

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Hybrid Meeting
August 10, 2023

ITEM	ACTIONS
Board Members present at MPNA monthly meeting menloparktucson@gmail.com	Kylie Walzak-President, Raúl Ramirez and Anthony Nelson-Vice Presidents, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Liz Martinez-Treasurer, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, Matt Perri-Historian, and Kara Harter, Celina Soto and Keren Torres—members at-large.
Introductions	Board members and attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 52 neighbors (including the 10 Board Members) in attendance at this meeting. Guests (11) included, Keith Bagwell and Naomi De La Rosa (intern) from PCBOS District 5, Jesus from Dust architecture, A Mountain Vendors Association—Carol, Marco, and Gia, Logan Phillips representing the Open Space Coalition, Sergeant Vipont and CSO Rubio from TPD, and Rebecca and Kyle from City Of Tucson (COT) Planning and Development department .
June’s 2023 Minutes (no meeting in July)	Wendy motioned and Raul seconded the motion to accept June’s minutes which were unanimously approved.
Treasurer’s Report—Liz Martinez	Bank checking balance is \$1,214.72. \$ 150 was used as petty cash for DDSJ. There was \$103.63 in cash raised from T-Shirt sales with an additional amount coming in from Square. There is \$25.00 in savings.
Tucson Police Department Report and Discussion—Sergeant Vipont	Sgt. Vipont presented a review of the crime incidents in the neighborhood since the last meeting. The primary concern is the increased use of fentanyl, especially smoking it out in the open in the park. The jail will not take those that violate the law with the drug since one cannot safely “detox” in jail. And now, many of the offenders claim very recent use so that they can avoid incarceration. It was discussed that an underlying issue may be mental illness and the self-medication with illegal and dangerous substances. Many of the homeless that inhabit the park can be diagnosed with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. There are not enough resources to take care of the issues. Police department staff has been steady but not increasing in numbers which means they are still under staffed. The homeless in the park leave an incredible amount of trash. It was announced that every 3 rd Sunday morning there is a trash pickup in the park.
Letter of Support for The Meteor Café Individual Parking Plan and Discussion	Jesús from DUST Architecture presented update on Meteor Café’s parking requirements and the request for a letter of support for the IPP that would reduce the number of parking spots required for the possible number of occupants of the business. Jesús reported that construction should begin at the end of 2023 and that the café could be open 10 months after that. Concern was raised that traffic may get backed up into the neighborhood and that there ought to be a safe crossing at Melwood and Congress. Additionally a point was made that with Prop 411 there will be yet unrevealed measures put on Congress St. There is a push for the City Of Tucson (COT) to reduce parking and Congress may be put on a “road diet” to reduce cars to make more Congress more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, though there is much more development in the area coming. Wendy motioned that the MPNA write a letter of support for the IPP which was seconded by Armando. Zoom attendees voted unanimously for the letter and the in-person voice “ayes” voted for the letter as well.
Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee and Process Update	Rebecca cited the purpose of a neighborhood plan is to document a neighborhood’s vision; offer guidance to Mayor and council and developers; to afford a method to consult with other city departments; to assist the MPNA with the pursuit of grant funding; and to forward the neighborhood’s agenda. There are 30 neighborhood plans in the city. The MPNA plan began in 2018 given the increase in development in our neighborhood. The Steering Committee was formed. In 2019 The effort was described and listening sessions were conducted. It was determined that we could use the “cell phone tower money” to pay for the consulting services to assist in the development of the plan. City staff was assigned to the project to develop scope of work documents and assist with choice of consultants. In 2020 The Planning Center was retained for the development of the plan with MPNA Steering Committee. In 2021 there was public participation and extensive research to develop a technical report called “ current Conditions”. Between 2021 and 2023 there have been 30 Steering Committee meetings and

	<p>public participation events held as well as presence at numerous MPNA events (including at Picnic in the Park, Yard Sale, Día De San Juan, and Pizza in the Park). Currently, in 2023 the Steering Committee is working on Draft Policies which will guide the accomplishment of goals such as “land use”. The focus of land use is what does the neighborhood want to see if there are requests for the change of underlying zoning. Realistically, the plan will be ready for formal review in early (or mid) 2024. The Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee has been working diligently to have community input and on assuring that there is consensus/agreement on the plan for the neighborhood.</p> <p>Please continue to provide feedback to the committee, staff, and consultants.</p>
Annual Meeting and Elections (September) Notification	<p>Steve Brown explained the process for holding the elections of the Executive Board members. The by-laws specify that the Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting in September. The by-laws specify that the positions of the Executive Board are as follows: The President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Historian. The nominations for the offices begin with a motion to open the nominations. Nominations can occur in -person or on-line between tonight and the election in September. You may nominate someone for the position or nominate yourself. Raúl reported that he would not run for vice President. Liza indicated she would not run for Secretary. Matt stated that he would not run for Historian. Steve reported that he would not run again, but he would be available to work with the newly elected Parliamentarian. He described the importance of his role as assuring that Robert’s Rules of Order are followed as are the MPNA by-laws.</p> <p>Anthony motioned to open the nominations and seconded by Alice and Shelly, which was unanimously passed. Kylie was nominated for President, Anthony was nominated for Vice President, and Liz was nominated to continue as Treasurer.</p>
Call To Audience and General Announcements	<p>Liza reported on the success of this year’s Día De San Juan Fiesta at Mission Garden, thanking all the volunteers who assisted with the planning and set up, Vendors, Food Trucks, parking attendants, Entertainment, Piñata, and clean up on Sunday morning . There were 800-900 attendees (maybe more).</p> <p>Kara presented on setting up. a workshop on Heat Resiliency for the Building Resilient Neighbors from the organization Arizona Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (psr.org). The workshop covers what can you do if there is a disruption in water and electric service, and how to assist your neighbors.</p> <p>Next month MPNA will vote on the correction of the neighborhood boundaries. Each household should receive a postcard with the corrections.</p> <p>There is also concern that SunTran/COT is looking at changing the route 21 that runs through our neighborhood which means changing the stops as well, in essence disconnecting the neighborhood from Downtown. Please go to the COT website to voice your opinion.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Steve moved and Kylie seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved by everyone, at 7:52 PM.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Next meeting scheduled for September 13, 2023, 6:00 PM at Menlo Park Elementary School</p>