

Menlo Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
March 14, 2024, 6-8 pm
Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop

Board members present: Kylie Walzak, President; Laura Dent, First Vice President; Anthony Nelson, Second Vice President; Wendy Sterner, Secretary; Liz Martinez, Treasurer; Liza Grant, Historian & Newsletter; Keren Torres and Celina Soto, Members at Large

Welcome and Introductions: The Board and neighbors introduced themselves. Kylie introduced Sgt Alexander, who is now assigned to the west side. Our former TPD representative, Sgt Vipond, has taken a new assignment.

February minutes for approval: Stanley Mead moved to approve the February minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Gene Einfrank and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance in MPNA savings is \$25.04, and checking balance is \$2499.61 in checking. Liz noted the checking account balance went down \$10 due to the bank's monthly fee for a business account. There was some discussion about finding a bank that doesn't charge so much for a business account, and it was mentioned that we may be able to avoid the monthly charge if MPNA forms a nonprofit.

Action on Bylaw Amendments & Changes – Voting Item

Kylie introduced tonight's business by describing the various means MPNA used to notify neighbors of the changing of neighborhood bylaws: postcards were sent in the mail, an email was sent to the membership, a copy of the proposed changes were posted on the MPNA website and made available at the Ward 1 offices, and the Board previewed the proposed changes at the February MPNA meeting. Kylie noted that our parliamentarian Mamta Popat is not at tonight's meeting, so, per to the bylaws First Vice President Laura Dent is responsible for making sure Roberts Rules of Order are observed. Kylie also called on two former parliamentarians who were present, Stanley Mead and Steve Brown, to provide assistance during the meeting. Kylie explained the process: Each proposed change would be considered and voted on separately. Before any discussion of the changes, a motion would need to be made and seconded. After discussion, the motion would be voted on.

First paragraph: Gene moved to remove the word "urban", Stanley seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Article II Purposes: Kylie noted that the original verbiage in number 8, "To encourage the revitalization and preservation of inner-city neighborhoods of Tucson, AZ" had been removed in error in the past, and it is now put back in. No motion required

Article III Membership and Voting: number 1 A, B and D remove "Associate Members" wording, delete Part B which describes Associate Membership, in part C replace the word "will" with "shall", delete part D which states memberships shall expire, and re-number 1 A to be "1" and item C to be "2". Laura moved to accept the proposed changes, seconded by Stanley. Stanley clarified that with changes the numbering would be 1 and 2. Motion passed unanimously.

Article IV Officers: number 3 add “(minutes, financial)” after “All records” to clarify the type of records that are the property of MPNA. Stanley moved to accept the proposed change, Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Article V Committees: number 1 delete “elected” and add “appointed at-large members” ; delete number 3 stating that committee chairs be appointed by majority vote. This deletion maintains consistency with Article IV number 1A, which states that the president appoints committees. Stanley moved to approve the proposed changes and Liz seconded. There was no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Article VI Meetings: Steve moved to accept the proposed changes to number 1C as presented, Stanley seconded the motion. Stanley said that the language about moving the meeting if unable to meet in person had been in the bylaws since 2001, as a result of the September 11th 2001 bombing when most public spaces were shut down for a while so the neighborhood association was unable to meet. He also noted that edits and changes to this language had been made over the years without being presented to or approved by the MPNA membership. Steve said he is in favor of the changes because the existing language is extraneous and causes problems. Kylie pointed out that this language was not consistent with Article IV number 1 which says the president shall call and preside at all meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Article VI Meetings: item D, replace the word “elimination” with the word “removal”. Cassie moved to accept the proposed change, Neto seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Article VI Meetings: add item E, which says attendance at meetings may be in person or virtual. Stanley moved to accept the proposed change, Liza seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Article VI meetings: add item F, members considered the following 3 options:

Option 1

- F. Voting at any meeting may take place either in-person or virtual (either by telephone or online).
 1. Members wishing to vote by secret ballot may do so either in-person or online but not by telephone where a voice vote is required once eligibility to vote has been established

Option 2

- F. Voting at any meeting must be in-person only.

Option 3

- F. Voting at the annual meeting must be in-person only.
- G. Voting at all other meetings may take place either in-person or virtual (either by telephone or online).
 1. Members wishing to vote by secret ballot may do so either in-person or online but not by telephone where a voice vote is required once eligibility to vote has been established.

Stanley voted to accept the three options for discussion and Steve seconded the motion.

Discussion:

It was clarified that it’s possible to vote anonymously online.

Question about annual meeting voting vs voting at other meetings: why would we complicate things by having different voting procedures for the annual meeting versus the rest of the meetings? When this was discussed at the September meeting the idea was to include everyone. Some were concerned that not everybody in the neighborhood is computer savvy or has access to the internet. For that reason in-person voting is better since we can assure secrecy and can count the paper ballots.

Question: Don't we want as many members of the neighborhood as possible to vote, and provide as many options as possible so everyone who wants to participate is able to? What if a person is sick or out of town and can't attend in person? It doesn't seem fair to exclude those people. Option 1 would guarantee representation, except for those participating by phone.

A question that's been brought up in several previous meetings: if an event came up in which we could have a zoom only meeting, what happens to people who don't have access to zoom?

Question: is there a procedure for phone participation? Kylie explained that the zoom meeting link provides a toll free number to call in via cell phone or land line. How would a neighbor get notice of the annual meeting if they don't have access to email but want to participate? We don't know. It was suggested neighbors could use a library computer to access email. It was suggested that the Association mail out something that gives the phone numbers for people to use. People can also get a hot spot in the park or public place to attend the meeting by Zoom on their cell phone. Recently MPNA has been timing the free newsletter mailing to include an announcement for the annual meetings. It was suggested that MPNA could also send out a paper ballot to be filled out and mailed in, but was dismissed as being too expensive.

A vote to eliminate option 2 passed unanimously.

Kylie pointed out that a future Board may not want to conduct hybrid meetings, and that MPNA is the only neighborhood association in the city addressing this issue in their bylaws.

Stanley moved to remove option 1 from the table. Motion died for lack of a second.

A hand counted vote was conducted for Options 1 and 3

Option 1: 16 votes in favor

Option 3: 11 votes in favor

Proposed bylaw change Option 1 was passed by majority vote.

Kylie pointed out that neighborhood trust in the Board is an important part of this process, and voting in a new Board. She also mentioned that this current Board has committed to reviewing the bylaws regularly to make sure they remain a living document in the neighborhood association.

Article VII Fiscal Responsibility: Stanley moved to accept the proposed change to number 3, increasing the contingency fund to \$325, Steve seconded the motion. It was explained that the amount was proposed to be increased to cover the yearly fees to maintain a neighborhood Zoom account and to pay for the website domain and technical support. Stanley amended his motion to make the amount \$400, Steve accepted the amendment. Motion passed unanimously. There was also unanimous approval of the amendment to the motion.

Article IX Amendment of Bylaws: proposed deletion of existing wording in number 3 because it contains language that is not inclusive, and replace with language that says MPNA will follow City of Tucson guidelines. Steve moved to support proposed changes, Stanley seconded the motion. Stanley pointed out that this neighborhood is old enough and large enough that we had these bylaws before the City had anything written up. Stanley suggested that we should keep the original language, and was informed that the City Attorney had advised us that the language was illegally discriminatory. It was suggested that for the purposes of tonight we go with the proposed language and entrust the Board to bring any other problematic language to the

Association. It was pointed out that the city guidelines are easier to work with than the existing language in the MPNA bylaws. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously

Call to Audience & Neighborhood Announcements

Keith Bagwell, representing District 5 Adelita Grijalva:

- The County will run out of funding for asylum seekers at end of March, sending letters to several federal agencies and officials asking for assistance. All refugees need a sponsor and a place to go, this program offers shelter, food, medical asst before they move on. Without this program asylum-seekers will end up on the streets. Neighbors can write to senators and congressional representatives in support of the program.
- Treasurer Beth Ford is resigning her office as of 4/12, will need to find a replacement. She's a Republican so will have to be replaced by a Republican. The Board of Supervisors will decide on Tuesday on the process of filling her seat. The election in November will include candidates for this office. A Menlo Park neighbor, Sami Hamed, will be running for the seat in November.
- Richard Elias library will be closed for about 15 months for renovation.

Benny Gomez , representing Ward 1 Lane Santa Cruz:

- Voting for the Budget de la Gente is coming up.
- Ward 1 offers free bike checks and repairs the first and third Monday of every month during office hours.
- Question about Sentinel Peak gates not being closed and opened according to the schedule, Benny will check on it; neighbors complained about potholes on Congress Street and Sentinel Peak Road.

The Coalition for Tucson's Birthplace meets on 3/27 at 5:30, at the base of A Mountain/946 W Mission Lane for a walk & talk conversation about the future of A Mountain land.

The 3rd Sunday in March is the Menlo Park park cleanup, starts at 9 am, meet up near the northwest bathrooms (the ones closest to Menlo Park Apartments).

City HCD wants the neighbors to know that the Westmoreland affordable housing project will be undergoing a geophysical exploration for debris under surface of the land and an assessment of existing on-site utilities, around the last weekend in March.. Neighbors in the area should be getting notice about this. Results will determine next steps, CHD will update the neighborhood at the April meeting.

Concern raised about RVs parked near Melwood and Brickyard Lane, they have been there since the gem show, on city owned land, Sgt Alexander said he will look into it.

Kylie acknowledged Glenn and Debbie for being good neighbors and keeping Meteor Café property owners apprised of people breaking in and camping in the vacant properties. Pueblo Vida Brewery and Meteor Café owners are still waiting for permits and bids for work that are within their budget.

Steve moved to adjourn.

Next meeting Thursday, April 11, 2024.