

Old Town Neighborhood Association Minutes

August 20, 2025 Minutes

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7:00-9:00 pm

MIIS McKone Building

The meeting was called to order by President Gari Soulé at 7:10 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), Phyllis Bussey (Social Chair), and Susan Ricketson (NCIP). Others attending in person were Suzie Grimes (Undergrounding Chair), Cathy Collum (Social Co-chair), Tim Gadus, Jerilynn Smith Crivello, and Rosemary Robert (NCIP alternate) plus guests from the American Legion Post 41, Shane Strong (speaker), Lonnie Dickson (past commander), Dan Presser, Tom Klotz (post commander), Eric Fonferik (from DLI and judge advocate attorney), and Marc Lafavor (executive board).

SPEAKER – Shane Strong– Gari introduced Shane Strong from the American Legion Post 41, who spoke about the structure of the organization as the largest Veteran’s service organization chartered by Congress to assist veterans and the military. They include military of both genders from all wars. The building in Monterey was built by veterans after World War I, and in World War II, the second floor was used to make needed military supplies. The building is leased from the city of Monterey. The organization encourages Old Town residents to be part of their events, as they welcome friendly relationships with us, even if non-veterans. Shane emphasized that the Wednesday Steak Lunches (\$15) and Saturday Burgers and Hot Dogs Grill items are extremely well priced. It was noted we can announce this in future bulletins, as many residents may not be aware these events are open to residents. They would also encourage us to write to the city to advocate for an updated renewal of their lease. All agreed they have been good neighbors with no issues as in the past. Shane announced that on November 11 at 1:11 pm there will be a Veterans Day ceremony honoring Nourse Rogers, the first woman elected to Congress from the state of Massachusetts and the author of the GI Bill. Her representatives will be given a replica of the golden Distinguished Service Medal. Information will be forwarded to us to put in our bulletins.

MINUTES-The minutes of the May 14, 2025 meeting were reviewed. As there were no corrections, Mary Grove made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Gadus, and minutes were passed by all.

TREASURER REPORT -Mary Grove reported that we have a current balance of \$4,544.44, after paying for the picnic deposit and new membership renewals. 39 households have renewed for 2025.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NCIP) – Susan Ricketson reported that the NCIP committee met on August 19 and that a large issue is a shortfall in the city budget of \$10 million. Some of the proposals still moving forward are the repairs to the library, repairs due to water damage at the historic jail requiring new drainage, and repairs to the stairs that are rotten crossing the creek from Seeno to Artillery Road. Of top priority will be issues of safety. The city also needs within their budget funds for deferred maintenance and this needs to also be addressed for new projects going forward. A survey is planned to go out, using the survey designed by Monte Vista, and then our neighborhood needs to prioritize projects before the voting in November. The idea is for this to go out through our website/bulletins, and Susan and Rosemary will consult with Max on details. It was suggested that we do not get a speaker for our October board meeting, and instead have the main topic be a workshop to review and prioritize projects.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE -Phyllis Bussey reported that our annual summer gathering at Veterans Park on Saturday, July 12, was a great success with about 40-50 people attending. Our next social event will be our membership appreciation party, which now has a date set of November 5. Nancy will send out a save the date announcement, with reservations for members only to start on September 1.

WEBMASTER -As Max was out of state at the time of this meeting, we had no zoom. Gari asked if anyone would like to be tutored by Max on how to run our Zoom, so that in his absence we could still have that. Suzie Grimes volunteered, and she will shadow Max next time.

UNDERGROUNDING COMMITTEE – Suzie Grimes said that three different undergrounding projects are being worked to consolidate into one, and referred to the NCIP discussion regarding funding concerns.

CERT – Gari reported that CERT is having a fire rehab drill that is coinciding with our current meeting. CERT was recently deployed to help in traffic and pedestrian control around the recent plane crash site in Pacific Grove. 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.

NEW BUSINESS .

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Jerilynn Smith Crivello announced that the Native Daughters of the Golden West is having a presentation for the public on “The Stokes Adobe- A Storied Past”, on September 8 from 7-8 pm. Nancy said she will put that in her bulletin.

MEETING DATES & ADJOURNMENT - As we have moved our meetings to the third Wednesday, our next meeting will be October 15. With no further business, Gari adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.