

Old Town Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting

March 12, 2025 Minutes

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7:00-9:000 pm

MIIS McKone Building

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), Mary Grove (Treasurer), Max Troyer (webmaster), and Susan Ricketson (NCIP rep). Others attending in person were Bret Grove, Mayor Tyller Williamson, Suzie Grimes (Undergrounding Chair), Elaine Giampietro (membership recruitment), Cathy Collum (Social Co-chair), Rosemary Robert (NCIP alternate), Jerilynn Smith-Crivello, Laura Myers-Wagner, John Wagner, Taryn Cardena, and Mark Kelley. Attending on Zoom were Sharon Christianson, Michael Arnold, Charlotte Arnold, and Thor Rasmussen (CERT liaison).

SPEAKER – Mayor Tyller Williamson – Gari introduced Mayor Tyller Williamson, who spoke about the housing element recently passed and approved, which requires identifying sites for 3654 more housing units (up from 650 eight years ago). Areas these units are zoned for include Garden Road, Downtown (now zoned to allow for six stories), Cass Street, and Ft Ord city property near Ryan Ranch. Next week city council will review two planning changes to the rental registry: to remove the exemption from owners of 1-3 units and to remove the pass through of fees to tenants. The mayor feels that the expansion of Pure Water Monterey expected to be completed in October should give enough water for future plans and building. He also reviewed e-bike regulations and recent parking changes, as well as took questions from the audience.

MINUTES-The minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting were reviewed. As there were no corrections, Suzie Grimes made a motion to approve, seconded by Mary Grove, and minutes were passed by all.

TREASURER REPORT -Mary Grove reported that we have a current balance of \$4,716.99, after deposit of new membership renewals. 34 households have renewed for 2025, although that is normal since more pay at the July or November socials. We had 78 paid memberships in 2024.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NCIP) – Susan Ricketson reported that the new NCIP group has met, and the group is trying to whittle down the number of projects. The new project submission deadline has been extended to the end of July. Susan continues to ask regarding the tire swing approved many years ago, and the steps from Harrison Street to Veteran’s Boulevard is now in design phase. The group approved using NCIP funds for capital project maintenance that has not been budgeted in past years by the city.

UNDERGROUNDING COMMITTEE REPORT – Suzie Grimes reported that Hans Usler has been working on a proposal regarding using the approved NCIP funds to get an undergrounding plan presented to City Council. The Fire Safe Community Meeting was well attended. High fire risk areas are PGE's first priority.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE -Cathy Collum reported that a spring social event has not been decided. There was discussion about an historic walk through Old Town and another bocce game in the courts off Custom House Plaza. Most of the comments favored a bocce game, as it is social and brings the neighborhood together. Cathy will decide on a date.

WEBMASTER – Max Troyer said there was no new issues or developments with the website.

CERT – Thor Rasmussen reported that CERT was involved in deploying to control traffic around power lines in storms, in firefighter rehab, and traffic control. There will be a March 22 mass casualty incident simulating two planes crashed over Monterey on March 22. The current CERT class is full, but another class will be offered on three consecutive Saturdays, October 11, 18, 25. Interested residents should contact CERTMonterey@gmail.com to sign up.

MEMBERSHIP – Elaine Giampietro reported that there have been few escrows reported closing the last few months, which is her source for sending membership letters.

ELECTIONS – President Gari Soule said the only candidates that have agreed to run for the Board of Directors are the seven current directors. He asked if there were any others who would like to run for the board of director, but there were none. Gari confirmed that he had contacted all current board members who have agreed to run for the seven director positions on the Board. Accordingly, Sue Ricketson moved, seconded by Cathy Collum, to approve the current directors to continue for the next one year term. The motion passed unanimously. Gari explained that per our bylaws, the directors needed to choose and vote on the officers. The directors then discussed positions for officers. Gari said he had confirmation from all four current officers that they would agree to continue another year. Max Troyer made a motion, seconded by Cathy Collum, to keep the officers the same for the next one-year term. The directors passed the motion unanimously. Accordingly, the following directors, and the position of officers are as follows:

President: Gari Soule', Vice President: Corey Brunson, Treasurer: Mary Grove, Secretary: Nancy Soule'. The other directors are Max Troyer, Sue Ricketson and Phyllis Bussey.

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT SPEAKER- It was suggested that we see if the Old Town Business Association could provide a speaker, and Max Troyer offered to look into that.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT- Gari announced that the next meeting is scheduled for May 14, and adjourned the meeting at 8:59.