

**MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**Hybrid Meeting**  
**March 09, 2023**

ITEM	ACTIONS
<b>Board Members present at MPNA monthly meeting</b> <a href="mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com">menloparktucson@gmail.com</a>	<b>Kylie Walzak-President, Raul Ramirez and Anthony Nelson-Vice Presidents, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Liz Martinez-Treasurer, Matt Perri-Historian, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, and Keren Torres—member at-large.</b>
<b>Introductions</b>	Board members and attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 25 neighbors (including the 8 Board Members) in attendance at this meeting. Guests (9) including Keith Bagwell representing PCBO D-5, Flor Burruel and Kristin McCray from WARD 1, CRSO Rubio and First Sargeant Mitch from TPD, Sofia from Tucson Clean and Beautiful (also a neighbor), Sarah Maggison from Housing and Community Development, Dr. Luke Cole from Sonoran Institute, Marc Pinate from Borderlands Theatre.
<b>February’s 2023 Minutes</b>	Isabel motioned and Armando seconded the motion to accept February’s minutes which were approved unanimously.
<b>Treasurer’s Report—Liz Martinez</b>	Bank balance is \$1,411.56.
<b>Neighborhood Plan DRAFT Open House Announcement—Wendy Sterner</b>	The Open House for the Menlo Park Neighborhood Plan will be held March 11, 2023, this Saturday, from 9 AM to 2 PM, at the YWCA, 55 N Bonita Ave. Feedback by neighbors can be given to the Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee and the Planning Center who have developed goals for the plan. This will be the beginning of developing policies to achieve the goals in the plan. The event will include visiting 6 stations for the comments with a variety of opportunities to share comments. Those who can attend are Property Owners, any Resident including renters, and business owners. There will be children’s activities, snacks and refreshments, and raffles for gift cards. A shout out of gratitude to all who have shepherded this process along was made.
<b>“A” Mountain Landfill Urban Wildlife Refuge/Sonoran Institute—Dr. Luke Cole</b>	<p>-Dr. Cole described the primary purpose of the Sonoran Institute as conservation from the Colorado Basin, from north to south, with consensus in a non-partisan and bi-national effort. - Of local focus is the Santa Cruz River, a living river, from Mexico to Marana. To bring federal protection of this corridor is a collaboration with the Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife, and the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program. This protection is meant for areas with high climate vulnerability, within 25 miles of an urban center which includes Pinal County to Pima county to Santa Cruz County. The routes can be determined by either a Senator (political) or, having the Administration work with a community (Wilderness Society). The latter connects people to nature to provide meaning with equity, safety, and provide a model of sustainability. Partners in this effort met and mapped the Tucson river corridor to develop a proposal. Dr. Cole presented a recently developed wildlife refuge called Valle de Oro in Albuquerque, NM, that included a community park. The collaborators in Tucson are W-1, W-3, and Mission Garden. Menlo Park can join this effort by assisting with the designation of open space (including the “A” Mountain landfill).</p> <p>- The organization also produces the “Living River Reports” along with the county and the city. There have been organization sponsored rive cleanups. On February 25<sup>th</sup> there was a 2 hour event which yielded 7,000 lbs of trash as opposed to the expected 2,000 with 110 volunteers instead of the 25 to 50 expected. The next clean up will be held May 20 from St. Mary’s Rd to Grant Rd. This will be part of a 3-year trash study.</p> <p>-There are many landfills along the corridor. Studies will continue for the need for remediation of the landfills and whether remediation is necessary. Many parks have been built on landfill sites without the need for remediation. However, in the case of “A” Mountain landfill Chuck Graff, hydrologist from Mission Garden, will present what he believes especially as it relates to “environmental justice”. There has been increased impact from development, the brick yard, and the trash breakdown hastened from the heat and the amount of water present that drains off the mountain. The Wilderness Society has been working at the federal level and it is believed that a grass-roots approach is best at this point and not a political one.</p>

<p><b>Westmoreland Housing Update— Sarah Meggison, Housing and Community Development</b></p>	<p>In January there was a pre-development meeting with FSL Real Estate and Corky Poster. There are 3 conceptual designs (that do not differ much) that will be presented to the neighborhood for feedback, at the site on April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM.</p> <p>The process of the development includes environmental studies since there was a landfill under the park and landfill ordinances must be followed. The monitoring of methane from the area has shown no results for methane. After the neighborhood feedback is gathered there will be a developmental agreement drawn up as well as a developmental budget. What came out of the previous meetings were one-story, single-family units. It will be affordable housing that will offered in a Land Trust model, in perpetuity (not in market rate).</p>
<p><b>Borderlands Theater West Side Stories—Marc Pinate</b></p>	<p>West Side Stories will be a Borderlands Theatre production to take place April 20-23 and then again on the 27<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, from 7:45 PM at Bonita Park. The official kick-off will be on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be pre-performance activities starting at 6 PM when the gates open. This will include heritage talks, a Pima County Community Land Trust Game show, an augmented reality (AR) event, picnic before the show like “tail gating” where there will be some food trucks. The event would like the presence of neighborhood associations (but must provide own canopy, tables, and chairs). There will be a coffee table book available for purchase for \$25-\$30. Bonita Park can hold about 250 people and it is suggested that a reservation be made for the attendance with the QR code on the post card and flyers.</p>
<p><b>Call To Audience</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Keith, PCBOS D-5, announced there would be a Summer Youth Resource Fair with 60 vendors this Saturday from 10 to 1 at the Sentinel Bldg. on Bonita.</li> <li>-Sofia, Tucson Clean and Beautiful (TCB), announced that MPNA officially adopted Menlo Park for a 1 x month clean-up, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 9 AM, meeting in the northwest section of the park. The next clean up is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>. After 3 clean ups a sign will be erected in the park for MPNA sponsorship.</li> <li>-Matt announced the organization of a community garden modeled after the Bullets and Flowers Garden project, bringing food and garden skills to home owners and renters. Please see him with your name and phone number.</li> <li>-There is a donation jar at the back of the room which will help fund traffic mitigation, trees, and community engagement activities.</li> <li>-If you’d like to be part of the MPNA email distribution list please add your name and email to the sign -in list at the back table.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<p>Everyone moved and seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved by everyone.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>April 13, 2023, 6:00 PM at the Menlo Park Elementary School.</b></p>