

# Old Town Neighborhood Association Meeting

## *May 14, 2025 Minutes*

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7:00-9:000 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), Mary Grove (Treasurer), Max Troyer (webmaster), and Corey Brunson (Vice President). Others attending in person were Bret Grove, Suzie Grimes (Undergrounding Chair), Rick Johnson (Old Monterey Business Association), Cathy Collum (Social Co-chair), and Rosemary Robert (NCIP alternate). Attending on Zoom were Phyllis ("Phil") Bussey (Social Chair), Tim Gadus, Taryn Cadena and fiancé', and Dr. Ri Chang.

**SPEAKER – Rick Johnson** – Gari introduced Rick Johnson, from the Old Monterey Business Association, who spoke about the business district and challenges the city faced during covid and since. The parklets made during covid were popular, and the city has granted more sidewalk seating for restaurants. He said issues ongoing include the need for more parking and bike parking. Dr. Ri Chang suggested we look at other cities such as Palo Alto. Palo Alto closed California Avenue to traffic and it became a more vibrant downtown.

**MINUTES**-The minutes of the March 12, 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 \$4,776.99, after deposit of new membership renewals. 37 households have renewed for 2025.

**UNDERGROUNDING COMMITTEE** – Suzie Grimes said there was no real news from undergrounding. The city wants a consultant to be used for Fremont Street underground, not a specific employee to oversee it. Approximately 4.7 million will be forfeited if not completed by early 2030s.

**NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NCIP)** – Rosemary Robert says the swing proposed years ago for Larkin Park is still not resolved, as initial findings were that an ADA compliant swing did not have sufficient room. The property, owned by city parks, but surrounded

by MPUSD owned land, has been quite derelict of late. PK Diffenbaugh had worked with OTNA to finally reopen the park to the public by fencing the area used by the school. Corey suggested may OTNA could organize a work party. Dr. Chang suggested we send flyers to stakeholders, the people living in the nearby apartments, to help with that. Taryn Cadena said surveys might be a way to get input. Suzie Grimes offered to call Parks and Rec. Max said he could design a survey form.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE** -Phyllis Bussey reported that our annual summer gathering at Veterans Park his set for Saturday, July 12, from 1-3 pm. Nancy moved to approve approximately \$85 for expenses, seconded by Cathy Collum and this was passed unanimously.

**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 and provide fire rehab for the fire involving the Carl's Junior restaurant on Lighthouse. 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](mailto:CERTMonterey@gmail.com) to sign up.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**NEXT SPEAKER-** It was suggested that we see if someone could speak about the history of the American Legion and their building at the top of Jefferson Street. Alternatively, Alyssa Rendon from See Monterey was suggested by Max.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Rosemary Robert announced that the Monterey YMCA (formerly a USO in WWII) now offers Contra Dance for a fee of \$15 on the first and third Saturdays at 7 pm (teaching at 6:45) and the first Sunday of the month at 4 pm. There is live music and a caller. \$10 members.

**MEETING DATES** -Corey Brunson said she usually has a conflict with meeting the second Wednesday and asked if meeting the third Wednesday could be considered. After discussion, it was decided to hereafter meet on the third Wednesday of January, March, May, August, and October.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT-** Gari announced that the next meeting is scheduled for May 21. As there was no further business, he adjourned the meeting at 8:45.