

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Meeting In-person
September 08, 2022

ITEM	ACTIONS
Board Members present at in-person MPNA meeting (menloparktucson@gmail.com)	Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Isabel Doe-Treasurer, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, Matt Perri-Historian, Anthony Nelson and Keren Torres--members at-large.
Introductions	Board members were introduced to the attendees at Menlo Park Elementary School. All attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 38 neighbors (including the 9 Board Members) in attendance at this meeting. Guests (6) included Keith Bagwell from PCBOS (District 5), Flor Burruel from Ward 1, Christian Saint Peter, and Doug Zell from The Meteor in Austin, TX and Cade and Jesus from Dust Architects in Tucson.
August's 2022 Minutes	August's minutes were approved unanimously after Liz moved and Gene 2 nd the motion, with the clarification of meeting location.
Treasurer's Report—Isabel Doe	Bank balance is \$330.95. Wendy announced that Menlo Park t-shirts are available for sale at this and subsequent meetings as a MPNA fund raiser.
Annual Report and Board Elections	<p>Each current Board member described what their position role is on the Board and what that has entailed this last year. This included an overall annual report from Zach. Steve reviewed Robert's Rules of Order and the process that the election will follow. The vote would take place by verbal affirmation. However, if need be, the vote would entail written ballots if it could not be decided by affirmation. Eligible voters in the election were identified prior to the election.</p> <p>The election results by affirmation included: President-Kylie Walzak 1st Vice-President-Raul Ramirez 2nd Vice-President-Anthony Nelson Secretary-Liza Grant Treasurer-Liz Martinez Historian-Matt Perri Parliamentarian-Steve Brown</p> <p>Mack moved to accept the results and Suzanne seconded the motion to accept the election results which passed unanimously.</p>
Congress Street Development Update-The Meteor owners and Dust Architects	<p>Christ Saint Peter and Doug Zell recounted the story of how they came to buy the properties at 901 and 905 West Congress (Jeff's Market). The planned development is similar to those they have in Austin, TX and in Bentonville, Arkansas. They described the proposed development as an "all day café" to include a wine shop and bicycle shop with outdoor seating to include pizza, salads, and burgers with counter service only. The developers see this site as a community space for the neighborhood, minimizing car traffic, emphasizing access by pedestrians, public transportation users, and bicyclists. The developers indicated that they would keep the historic aspect of the buildings. There are plans for the outdoor seating to be patio-like with trees This is a "by-right zoning" development so it won't need special reviews because it will utilize existing codes. The project is in the pre-planning phase.</p> <p>There is concern that this may create competition for the existing locally owned pizza restaurant on the same block. There is concern that the bordering street is used by cyclists to enter and exit neighborhood and that entrance to the property may interfere with bike safety. Historically, the permit process and the building/restoration process would take 12-18 months.</p>
President's Report-Zach Yentzer	There will be a GAIN (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) event on 10-22-2022 from 6PM to 9PM at Menlo Park (MPNA, along with Barrios Anita and Hollywood).
Call to Audience/Announcements	Flor from Ward 1 reported that Bike Checks will be performed on the 19 th from 5-7PM at the office. Bike checks are performed at the Ward 1 office every month on the 1 st Friday and the 3 rd Monday of each month.

Kylie reported that this Monday, the 12th, from 1-3PM the Arizona Legislative committee would hear recommendations to increase the ability to provide more affordable housing, since it is a change in State policy that can allow local entities to make changes.

There seems to be an ever-growing traffic problem with the temporary cones/barricades placed in BSN at Cushing and South Melwood meant to curtail traffic:

1. Emergency Vehicles cannot get through since so many cars are parking in that area. Recently firemen had to unload and run their equipment through to a home in trouble.
2. Big trucks are driving through the narrow street and coming very close to the houses and cars there.
3. The gas company has refused to move a gas meter since it should be 25 ft. from the roadway. There have been near misses to the meter as cars turn the corner.
4. There needs to be new signage since the small lights aren't working.
5. In 6 months there will be a survey going to the neighborhood to make the street closure permanent which will require a barrier that will not allow drive throughs, but force traffic through other areas (and other narrow streets) of the neighborhood.

Diana wanted to know about requesting the electronic speed indication signs. Flor indicated that there are not enough police officers to enforce the speed control. Ward 1 will look for more sustainable options.

David reported that he would apply for the Green Storm Water Infrastructure grant for the neighborhood and asked for volunteer participants.

Flor reported that speed bumps were denied for Cedar since there are many speed mitigation efforts on Cedar. The neighbors could appeal that decision. There is a request for an inspection to be done (Cuesta doesn't have mitigation) but it may be 3 weeks out.

Raul reported that the Tumamoc/River of Life mural was visited by the artist of the piece, Victor Rivera. He suggested that the mural be visited. It is located on south Grande and Mission, on the river side where the blue wall is. He indicated that the name Tumamoc means "horned toad".

Isabel was thanked for her years of service to the Executive Board. Liz reported that she grew up in this neighborhood. Kylie thanked Zach for providing continuity of participation and caring for the neighborhood. Anthony noted a difference in his prior appointment and his current election to 2nd VP but not a difference in wanting to keep the neighborhood safe. Wendy informed the neighborhood of her service as previous Secretary and the newly created position of 2nd VP, as well as her current and continued position as the chairperson of the Neighborhood Planning Steering Committee. She will be involved with our Vecino program. Gene thanked Zach for his service who noted he will still "be around"..

Meeting Adjourned

Armando moved and Melissa seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM which was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

October 13, 2022, at the Sentinel Building at the City of Tucson on Bonita street.