

# Old Town Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting

## *March 13, 2024 Minutes*

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7:00-8:50 pm

MIIS McKone Building

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The meeting was called to order by President Gari Soulé at 7:00 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), and Corey Brunson (Vice President). Others attending in person were Sue Ricketson (NCIP alternate), Rosemary Robert, Cathy Collum, Amy Eitoku, and Councilman Ed Smith. Attending by Zoom were director Phyllis Bussey (Social), Tim Gadus, Melanie Cervi, Nancy McCroskey, and Nancy Harray.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Councilman Ed Smith** gave us a short introductory biography, with a background in law enforcement, prior to servicing on the city council. He spoke about how the state laws for a housing element worked to require each city to meet new housing numbers, and the penalties incurred if not planned for. Our biggest challenge to meet this is the lack of water. He feels a problem with Pure Water/ Monterey One Water is that they do not yet have source water rights, although they are hoping to buy farmland for this. Regarding the rental registry, he said the compliance with the rental registry was very low. Finally he addressed the budget, and explained, in response to a question, that the city maintains the DLI campus by city services in exchange for a \$40 million payment, a significant part of the \$172 million budget. He fielded many questions from the audience, both live and on zoom.

**MINUTES**-The minutes were reviewed. Hearing no changes, Gari accepted the minutes as distributed.

**TREASURER REPORT** -Mary Grove reported in an email that we have a current balance of \$5,019.94, after deduction for \$75 for the Jo Mora tour and \$13.20 for postage.

**NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NCIP)** – Susan Ricketson reported that April Harrison has submitted her resignation from the NCIP, due to ongoing health issues. Her resignation was also sent to President Gari Soulé. The city is processing paperwork from April to allow appointment of new representatives. Susan, as alternate NCIP representative is willing to step up to be our committee representative, and Rosemary Robert has indicated she will apply for the vacant position and be alternate to Sue Ricketson, still to be ratified by the city. An Old Town project still to be completed, but scheduled for this year, is the repair of the Harrison Street steps. A budget of \$10 million is anticipated for the year. An initial review of the projects submitted for 2024-25 was done. At the March 28 and April 11 meetings, the committee will discuss and analyze the projects in two sections, respectively. Suzie Grimes submitted a proposal which has been moved from Old Town to the multi-neighborhood category and it is scheduled to be discussed April 11, with final discussion

on April 25 and May 9. It is to underground utilities on Del Monte between Sloat and Palo Verde Avenue, in order to reduce major power outages caused by the transformer at that location, such as when power was out for many days in 2023 west from that point in Monterey, Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach. Max Troyer made a motion to send flower to thank April for all she has done, seconded by Nancy and approved unanimously. Nancy will coordinate this.

**UNDERGROUNDING COMMITTEE REPORT** – In addition to the underground proposal mentioned by Sue Ricketson that was submitted to the NCIP, two other proposals were also submitted. The underground committee hopes that the proposals can be merged or modified, if needed, in order for the one that has most appeal to the NCIP committee will go through.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE** -Phyllis Bussey reported that the private tour of the Jo Mora exhibit with Mora expert and author Peter Hiller on March 9 was extremely well received. We had 15 people attend at a cost of \$75 to OTNA. Our next event will be the summer social in July.

**WEBSITE** – Max reported that our website could include a phone number for people to leave a voicemail message. We could also set up a paypal account if we want to let people join on the website. Gari suggested Max report at next meeting about costs and how this might work, and for others to think of questions and issues for a later discussion at the next board meeting.

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)**-Nancy reported there will be a new class in May. Gari mentioned there is a training exercise coming up, utilizing crowd control to help the police.

**ELECTIONS** – Gari introduced the slate of candidates running for the seven seats on our Board of Directors: Corey Brunson, Phyllis (Phil) Bussey, Mary Grove, Sue Ricketson, Gari Soulé, Nancy Soulé, and Max Troyer. He asked if there were any others wishing to run for a seat on the board. Hearing none, Cathy Collum made a motion to accept the slate, seconded by Melanie Cervi, and approved unanimously. Max Troyer then made a motion for our officers to be: Gari Soulé, President, Corey Brunson, Vice President, Mary Grove, Treasurer, and Nancy Soulé, Secretary. The motion was seconded by Phyllis Bussey, and approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:** - Gari expressed appreciation for Bob Evans who coordinated the Forum for the District 5 supervisor candidates, a forum jointly put on by New Monterey, Old Town, and Monterey Vista. It had great attendance, and was moderated by the League of Women Voters at the Hilltop Community Center in New Monterey. It was suggested we repeat a joint forum for the Mayoral election in November.

**NEW BUSINESS-** Nancy received correspondence from the city clarifying that the city council decision to temporarily freeze new applications for Mills Act contracts would not affect those who already have a Mills Act contract. The city decided to halt giving a tax incentive to historical homes, as it recently received many from buyers who then flipped the homes.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT-** Gari announced the next meeting will be May 8, 2024. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50.