

Old Town Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

October 18, 2023 Minutes

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7:00-8:30 pm

MIIS McKone Building

The meeting was called to order by President Gari Soulé at 7:05 pm. The meeting was held in the conference room of the MIIS McKone Building, 499 Pierce Street, as well as live via Zoom.

PRESENT - Officers and Directors attending in person were Gari Soulé (President), Nancy Soulé (Secretary), Max Troyer (Website Administrator), Mary Grove (Treasurer), Phyllis Bussey (Social), and Corey Brunson. Others attending in person were P. K. Diffenbaugh, Superintendent of MPUSD, Diane Cotton, Bill Leone, Cathy Collum (Social co-chair), Sue Ricketson (NCIP alternate), Suzie Grimes, Thomas Grimes, Tim Gadus, Amy Eitoku, Thor Rasmussen, and Bret Grove. Attending by Zoom were Melanie Cervi, Jason Reed, Dino Kokalis, and Nancy McCroskey.

SPEAKER – P. K. Diffenbaugh, Superintendent of Monterey Peninsula Unified School

District on teacher affordability – P. K. Diffenbaugh discussed the heavy toll of turnover each year from teachers leaving due to the high cost and unavailability of housing. Part of the problem is that salaries have not kept pace. He discussed possible solutions of a parcel tax, which requires 66% approval, and bonds which can only be used on facilities, but requires only 50% approval. In a recent poll of teachers, most preferred higher salaries rather than below market rentals. Currently beginning teachers earn \$55k. New affordable housing projects, such as Mid Pen's project on Van Buren, require even lower income to qualify. There was discussion on building housing on school property, but PK said lack of water is the issue in Monterey. However, when water is resolved, ideally the district would like to build up to 100 units, with 60 to start.

MINUTES-The minutes were reviewed. Hearing no changes, Suzie Grimes made a motion to approve, seconded by Phyllis Bussey, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT -Mary Grove reported we have a current balance of \$4,753, with the addition of 21 new renewals and 4 new members. Elaine Giampietro has been recruiting.

UNDERGROUNDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Suzie Grimes reported that the Monterey undergrounding committee is looking to have the city involved in creating a master plan to underground utilities. The committee is now focused on escape routes, fire safety, and the Del Monte corridor. Bill Leone commented on the need for more solar and battery infrastructure, but the CPUC is heavily lobbied by the oil industry, and hasn't been supportive enough. Max thinks micro cells may be the answer.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NCIP) -Sue Ricketson reported that the roster of projects is still pending, which will normally be reviewed in February. Cathy Collum said the cleanup of the ravine between Roosevelt and Franklin has been cleared.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE -Phyllis Bussey reported that the bocce by the bay event went well on October 14. The main annual event of the year will be the membership appreciation party on November 1. 87

have already reserved, and we are maxed at 100. There has been a good response from volunteers. This year the event will be from 6-8 pm. Gari said he had invited mayor Tyler Williamson, Kim Barber, and Ed Smith.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)-Gari reported that there will be another CERT class in October. CERT was deployed July 24th for a missing male adult. Missing person searches are often done for at risk children and adults. CERT also provided traffic control for the fourth of July parade and will be asked to assist with the November half-marathon.

NEW BUSINESS

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH – Bill Leone suggests the need for a Neighborhood Watch program, that is done by individual streets. He is concerned by recent theft, and wants to keep the neighborhood safe. Gari asked, and Bill said he could research this and report back at the January meeting.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY DISCUSSION – There was discussion from Phil Bussey and Mary Grove on the difficulties in having renewals not be for a calendar year. Accordingly, Mary Grove made a motion that effective January 1, 2024, dues will be payable annually and expire at the end of the year, although they may be prepaid in advance. The motion was seconded by Phyllis Bussey and passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS -Max Troyer announced that the New Mural on the side of the building will be celebrated in a ceremony on November 8 at 3:30, and the public is invited.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT- Gari announced the next meeting will be January 10, 2024. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.