

**MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**Meeting In-person**

**June 9, 2022**

ITEM	ACTIONS
<p><b>Board Members present at in-person MPNA meeting (<a href="mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com">menloparktucson@gmail.com</a>)</b></p>	<p><b>Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Raul Ramirez-Vice President, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Isabel Doe-Treasurer, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, Matt Perri-Historian, Anthony Nelson and Keren Torres--members at-large.</b></p>
<p><b>Introductions</b></p>	<p>Board members were introduced to the attendees at The Sentinel Building, COT. All attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 22 neighbors (including 9 Board Members) in attendance at this meeting. Guests (5) included Keith Bagwell from PCBOS (District 5), Flor Burruel and Eddie Baron from Ward 1, Neto Portillo from COT Housing and Community Development, and Lt. Belinda Morales from TPD.</p>
<p><b>April and May 2022 Minutes</b></p>	<p>Both month’s minutes were approved unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Treasurer’s Report—Isabel Doe</b></p>	<p>Bank balance is \$531 (with an expected withdrawal of \$10.00 monthly fee). Our Square account is working, and Menlo Park tee shirts will be available for \$20.00 each.</p>
<p><b>TPD Report and Discussion—Lt. Belinda Morales</b></p>	<p>Lt. Morales reported that crime statistics are over all down. Most significantly are property crimes and trespassings.</p> <p>The stealing of catalytic converters from cars is prevalent and growing in Tucson, as it is throughout the United States. There are 5 precious metals in catalytic converters. It is recommended that increased security, lights, and watchful neighbors be activated to minimize this theft which has also happened in the middle of the day.</p> <p>Disorderly Conduct has increased city wide, mostly because of drug activity. Bicycles are being stolen in an increased number. It is suggested that perpetrators not be confronted because they are aggressive. Often, they are carrying bolt cutters to enter secure places to steal the bikes.</p> <p>Mental health issues continue to be challenging. An example was presented of a woman who frequents Silverbell/Grant, panhandling in the heat with a dog. The department has received many calls; however, it is a difficult balance since the panhandling can be prosecuted but the dog cannot be taken from her. She refuses resources. The police have been accused of targeting the homeless population. It is suggested that do not offer panhandlers money because drugs can be purchased inexpensively. Instead, offer food or water. If there is someone who appears to need mental health intervention one can ask if they would like assistance but do not “force the issue”. Please continue to contact the Tucson Police Department for issues. Neto reported that the new Resource Line <b>520-791-2540</b> is open 24/7. The line that is maintained by the Department of Transportation and Mobility opened on 06-01-2022. It represents hyper-local resources including the Tucson Homeless Outreach Team (staffed by a sergeant and several officers). One can reach the team by email at <a href="mailto:homelessprotocol@tucsonaz.gov">homelessprotocol@tucsonaz.gov</a>.</p>
<p><b>Westmoreland Affordable Housing-Housing and Community Development—Neto Portillo, Public Information Officer</b></p>	<p>The Westmoreland site project has identified a developer from Phoenix that has developed local projects: FSL was involved in the Marist College building as well as the re-design of the Dioceses of Tucson, and will work with local architect, Corky Poster. There will be a review committee with representatives of Menlo Park because at this point there is no specific design or concept. The process will look towards a “rent-to-own model for the homes” model for the homes. The committee will include Ward 1, Laura Dent, Zach Yentzer, and Eddie Rios. Because of challenges that include costs and regulation there won’t be a design or specifics about density until there is engagement of the review committee and the neighborhood. FSL has plans to involve the community as well as use the information gathered from the survey and involvement exercises which have been synthesized and presented to the developer.</p> <p>To stop “flippers” from buying the homes there will be restrictions in place such as “time in residence”. It is not known whether a specific screening tool will be utilized to assess program adherence. Section 8 is separate program since it is simply a rent program that is subsidized by use of vouchers from HUD. The Section 8 program should be opening up later this summer to alleviate the long waiting list.</p>

	<p>The project will not be a “land trust model”. The City of Tucson will not keep ownership of the property. It will become the buyer’s property with a number of restrictions before any re-sale of the property can occur.</p> <p>It is the process of community engagement, with the developer (including costs of building materials), that will determine the density, the amount of “affordable housing” available, and the structure. Most developers want to see a 20% return on their investment, but in this case may be agreeable to a smaller percentage, if it means more affordable housing. There are many unknowns at this point, especially in the economy that can effect this project as well as the projects slated for Dunbar Springs and in “the “05” area.</p> <p>Lt, Morales also raised the issue of how environmental design can minimize crime. The City of Tucson needs of 10,000 affordable living units, without enough land in the city to accommodate the need.</p>
<p><b>Día De San Juan event update—Liza Grant</b></p>	<p>The history of the neighborhood Día De San Juan (DDSJ) was briefly presented along with this progress of this year’s planning for the event. Volunteer activities were described as were the details of the event to be held at Mission Garden on June 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6-9 PM (gates open at 5:30 PM). The “end-time” was moved up from 10 PM.</p> <p>The program begins at 6 PM with a Native blessing by Chairman Austin Nuñez and a blessing by a priest. Subsequently there will be dignitaries who speak, such as the Mayor, Regina Romero, council person Lane Santa Cruz, and District 5 Pima County Board of Supervisor Adelita Grijalva. The speeches are followed by entertainment. We have a DJ. We may have Mariachi Aztlan de Pueblo and we are looking for a second band/mariachi. There will be food trucks available just outside the garden (placed to control foot traffic and trash) and aguas frescas inside the garden. Tucson Water will provide it’s “Hydration Station” that filters water in real time and provide water bottles to fill. The City’s Environmental Services will provide portable flush toilets. TPD has provided dedicated officers for the event. The Kid’s table will have Britt host an art project. COVID 19 vaccinations will be offered. The “transmission rate” remains high so that masks are suggested. There will be a ramada dedicated to “resources” which will include community resource organizations. Mission Garden is to function as fiscal agent for the event. A 20 x 20 tent will be rented which will have to be decorated along with 2, 10 x 10 tents. Papel picado has been purchased for decorations. There will be additional lighting. Flor and Eddie from Ward 1 are pursuing food trucks and are working to secure the lot west of Caterpillar as over-flow parking. The evening will host an event at the MSA Annex and Tucson Water will sponsor a monsoon sound experience under the Cushing Street bridge, all within walking distance of each other.</p> <p>Liza provided post-it notes with her phone number and email to individual MPNA members for information and volunteer opportunities. Día De San Juan t-shirts will be sold.</p>
<p><b>Call to Audience/Announcements</b></p>	<p>The Garden of Gethsemane will present next month with updates.</p> <p>Ward 1 staff, Eddie Barrón, requested contact persons regarding the Cedar traffic issues including speed bumps. Zach and Isabel would be the point person for those issues.</p> <p>Keith Bagwell reported that there is 5 million dollars available to the County to be spent on affordable housing; and can be used to landbank sites for affordable housing. He’ll keep the neighborhood posted.</p> <p>The Sonoran institute will come to our meeting in July and present an alternative plan for the open space such as an urban wildlife preserve.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<p>Steve moved and Wendy seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 733 PM which was unanimously approved.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>July 14, 2022 meeting will be held at the Sentinel Building, City of Tucson.</b></p>