

Old Town Neighborhood Association

General Meeting March 10, 2021 Minutes

March 10, 2021

7:00-8:00 pm

Zoom "Meeting"

Due to government prohibition from group meetings to avoid the covid 19 virus, our annual meeting was conducted using video and audio through zoom.com. Gari Soulé opened the zoom meeting at 7:05 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

PRESENT -

Officers and Directors attending were Gari Soulé (President), Corey Brunson (Vice President), Amy Eitoku (Treasurer), Nancy Soulé (Secretary), April Harrison (Director/NCIP), Robert Grimes (Director), and Terry Hanna (Director/Co-Social Chair). Others attending were Mike Cervi, Melanie Cervi (Co-Social Chair), Suzie Grimes (Undergrounding Chair), Susan Ricketson (NCIP alternate), Thor Rasmussen (CERT Liaison), Jerilynn Smith-Crivello, Fatima Dias, Jean Edwards (guest), Tim Gadus, Phyllis Bussey, Janine Chicourrat (guest speaker), Marc Kelly, Wendy Brickman (guest) and Nancy McCroskey. A quorum was confirmed.

SPEAKER-JANINE CHICOURRAT

Gari Soulé, introduced Janine Chicourrat, Managing Director of the Portola Hotel and President of the Monterey County Hospitality Association. Janine spoke to the group on the hardships to the hospitality industry during the pandemic which has lasted one year. She said the hospitality association's role is that of advocacy, education, and recognition. As such, they have helped with the training of hospitality workers in the covid 19 protocol. The industry has met the needs to insure safe travel. One audience suggestion was to have a shuttle service that could take tourists in a loop around the hot tourist destinations so that there will be fewer vehicles and traffic congestion.

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 August 12, 2020 "meeting", the August 30, 2020 email "meeting", and the September 10-11 email "meeting"s. Hearing none, Corey Brunson made a motion to approve all three minutes which was seconded by Suzie Grimes, and approved by all.

TREASURER REPORT

Amy Eitoku reported we have a balance of \$3580.39, which is after the costs of the September 30 Candidates Forum were paid.

NCIP (Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program)

April Harrison reported that there have been no meetings of the NCIP and no knowledge of the city's plans. She commented that the NCIP funds from prior years that had been held for programs had been used last year by the city on an emergency basis to help with the city budget. She hopes the city will prioritize the past projects that had been already approved. She will get a report from the financial committee and send for distribution.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Thor Rasmussen reported that even with the covid 19 pandemic impacting in-person meetings, CERT has continued training and quarterly drills through zoom. A new class of trained volunteers recently graduated in Carmel Valley, enabling a team for that region, and a current class is nearing completion. A new relay system is expected shortly to improve reception, which will require those with CERT radios to be re-programmed.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Terry Hanna reported that we have no social events planned at this time due to the restrictions by the state and local government. It is unknown if we will be able to have our annual membership party at the Perry House, but we hope to maybe have an outdoor picnic later in the year.

UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Suzie Grimes reported good news on the survey sent out to residents by email on February 27. We have had 87 responses. 97% think that undergrounding of utilities is an important issue, and 88% would like to see a forum to discuss the issues. There will be our monthly combined meeting the third Monday with Monterey Vista neighborhood association to discuss avenues of funding, get an update on changing CPUC rules, etc. There is now a website, montereyundergrounding.net. Tim Gadus, a new resident, had a comment on the chat that was not addressed, due to time constraints, until after the meeting. Tim witnessed an explosion of a transformer in January in the Lower Presidio Museum parking lot. Tim was especially concerned because he thinks the transformer contained PCBs, which have been banned since 1989, as evidenced by the signage that it was no longer to be used. Tim was invited to send details and attend the Monday joint meeting with MVNA.

At this point, due to the time limitations of the free zoom.com account, the meeting was abruptly stopped by zoom, but most were able to get back on within a few minutes, and our annual meeting progressed.

ELECTIONS

Directors - As our bylaws call for annual election of the seven directors on our board, Gari asked if any others present would like to run for a directors position. Hearing none, and as the present directors were willing to run for an additional one year term, there was a motion by Marc Kelly, seconded by Suzie Grimes, to approve the slate of current directors, which are Gari Soulé, Corey Brunson, Amy Eitoku, Nancy Soulé, Robert Grimes, April Harrison, and Terry Hanna. The motion was approved unanimously.

Officers - Gari congratulated the directors elected and announced that the directors then elect our four officers- President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. As the current officers indicated they were willing to serve an additional one-year term, Nancy Soulé made a motion, seconded by Terry Hanna, that the board elect a slate of Gari Soulé as president, Corey Brunson as Vice President, Amy Eitoku as Treasurer, and Nancy Soulé as Secretary. The board voted unanimously to elect that slate.

Chairpeople/Liaisons - Gari congratulated the officers elected and announced that the board needed to appoint the chairpersons and board liaisons. Our current chairpeople have agreed to extend their term: April Harrison, NCIP Rep, Sue Ricketson, NCIP Alternate, Thor Rasmussen, CERT Liaison, Suzie Grimes, Undergrounding Committee Chair, Terry Hanna and Melanie Cervi, Co-Chairs of the Social Committee, Elaine Giampietro, Membership Chair, and Liliana Potigian, our Newsletter Editor/Graphic Artist. Corey made a motion, seconded by Nancy Soulé to reappoint the chairpeople and liaisons so named. The board voted unanimously to approve their reappointment.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial to William McCrone – Gari spoke of Bill McCrone’s contribution to the Old Town Neighborhood Association and the community at large. Bill was long-time member and a voluntary advisor on our bylaws. He also worked tirelessly for the expansion and historic walkways of remembrance at the Lower Presidio Park. Corey Brunson made a motion, seconded by Jerilynn Smith-Grivello, to send \$100 to the Old Monterey Foundation in his honor. The motion was passed unanimously.

Upgrade to Zoom Pro – Gari reported that an upgrade to Zoom Pro would cost the association an annual fee of \$149.90, but allow meetings up to 30 hours and up to 100 participants. Marc Kelly made a motion, seconded by Nancy Soulé, to purchase the upgrade. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – As we were at a zoom timing warning, Terry made a motion, seconded by Suzie, that we adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 8 pm.