

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Hybrid Meeting
May 11, 2023

ITEM	ACTIONS
Board Members present at MPNA monthly meeting menloparktucson@gmail.com	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 37 neighbors (including the 10 Board Members) in attendance at this meeting. Guests (10) Sergeant Mitch Vipont who oversees the Community Resource Officers with TPD, Council person Lane Santa Cruz and Flor Burruel from Ward 1, Elvira from PCBOS District 5, Ernesto Portillo from COT Housing and Community Development, Maria Masque from The Planning Center, Rebecca Ruopp from COT Neighborhood Engagement, Jody Brown the COT Historic Preservation Officer, Logan Phillips (DJ Dirtyverbs and open space advocate), and Collin Chesston of COT Department of Transportation and Mobility.
April’s 2023 Minutes	Stanley motioned and Raul seconded the motion to accept April’s minutes which were unanimously approved.
Treasurer’s Report—Liz Martinez	Bank checking balance is \$1,224.72, with the \$10 monthly fee. There is \$25.00 in savings.
TPD representation—Sergeant Mitch Vipont	Sgt. Vipont announced that TPD representatives will be available at 5:30 PM on the day of the MPNA meetings to discuss any concerns residents may have.
Land Transfer of City-owned land to Tohono O’odham Nation—Lane Santa Cruz	<p>--Lane Santa Cruz described the history of consideration of transferring the city-owned land to the Tohono O’odham nation. In 2020 conversations stalled for a number of reasons after the tribe refused the land that was not remediated. However, in April the City Council voted unanimously to begin the transfer of the land when approached by the city’s and the tribe’s attorneys. There needed to be a legal description to identify the area as well as considerations for City of Tucson easements for utilities and public access such as for emergency vehicles. The tribe will own the title and the zoning (except for government use). The tribe may elect to put the land into trust. Once in a trust the trust can decide to build a cultural center, develop Tucson Origins Park, or leave as is, or eventually build affordable housing.</p> <p>--Lane explained that having land put into trust can be a decades long process. But Secretary Holland was able to have Congress approve the trust for the Yaqui tribe’s land at Grant and I-10 relatively quickly. It is hoped that the land transfer and trust give the Tohono O’odham the ability to have self-determination and the ability to be a Menlo Park Neighborhood partner. The length of the process cannot be defined at this point.</p> <p>--The area is about 10 acres that is South of Melwood and West of Caterpillar but does not include the Nearmont Landfill area. It does not include the area on Mission where there is the “swap meet”. This area is being discussed with Environmental Services and Code Enforcement because of safety concerns regarding the “wildcat swapmeet”.</p> <p>--Barrio Sin Nombre residents have expressed concern about access from behind their houses being limited with the transfer of property. BSN residents would like to participate in the conversation regarding easements and public access. There was also concern raised about lighting never being installed on Mission Lane and an agreement that Rio Nuevo made to do so. Lane agreed to review the situation. The remediation of the A Mountain Landfill is of concern if water was to return to the Santa Cruz River because of the leaching of toxins.</p>
Participatory Process Budgeting Voting—Budget De La Gente—Flor Burruel	--Flor introduced the concept of participatory budgeting (with \$450,000 available) and the process that Budget De La Gente has followed whereby there are very good proposals which are ready to vote for. Each person (phone number) can vote for 5 of them. You can vote if you live, work, or study in Ward 1. The vote concludes on 05-15-2023 at midnight. One can vote in several ways: There is an online link at the Ward 1 website. You can use the QR code on the marketing material. Or you can utilize the paper ballots that Flor brought to the meeting. There will be \$250,000 awarded for one large project and the remainder of the money split up between the other projects that receive the most votes. It was explained that #3 on the paper

	<p>ballot is Día De San Juan and #11 is improvements to Menlo Park (improving on Prop 407) to enhance the area since Nosotros Academy uses the park as their playground.</p> <p>--There will be a second round of Participatory Budgeting in August. Please consider participating on the steering committee or being a project captain.</p>
<p>SunTran fee update—Lane Santa Cruz</p>	<p>Tucson is the largest city in the country to have fare-free transit. It will remain free until the end of the year with efforts to remain free in perpetuity. It may be possible since the “fare box” has only contributed to 8% of the cost in the past and other funding sources have been used to supplement the cost. The goals are also to improve service and the quality of that service. There is concern that there is not enough shade and that often homeless people sleep on the benches.</p>
<p>Westmoreland affordable housing update—Neto Portillo</p>	<p>--At the site on April 15th, at 9 AM, FSL Real Estate (Krista) and Corky Poster, architect, presented proposed designs for neighborhood feedback. The designs are similar but there are 2 conceptual plans and 2 parking options. There will be 14 affordable housing units available with either 3- or 4-bedroom floor plans. The presentation was interactive, and attendees provided feedback graphically and written. The architects will reconfigure the designs to include ideas that were presented such as an accessible ground floor bedroom, considering someone handicapped or someone aging in place. Access to Menlo Park will be an important aspect. Arrangements still must be made with FSL as well to complete the environmental review and begin the permitting process.</p> <p>--The affordable housing will utilize a Land Trust model so that the housing stays affordable, in perpetuity. The owners will own any improvements. The land trust model will do 3 things including: 1. The land trust will own the property and keep construction costs low. 2. It will be written into the deed that if it is sold it will be sold at an affordable price. 3. The city does not own the land. The person does not own the land. But the nonprofit land trust owns the land. The COT Housing and Community Development has created such an arm of the department. Armando shared a Jeopardy type game that the Pima County Community Land Trust held at the West Side Stories venue last month. It was an interactive learning event to explain the concept and benefits of purchasing a home through a land trust.</p>
<p>Menlo Park (and other west side) Bicycle Boulevards Update—Collin Chesston</p>	<p>--Collin Chesston presented on the Bike Boulevard that will run through Menlo Park which is planned to intersect s other Bike Boulevards. There is a route in mind. But the planning phase has just begun. There may be alternatives presented through the public feedback events. The goals of a Bike Boulevard include improving safety for cyclists, slow down cars, decrease neighborhood cut through traffic, increase pedestrian traffic, and improve crosstown travel (eventual connection of all the paths). Bike Boulevards often have traffic calming measures such as speed humps, traffic circles, lower speeds (20 mph), pavement, and push button crossings.</p> <p>--There is a survey that everyone can take on the website. To reach the survey one can Google “Menlo Park Bicycle Boulevard” or use the QR code in the marketing materials passed out. The survey is interactive where you can dialogue about ideas or “drop a pin”, including proposing a new route. The project is in the gather information phase where the public can have input. By Fall of 2023 there should be a preferred concept. In early 2024 there will be a final design with construction to follow.</p> <p>--A concern was raised about the safety of pedestrians, especially by cyclists that ride on sidewalks, despite the \$25.00 fine that is often not enforced. There was concern regarding the condition of the pavement being poor on the streets (infrastructure disparity on the West and South sides) used by cyclists that are dangerous and cause accidents. The addition of greenery will require a maintenance budget given that greenery does overgrow and can become very hazardous.</p>
<p>Día De San Juan Fiesta Committee Update and Call for Volunteers—Liza Grant</p>	<p>Liza reported that the Día De San Juan fiesta would be held on June 24, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. At the event there will live music and a DJ as well as traditional blessings and activities for children. Community resource tables will provide information. A sign-up sheet placed on the table at the entrance for volunteers to leave their name and numbers to be contacted. It was announced that the DDSJ organizers would be looking to hire parking attendants for the event.</p>

	<p>Logan Phillips aka DJ Dirtyverbs was introduced as the DJ for the event. Logan described himself as a tireless advocate for open space, especially at the site around Mission Garden, under the purview of the City of Tucson and Rio Nuevo.</p>
Call to Audience	<p>--Elvira from PCBOS D5 announced the 3rd annual "Period Poverty Awareness" donation drive which begins 05-22-2023. Feminine hygiene products are needed to distribute to Pima County partners such as the YWCA and public libraries. Last year 50,000 products were collected for distribution.</p> <p>--Logan Philips provided MPNA with the following website for more information on open space issue: tucsonopenspace.org</p> <p>--Menlo Park was adopted by MPNA for clean-up. The event is held every 3rd Sunday at 9 AM.</p> <p>--David reported that the 120-foot mural at Casa Linda was successfully clear-coated, making the art work much richer and better protected. He also expressed his gratitude to all those who attended and the Tucson Department of Transportation and Mobility for helping support the Pizza Party that day.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Stanley moved and Raul seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved by everyone, at 7:34 PM.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>June 11, 2023, 6:00 PM at the Menlo Park Elementary School.</p>