moved and Derrick seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM which was unanimously approved.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>January 13, 2022 in-person at Menlo Park Elementary School Cafeteria. Masks and social distancing required.</p>