

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meeting In-person

July 14, 2022

ITEM	ACTIONS
<p>Board Members present at in-person MPNA meeting (menloparktucson@gmail.com)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Introductions</p>	<p>Board members were introduced to the attendees at The Sentinel Building, COT. All attendees introduced themselves to the group. There were 21 neighbors (including 9 Board Members) in attendance at this meeting. Guests (3) included Nicholas McLoughlin from PCBOS (District 5), Neto Portillo from COT Housing and Community Development, and Howard Dutt, COT Parks and Recreation Department (Garden of Gethsemane project).</p>
<p>June 2022 Minutes</p>	<p>June’s minutes were approved unanimously after Wendy moved and Gene 2nd the motion</p>
<p>Treasurer’s Report—Isabel Doe</p>	<p>Bank balance is \$600.06 (\$115 in savings and \$485.06 in checking, account supplemented with t-shirt sales). Wendy announced that Menlo Park t-shirts are available for sale at this and subsequent meetings as a MPNA fund raiser.</p>
<p>TPD Report and Discussion—Lt. Belinda Morales</p>	<p>Zach reported that Lt. Morales is handling a “vulnerable adult” case and may be able to come by later this evening.</p> <p>Kara did say she wanted to ask why there was not a noticeable report about the case of someone firing bullets and the incident of the death of that individual. She reported her efforts at finding information were furthered by Ward 1, but the information officer at TPD did not reach out.</p> <p>It was reported that the police had an increased presence near A Mountain on July 4th which made a difference in the amount of gun fire and fireworks.</p>
<p>Garden of Gethsemane Improvements—Howard Dutt</p>	<p>Howard presented the history of the garden sculptures by Felix Lucero (The Felix Lucero Park is a COT park as well, adjacent to Bonita Park to the north): Felix Lucero, a wounded WW1 soldier, promised God he would create the sculptures if he did not die. Upon returning to Tucson he created the statues using materials from the Santa Cruz River. When the new bridge went in at Congress St. the statues were moved up the bank of the river. The Salvador Initiative Group set aside \$100K to preserve, protect, and provide security measures, and to create a Master Plan for the garden in a funded Phase 1. COT Parks and Rec, W-1, and Menlo Park representatives (Zach and Robert Villasenor) have been included in the planning. TPD was consulted. The artist responsible for making repairs for many year, Greg Shue participated as well. The site has been inventoried and found to be in “good shape”.</p> <p>There have been 2 virtual public meetings and an on-line survey. The survey received 272 responses. Access from The Loop is awkward but there will be an effort to look at that. However, the most important issues identified were: 1. Vandalism to the sculptures (despite 8-foot walls) 2. Lack of usage 3. Public safety concerns like conditions of sidewalks. It was the physical condition of the garden and surrounding areas that were considered (lack of lighting in parking lot) and not usage issues (the homeless occupants or those who park there, etc). Though a focus is to “bring more people into the garden”. Increasing the number of people and usage will deter vandalism and the homeless population, increasing population to increase security. The lighting is inadequate and there will need to have surveillance cameras (there is security equipment in other parks) with electrical upgrades.</p> <p>There are issues with landscaping. Some is overgrown and much needs replacement to improve sight lines (removal of dead landscape is necessary with the installation of irrigation). New openings in the wall will be created and perhaps a water feature. There will be signage added and promotion of events (possibly weddings and quincenieras) and entertainment. Integration</p>

	<p>of the garden with North Bonita Park by adding trees and turf to the area where the plaza and arch is at the south end of the park, near the garden.</p> <p>Unfunded Phases may include facility improvements, improving Loop access, murals, and additional parking.</p>
<p>President’s Report—Zach Yentzer</p>	<p>On Tuesday, 07-19-2022 at 5PM at MSA Annex there will be a presentation of the concept plan for the Cushing Street Skate Park.</p> <p>The Sonoran Institute was going to attend tonight’s meeting but it was determined that the organization does not have the resources to support the development of a “Urban Wildlife Corridor” on the A Mountain landfill site. Zach indicated that there has not been any information on the commercial developer for that site at this time. It was his understanding that that would be a 1–2-year process. There are varied figures of what the cost of mitigation would be as well as the amount of methane the land fill exudes. It does appear that if there are not heavy items built on the land that mitigation does not have to occur. Diana indicated that there are examples of this in Phoenix where un-remediated landfills have been turned into parks.</p>
<p>Call to Audience/Announcements</p>	<p>Marcos indicated that he was told by Ward 1 that there was money to pay for the entire cost of 2 additional speed bumps from Grande, west on Cedar, to the A Mountain. There was a question regarding the financing of that project that Ward 1 would only provide a discount to the cost for the speed bumps. The point of contact for the speed bumps, Isabel and Zach had not been apprised of the “costless” speed bump option; or contacted at all.</p> <p>Matt reported that a successful grant writer for community gardens will be completing a grant for Menlo Park area. He asked what area would be desirable. The goal of the community garden would be to make available food boxes with 7 vegetables, to be distributed from Menlo Park School and to sell produce to the Community Food Bank. A suggestion was made for space behind the rehab ’ed Linda Street House where the Land Trust is based since there would need to be a water source.</p> <p>Armando reported that Kylie assisted with reporting a “slum lord” to Code Enforcement and the trash was cleaned up.</p> <p>Liza Grant reported on the success of the small, family friendly Día De San Juan celebration on June 24th. There were blessings by TO, San Xavier District, Chairman Austin Nunez, and Father Richard from St. Margaret’s parish. Fatima Luna as Mayor Regina Romero’s representative and Adelita Grijalva from Pima County Board of Supervisors, District 5, spoke to the attendees. There was a DJ and 2 youth mariachi groups (Mariachi Aztlan de Pueblo High School was chosen to march in the 4th of July parade in Washington, DC)...and we had a storm before the night was over!</p> <p>Appreciation and gratitude were expressed to the following volunteers and community partners:</p> <p>Wendy Sterner for co-coordination and maintaining the MPNA table.</p> <p>Zach Yentzer for being there the entire evening, offering assistance in many tasks.</p> <p>Gene Einfrank for setting up chairs and tents.</p> <p>Josefina Lizagarra for providing the Santo and decorations for the Altar and “being there”.</p> <p>Raul Ramirez for safely transporting the Santo from the San Cosme Chapel to Mission Garden and back.</p> <p>Liz Martinez and Armando Rodriguez for being at the MPNA table.</p> <p>Dollie Valenzuela for being a greeter. She made sure everyone had a program and a map with enthusiasm and energy.</p> <p>Brittany Palomarez and her mother for making artistic rain drops with the children.</p> <p>Ward 1 and Flor Burruel who arranged the over-flow parking space, assisted with locating available food trucks, and making sure there was an aguas frescas vendor!</p> <p>Tucson Water supplied water bottles to be filled by the Hydration Station trailer provided.</p>

	<p>COT Environmental Services provided a mobile, flushing bathroom trailer.</p> <p>Tucson Police Department and Lt. Morales for providing dedicated officers for the event.</p> <p>Pima County Board of Supervisors District 5 office and Nicholas Mcloughlin, who showed up to help set up chairs, decorate, and assist during the day with enthusiasm.</p> <p>Caterpillar, Tucson Regional Office, and Rick Ynve, for granted financial assistance.</p> <p>Mission Garden provided a beautiful outdoor venue that is culturally and historically relevant and supportive of Día De San Juan and community activities, as part of Menlo Park.</p> <p>Next year there will be a committee set up to begin planning at the beginning of the year with progressively frequent meetings between January through June. We will be asking for volunteers! The sale of the beautiful white -on-black design T-shirts will fund the committee meetings with snacks and/or light meals.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	Diana moved and Derek seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM which was unanimously approved.
Next Meeting	August 14, 2022, at the Menlo Park Elementary School cafeteria.