

Old Town Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

January 19, 2022 Minutes

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7:00-8:55 pm

Zoom "Meeting"

The meeting was called to order by President Gari Soulé at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT -

Officers and Directors attending were Gari Soulé (President), Corey Brunson (Vice President), Amy Eitoku (Treasurer), Nancy Soulé (Secretary), Terry Hanna (Social), and April Harrison (NCIP). Others attending were Melanie Cervi (Social Co-chair), Suzie Grimes (Undergrounding Chair), Jason Reed, Thor Rasmussen (CERT rep), Tim Gadus, and Phyllis ("Phil") Bussey. Gari asked each to introduce themselves, with position, if any, on the board or committee.

MINUTES

As Gari had forwarded minutes to the board members by email prior to the zoom meeting, he asked for any changes to minutes of the November 10, 2021 Board Meeting. Hearing none, Suzie Grimes made a motion to approve, seconded by Corey Brunson, and minutes were approved by all.

TREASURER REPORT

Amy Eitoku reported we have a balance of \$3955.69, which included dues from memberships and the expenses for the Membership Appreciation event at the Perry House (largest was \$350 tip for seven servers at \$50 each).

SOCIAL COMMITTEE – Melanie Cervi reported that we had 50 attendees at the Membership Appreciation night, which she commented to be a good number, considering covid. There were no problems or issues arising. Food, ambiance, drinks were great. The Events by Classic catering group provided sound, and it was noted that attendees could not hear the mayor speak. For the future we should consider having a member signal from the back if sound isn't good. We received extremely positive comments from members who attended. No issues at all with asking for covid vaccines and masks to be worn inside. Lighting outside door is poor-will need flashlights or other in future. Terry gave check for \$350 to cover staff.

There will be a spring social event on March 12, 10 am in front of the tile mural at the convention center. Michael Sovereign will be presenting the history of Monterey as shown in the mural. Corey offered to bring her speaker system which is battery operated. Nancy will put it in bulletins and the newsletter, and the request to wear masks (discussed by Mike) since we will be in a close group.

UNDERGROUNDING – Suzie Grimes reported that the joint Monterey Undergrounding group met on Monday, January 17 and discussed a possible funding initiative to get more support from the city through a Utility User Tax. We need to find more information, such as the number of miles already undergrounded and the number of miles left to do. We are also considering another poll to find out how residents feel about financing, and what methods, they would be agreeable with. There is a possible option of a Utility User Tax, as Monterey's is at 2% while most cities have 5% tax. Also NCIP funds. The idea of a core unit to store energy during off hours and use stored energy during prime hours to save money has also been discussed as an option we could poll residents about. This also helps resilience from power outages.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM-NCIP – April reported that NCIP met for the first time in many months last week. They are trying to review and reset priorities, as the city estimates the entire budget to be approximately 3.1 million and there are hundreds of projects not yet funded. The street sign replacement project in Old Town appears to have been completed, as they are now legible. The idea of creating an accessible park within Old Town requires a site to be donated. The creation of a neighborhood sign "Welcome to Old Town" was not completed, and stairs to Harrison Street from Veteran's Park still need to be completed. Swings for Larkin Park area have also not been done.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) – Thor Rasmussen reported that there was a CERT Tsunami alert caused by the volcanic eruption in Tonga last week. 37 responders organized as 4 teams along the coast, including Pacific Grove and Carmel coastline, Lover's Point, Asilomar, Coast Guard Pier to Cannery Row. The February class was postponed and a March class has yet to be determined.

MEMBERSHIP – Nancy mentioned that Elaine Giampietro continues to send invitations to join OTNA to those who have closed escrow, from public records posted.

WEBSITE- Max Troyer, our volunteer webmaster, showcased a video loop of our new OTNA website at oldtownmonterey.org at the Perry House party. We heard many great comments

about it and Gari thanked Max at the Perry House event for his hard work. Tim Gadus offered to also look into putting our newsletters on Next Door Old Town.

NEW BUSINESS – ELECTIONS – Gari reminded the board that we will have our annual elections in March. At the Perry House, Gari invited guests to speak to board/committee heads if they would like to join the board or work on a committee, but none of those present had heard from any volunteers. Nancy will continue to put the notice into bulletins and mention in the next newsletter that we welcome new people to the board. Gari then asked each board member if they were willing to run for another one year-term or would prefer a different position. Terry and Melanie reiterated that with full-time work, they needed to step down as the social co-chairs, but wanted to remain on the social committee. Phyllis Bussey said she would be willing to run for the director seat Terry has and Co-Chair the Social Committee, and Nancy said she had heard from Cathy Collum that she would be willing to co-chair with her. All others polled indicated they would be willing to continue another term unless someone wants to step up and join the board. April said she would be willing to serve two more years (she has a 2-year term on NCIP) but then needed a break, as she has been doing this for years. As we need to publish a slate of officers, Nancy will put that in the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER – Nancy needs articles for the newsletter and any input by Feb Nov 9, so that a newsletter can go out prior to the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – The next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on March 9, where the primary topic will be the elections. Having no further business, Suzie Grimes made a motion to adjourn at 8:55, seconded by Terry Hanna, and the meeting was adjourned.