

**Monument Manor Neighborhood Association
Annual Meeting – March 16, 2019
Minutes**

Minutes approved at 2020 virtual meeting

Call to order – President Ellen Jackman called the meeting of the Monument Manor Neighborhood Association (MMNA) to order at 4:13pm at 8528 Desert Shadows, Joshua Tree, CA (Bobby Furst’s event space).

Review of 2018 – Ellen gave a review of MMNA activities since last Annual Meeting, including Neighborhood Party in May,

Introductions – All members introduced themselves, told where they lived. 38 were in attendance: Ron Bastrup, Linda Doyle & Bob Kaplan, Ellen Jackman, Dan Stork, Geary Hund, Francene Kaplan & Mark Soden, Jennifer & Joe Ingram, Gloria & Jack Perrodin, Barbara Ohse, Diane Kuntz, Cathy & Stas Vellonakis, Connie Hare, Terry Stone, Randy Melton & Marta Collins, Steve Weiss, Curt Sauer & Jill Heidrich, Bobby Furst, Mike Michelin, Dave Taylor, Sean Maguire & Peter Grame, Jen Gagner & Robin Rorex, Bryon Wynwood, Pat Knudsen, Steev Beeson & Malissa Daniel, Mary Ann Kelly, Bill & Heather Gilman, and James Marquardt.

Minutes of 2018 meeting – Ellen reminded everyone that the minutes of the March 2018 meeting have been posted on our website (www.monumentmanorneighborhood.com). To give everyone a chance to read the minutes, the link was emailed/snail mailed out prior to the meeting. She then asked if anyone wanted the minutes read and no one responded in the affirmative. Ellen called for further discussion of the minutes from attendees and board members. Curt Sauer motioned to approve the minutes. 2018 minutes were approved. The approved minutes will be posted on the MMNA website. Curt motioned to approved, Jack seconded. All in Favor. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Dan Stork reported on the following for 2018 and 2019 for comparison:

20 people previous contributors then contributed to emergency appeal. He discussed the liability insurance and participation rate.

	2018	2019	2018-2019
Beginning balance	\$4,603.49	\$9,482.51	
Ending balance	\$9,482.51	\$8,924.90	← 3/15/2019
Cash contributions	\$11,415.00	\$6,285.00	\$17,700.00
Number of cash contributors	91	60	
Participation rate	42%		
Emergency appeal	\$2,300.00		
Emergency contributors	20		
Road labor	\$2,710.00	\$4,160.00	\$6870.00
Dirt	\$2,300.00	\$2,500.00	\$4800.00
Liability insurance	\$1,464.20	<i>No bill yet</i>	\$3000 ?
Total road expense	\$6,474.20	\$6660.00	\$13134.20 <i>before 2019 insurance bill</i>
Misc. expenses (decals/stickers, PO Box rental)	\$116.00	\$183.15	\$399.15
Mailing*, website* light spotlight on Manor sign**	\$320.98	\$177.88	\$478.86
* contributed by Board Secretary ** by Board Treasurer			

Gloria Perrodin asked about the contributions impact from vacation home owners. Dan indicated that he and Ellen Jackman have identified 18 properties and about 2/3 of those contribute to the MMNA. He stated that about 40% of owners in the Manor contribute to the MMNA. Ellen added that we have included language in our “call to action” letter that is directly related to vacation home owners.

Ellen called for a discussion and approval of the Treasurer’s Report. Dave Taylor motioned to approve. Marta seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Committee Reports

Membership Outreach 2018 Contributions – Dan Stork discussed our approach to seeking contributions to the MMNA. First, we send out notices via snail mail to all records with mailing addresses in the Manor. Several months later, we follow-up with another notice via snail mail to those that contributed in 2017 but not in 2018. Several months later, we made an effort to personally call those that had not responded to the second mail request. Unfortunately, we lack telephone numbers for many owners in the Manor. Therefore, this approach was not as successful as expected.

This year we will do a second contact with those that received a notice in February 2019 but have not contributed. This contact will be primarily through email addresses. Dan stated that we did get a good response to the emergency appeal for road funds via email after the October storms, all from people who had already contributed from the February 2019 notice.

Dave Taylor suggested we set-up a system on the MMNA website that would allow owners to contribute electronically. The issue of fees from PayPal charged to MMNA were discussed. PayPal for example is 2.9%. Ellen suggested that the Board would look into it. Dave Taylor, Steev Beeson and Bill Gilman offered to help Linda set-up the electronic system on our website.

TO DO: Linda will research online payment system. **Done ✓**

Roads and Signs Report – Using the data collected by the Monument Manor weather station, Geary Hund reported that the Manor had 20 days of measurable rain to-date for a total of 7.7 inches. We had four storms that were significant requiring storm repairs throughout the Manor: July 11 (0.92 inches); October 13 (1.41 inches); January 12 (0.56 inches); February 2 (1.08 inches); February 14 (1.38 inches). One Manor resident told him that the October 13 storm was the most intense that she has witnessed in 50 years in the Manor.

Despite having to make significant storm repairs on multiple occasions, we were also able to address some long-standing issues, including managing drainage to reduce runoff and erosion, the repair of deep gullies which have formed over the years along some stretches of road, making them difficult to navigate (especially after storms), and we removed accumulated sand on Single Tree and Uphill. Geary addressed the group of residents and said, “This would not have been possible without your generous contributions.”

He added the following highlights to road work completed in 2018: fill was placed on Single Tree below Coyote, Upper Rocking Chair, portions of Uphill and the intersection of Desert Shadows and Rocking Chair/Turtle. The Single Tree project is nearly complete, having to be done in phases over a couple of years. Repairs have been completed on a long stretch of badly eroded area on the north side of the road and an underlayment of sandbags placed during a work party in 2017 and rolling dips (drainage features) will prevent it from being damaged as badly by future storms. We’ve continued to make drainage improvements, including on the far west and east ends of the neighborhood. Lastly, we removed accumulated sand from Uphill and Single Tree, creating space for stockpiling of sand that may need to be removed after future storms. We anticipate making more significant gains in 2019.

Geary thanked all of the owners/residents and extended a special thanks to those who contributed additional funds after the monsoon rains earlier this year. The extra funds allowed the MMNA to make the necessary repairs, freeing up other funds to actually improve the conditions of the roads. Geary also wanted to thank Bill Gilman, in particular. Several

times, Bill has donated dirt and paid for tractor time, greatly extending MMNA's ability to make repairs and improvements.

Geary also thanked Sean Molina for his work on our roads. The extraordinary amount of rainfall received this year made it difficult to keep up with road repairs.

Bobby Furst asked about the wash that crosses Desert Shadows below Single Tree. He suggested that we put a tunnel under the road using a culvert pipe. Geary discussed the challenge to properly engineer a culvert and then the expense to install and maintain a culvert. This level of cost is out of our current budget level. Geary indicated that there is more than one place in the Manor that might benefit from culvert piping, if we had the monies to do so. James Marquardt indicated that the cost for 30 feet culvert steel would be approximately \$515.00. Geary suggested that there is another method we might be able to use. We could bury a concrete something at grade level on either side of the road and it maintains the grade of the crossing using cinder block. Bobby mentioned that Joshua tree music festival gets these culverts at discounted price.

TO DO: Geary will keep culverts in mind as he continues to analyze road repair/preventative measures in the Manor.

New Business

Realtor's Packet – Ron Bastrup and Terry Stone reached out to local real estate agents inquiring about them giving new owners MMNA Welcome Packets. According to their conversations, real estate agents aren't interested in giving new owners packets. Therefore, Ron and Terry created a Welcome Letter that the MMNA would send to new owners. The problem is that we don't always know when there is a new owner in the Manor.

Gloria Perrodin indicated that it was her understanding that real estate agents are required by-law to notify new owners if there is a neighborhood association and to inform them that the roads aren't maintained by the county. It was also stated by another meeting attendee that realtors are required to notify new owners of a new neighborhood association only if it is a mandatory neighborhood association, not a voluntary one. We asked that all owners inform their new neighbors about the MMNA. Everyone was in agreement that one successful way to increase awareness about the MMNA is a neighbor-to-neighbor approach. The MMNA will send out Welcome Letters to new owners as we are made aware of their new home purchase in the Manor.

Monument Manor Stickers – Ellen Jackman discussed the new decals/stickers were designed by Diane Kuntz. The decals were created to show pride in their neighborhood and are distributed as a token of thanks to those that donate to the MMNA. People who contributed in 2018 received one decal. If you didn't get one, see Ellen. If you received one and would like to buy another one, see Ellen. If you contributed in 2019 but not in 2018, see Ellen for your decal. Once you have contributed and get one free decal, then next ones are \$1 each.

Neighborhood Watch presentation – Ellen Jackman has been researching this issue and has reached out to the contact person with the Sheriff's office with no response back from her. She stated that she made numerous contact attempts over the course of four months. We may need to go in person to the Sheriff's office. We do have older neighborhood watch signs but it was suggested that the neighborhood would benefit from a Neighborhood Watch presentation. Neighborhood Watch signs were purchased on the internet. So, it was suggested we could buy more signs.

Letter to Burrtec, UPS, FedEx, etc – Ellen Jackman has put together a letter to these companies. The Board reviewed the letter. Any companies that drive trucks through the Manor, we could send a letter. Jack mentioned that the truck drivers are on a tight schedule. That's why we need to send the letter to their manages/companies. Once we have the final letter we will post in our website. Once the letter is approved by the Board, the MMNA will send out the letter.

TO DO: Ellen will send letter to Board for approval. **Done ✓**

TO DO: Ellen will send approved letter out to companies listed above. **Done ✓**

Member Suggested Discussion Items

1. Dumpsters: Mary Ann Kelly brought up the idea of big dumpsters for weed removal. Is anyone interested in donating the pay for the dumpsters for spring cleaning. Bobby mentioned that you can drop off brush weekly to the dump and it is free. A dumpster could be delivered and then people could bring their yard debris for one week. In the past Burrtec would bring it for free. We will look into and the costs and the Board will explore. It was agreed that the MMNA does not have the funds to pay for dumpsters. It was also suggested that if someone does locate a free dumpster for the Manor that it should wait until closer to June and that it is only green waste not junk.

TO DO: Item to be discussed at next Board meeting.

Traffic into the park through the Manor. Geary reminded that special signs were made and installed on major roads and also the County installed “No Park Access” and “Roads Not County Maintained”. Geary reminded everyone about future park plans to move the park kiosk.

Acknowledgment of Passing ... Moment of Silence for Irene Hart, Barbara Munro (July 2018), Dirk Mann (Dec 2018), Scott Cutler (February 2019) and past MMNA presidents Steve Ohse (July 2018) and Mike Darrah (Jan 2019) – Ellen Jackman asked for a moment of silence for those we have lost. She then gave moving comments about each of them. Ellen asked if anyone has information about any of these individuals, please send to us so that we can share on our website. Jack Perrodin paid respect to Mike Darrah by remind those present at the meeting today about his military service background and his work as the MMNA President. Gloria and Jack attended to Mike Darrah’s military tribute memorial service. Pat Knudsen remembered Steve Ohse and her loving memories of riding horses with him.

Election of Officers for 2019-2020 Term – The meeting proceeded to the election of Officers. Ellen asked if anyone present at the meeting would like to present themselves as a candidate or nominate anyone else as a candidate. There were no affirmative responses. Gloria Perrodin motioned for all current board members to be re-elected. Upon nominations duly made and seconded, the following were re-elected: **Done ✓**

President ... Ellen Jackman
Secretary ... Linda Doyle

Vice President ... Ron Bastrup
Roads Chair ... Geary Hund

Treasurer ... Dan Stork

Announcements

1. Check out the MMNA website at: www.monumentmanorneighborhood.com.
2. James Marquardt discussed that neighbors on Rapallo and Quail Springs photographed a mountain lion on her wildlife camera about two weeks ago.

Adjournment of meeting – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:39pm.