

# MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Hybrid Meeting

April 13, 2023

ITEM	ACTIONS
Board Members present at MPNA monthly meeting ( <a href="mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com">menloparktucson@gmail.com</a> )	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.
Introductions	Board members and attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 26 neighbors (including the 8 Board Members) in attendance at this meeting. Guests (7) included Isaiah Kortright from The Audubon Society, Chuck Graf from Mission Garden (retired hydrologist), Keith Bagwell from PCBOS District 5, Flor Burruel from Ward 1, Ernesto Portillo and Sarah Meggison from COT Housing and Community Development, Katharine Len Yee Mitchell from Borderlands Theatre/West Side Stories.
March's 2023 Minutes	Stanley motioned and Isabel seconded the motion to accept March's minutes which were unanimously approved.
Treasurer's Report—Liz Martinez	Bank checking balance is \$1,401.57, with the \$10 monthly fee. There is \$25.00 in savings.
"Santa Cruz Urban Birds and Community", Audubon Society—Isaiah Kortright, Community Organizing Coordinator	MPNA provided a letter of support in the past to the Audubon Society to pursue a grant to protect 150 species of birds that regularly inhabit the area to 300 species of birds that are present during the migratory season. This grant will be used to provide nest boxes and window decals. The grant will be also used to engender community engagement and supplies, to pass out the decals to the MPNA and materials to make the nest boxes. The decals are to protect the birds from flying into windows along the Santa Cruz River. The Mesquite Warbler or "Lucies" is the primary species protected. The results of the grant application will be available October/ November.
A Mountain Landfill—Chuck Graf, retired Hydrologist, Mission Garden Board Member	<p>--Chuck Graf provided a brief history of the area beginning with the vote for Rio Nuevo to manage the land in 1999. Tucson Origins Park was set up with establishment of three components: 1. Mission Garden, 2. Tucson Heritage Park, and 3. A type of desert preserve, over 31 acres (and the A Mountain landfill). The A Mountain landfill is actually one of the least toxic landfills in the area (and was not identified as a superfund site). It was determined that long-term monitoring of the 1. Ground water and contaminants and 2. Gasses (primarily methane) would suffice. The history includes the Congress Street landfill on 3 acres, Nearmont landfill was 7 acres, and the A Mountain is 31 acres and operated between 1953 to 1962.</p> <p>--Ground water: The wells inside show no significant contamination. Tucson Water has put reclaimed water into the river which provide reclaimed/recharge credits with the state of Arizona. The level of reclaimed water input is closely monitored so that stores of contamination are not disturbed. Tucson Water samples the water frequently.</p> <p>--Gas generation: Methane is the primary gas produced from household waste. Since 2000 methane has been monitored for decomposition, migration off site, and accumulation in wells. Gas samples are taken quarterly. There has been no off-site migration. Since 2015 there was a lot of methane inside the landfill, but comparatively a low volume. This presents no environmental harm, and the area can support an urban wildlife refuge or a Sonoran Desert Park. The Chandler City landfill was turned into the Paseo Vista Recreation Area which boasts an archery range, a dog park, and other amenities.</p> <p>The concern about flooding during rainy season has resulted in increased monitoring and the level of water release is levied against the amount of rain. The Santa Cruz Heritage Project is involved in the recharge project.</p>
Appointment of Kara Harter and Celina Soto to Member(s)-at-large—MPNA Executive Board	The MPNA bylaws permit an appointment of a representative at large that have special skills, experiences, or representation capabilities that are useful to the organization. The Executive Board felt that renters are underrepresented and that the remaining position on the Ex-Board should be filled by a renter. Since there is only one seat purposed 2 people are believed to be able to fill the one open position. The two people purposed to share the seat are Kara Harter (a resident of Sentinel Plaza) and Celina Soto (a resident of the Menlo Park Apartments), each living at opposite ends of the neighborhood. Celina and Kara provide a good balance for the position in consideration of age, culture, and different type of living situations. Armando

	<p>motioned to accept Celina and Kara for the at large position and seconded by Stanley. The motion passed.</p>
<p><b>Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee Update—Wendy Sterner, Chair</b></p>	<p>There was an open house in March that was well attended. There was a lot of feedback on the Vision and Goals, and some ideas to begin working on the development of policy. The survey at the open house is now online at the link in the email. Each person can fill out one survey. It appears that the plan will be completed by the end of the year. Paper copies of the survey can be made available.</p>
<p><b>Westmoreland Update—Ernesto Portillo and Sarah Megison, Housing and Community Development</b></p>	<p>--At the site on April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM, FSL Real Estate (Krista) and Corky Poster, architect, will present proposed designs for neighborhood feedback. The designs are similar but will be explained in detail at the presentation. The land use aspect is important part of planning. The presentation will include an interactive portion so attendees can provide feedback graphically and written.</p> <p>--It was reported that the monitoring has yielded no methane. There are no engineering concerns as the property sits on solid ground. The affordable housing will utilize a Land Trust model so that the housing stays affordable, in perpetuity. The owners will own any improvements. The purchase will go through FSL in conjunction with the City of Tucson.</p>
<p><b>Re-scheduled Pizza Party, Mural Restoration, and Menlo Park Bicycle Boulevard Outreach, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 PM—David Walker</b></p>	<p>--David announced that the Mural restoration and Pizza Party has been rescheduled at 17 N. Linda Ave. The Mural Restoration was approved. This mural has never been tagged or defaced A limited number of people will participate in the morning portion of the day. The clear coat for the mural was donated. Sofia from Tucson clean and Beautiful will provide tools for cleanup. -- From 4 to 6 PM the “horno” will be fired up and pizzas will be cooked. Just bring your favorite toppings for the handmade pizza. There will be a jumping castle for the children. The City of Tucson Department of Transportation and Mobility will be there to provide information on the Bicycle Boulevard and gather feedback on traffic calming ideas that are funded by 407 funds. There will be another outreach meeting in May.</p>
<p><b>Borderlands Theatre, West Side Stories Volunteers and MPNA Sign-up—Katharine and Kylie</b></p>	<p>Katharine presented a review of the West Side Stories project and was available for sign up for volunteer assignments. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> event presented by Borderlands which will be held for 8 days, Thursday through Sunday evenings for 2 weeks, starting on 04-28-2023. Each day there will be activities that begin at 6 PM. The show begins at 7:45 PM. MPNA will have a table set up there. There will be a shadow show about the history of the Garden of Gethsemane and an Augmented Reality (AR) show activated by a QR code on your smart phone.</p>
<p><b>Call to Audience</b></p>	<p>--Flor from Ward 1 brought flyers for the West /side Stories. She reported that Alex Jimenez has created a mosaic project in memory of those who passed away during COVID. Ward 1 will sponsor El Día De Ninez on the morning of 04-29-2023. Ward 1 Participatory Budgeting will be ready for voting on 04-20-2023. Vote on funding for projects in Ward 1. There will be a second cycle for funding in August. In June, Ward 1 will sponsor a leadership workshop. There will be a save-the-date flyer.</p> <p>--Keith reported that Adelita Grijalva will speak at West Side Stories on the 30<sup>th</sup>, the last evening.</p> <p>--Neto reported that Tucson Mariachi Conference will present Noche Garibaldi on 04-21 at MSA. There will be a \$20 charge.</p> <p>--Cyclovia will be held on 04-22, from Barrio San Antonio to Himmel Park.</p> <p>--Armando reported that 8 people showed up at the park clean up. The park safety patrol offered assistance. The cleanup occurs every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<p>Stanley moved and Anthony seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved by everyone, at 7:43 PM.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>May 11, 2023, 6:00 PM at the Menlo Park Elementary School.</b></p>