

Menlo Park Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting
January 9, 2025, 6-7:30 pm
Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson AZ

Board members present: Kylie Walzak, president; Laura Dent, Vice President; Wendy Sterner, Secretary; Mamta Popat, Parliamentarian; Liza Grant, Newsletter/Historian; Celina Soto, Member at Large

Welcome and Introductions: The Board and neighbors introduced themselves.

November minutes for approval: Steve moved to approve the December minutes as submitted, Mamta seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance in the checking acct is \$2,993.15, which is minus the \$10 monthly fee, savings balance is \$35.15.

Yard Sale Planning 2025

The Menlo Park annual yard sale is set for Saturday, January 25th. Wendy Sterner is the primary planner of this event.

- Donations accepted all the way up to the day of the event. Donations need to be priced ahead of time.
- Tables are available to purchase for \$50 if you would like to keep your own profits.
- We need donated tables (borrowed just for the day of the sale)
- Location is the northwest corner of Congress and Melwood. Kylie announced that she has asked Ernesto Porras to DJ at the yard sale. Liza announced she will not be available to help out for the full 5 hrs, but her sister has a lot of things to donate to the sale.
- It's time to put the word out. An announcement is already posted on Instagram and Facebook. The hand painted sign will be going up this weekend. Please share the flyer with friends, neighbors etc.
- Sign up to volunteer and/or purchase a table on the google page. A link to the page will be sent out to the membership.
- We will be at the corner at 6 am to start setting up.
- Marketing: neighbors can actively talk to people and get commitments to volunteer. Could also talk to business owners in the neighborhood to see if they have anything they would like to donate to the sale. Doesn't have to be a business donation.

Call to Audience & Neighborhood Announcements

Menlo Park 3rd Sunday monthly park clean-up will be on 1/12 starting at 9 am. Dog waste in the park has become a huge issue. Kylie plans to ask Ward 1 for assistance in getting a couple of dog waste bag dispenser/trash can combo stations like they have in the Mercado area. City Parks & Rec told Kylie they could provide bag dispensers (a PVC pipe with holes drilled in it) mounted on a pole, but no accompanying sign to tell people what it is. We might need to work with Tucson Clean & Beautiful to get permission to post signs that the city won't take down. We would post the signs near the existing bag dispensers and also put a city trash barrel near the dispenser.

Melwood Community Garden (aka El Rio Community Garden) 1st Sunday monthly clean-up and potluck will be on 2/2/2025 at 9 am. The CEO of El Rio has claimed the employee union is pressuring him to expand employee parking, however MPNA knows a union rep who has told us they are against getting rid of the garden. We will work on getting a letter of support from the union for keeping the garden.

Benny from Ward 1 announced he has replaced Antonio as the Constituent and Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Construction is complete on the hawk light on Alameda and Grande, TEP will be hooking it up within the next few weeks. A neighbor noted the light doesn't have a push button to trigger the light on the west side of the intersection. Benny said he will follow up on this. W1 staff have already met with Panorama Estates neighborhood regarding Sentinel Peak Park gates being closed consistently at the posted time. They may have a follow up meeting, will let us know. The deadline for submitting requests to Budget de la Gente has passed, they are now in the process of refining ideas to prepare them for presentation to the committee. The Cushing St/I-10 skate park has been fully funded for both phases. No word yet on when construction may begin. Ward 1 received a request to move the El Grupo bicycle club meeting space from Manzo Elementary School to Menlo Park School. Tucson Bicycle Classic Races will be taking place in late February. One of the races will take place on Cushing St east of I-10 in Barrio Viejo. Laura asked Benny if Ward 1 would be willing to help MPNA write a TO grant for improvements to Menlo Park park? Benny said they would be willing to help.

Keith Bagwell from Pima County District 5 announced Jen Allen was elected to represent D3 on the Board of Supervisors. New Pima County Treasurer is Brian Johnson. The BOS signed a new 2 yr contract with Board Administrator Jan Leshner which included a salary increase to make her pay competitive with equivalent positions with the City and Pima College. D5 Supervisor Adelita Grijalva is the new representative for Pima Association of Governments and the Regional Transportation Authority. D5 is sponsoring their 4th annual Youth Art Contest for children through-8th grade. All types of artwork will be accepted. The subject is "Why do you love D5?" Deadline for submission is Feb 14th. Kylie told Keith she is going to talk to Tony Cisneros/Pima County Facilities Management about the possibility of allowing El Rio employees to use the Pima County Housing Center parking lot.

The Zoppe Circus is in town again. They are once again set up in the parking lot at Congress and Avenida del Convento.

Update on Matt Perri: Greg and Steve are working on getting some historical information about Matt's life and involvement in Menlo Park neighborhood. MPNA would like to celebrate and honor Matt's service to the neighborhood at the February meeting. Kylie asked Benny and Keith if they could write a proclamation to declare something like 'Matt Perri Day' to be read at the Board of Supervisor and City Council meetings. They both said yes, and we would need to provide them with a history of Matt's contributions to the neighborhood. They would also need a couple of weeks to get the proclamation written. Greg said he has ordered buttons that say *Matt Perri Day*. Kylie noted that Diana Hadley worked with Matt to form MPNA. Wendy volunteered to interview Matt's nephew Steve about Matt's history. The MPNA meeting on February 13th will be a potluck and to honor Matt.

Steve moved to adjourn, Liza seconded.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025.