

**Monument Manor Neighborhood Association**  
**Annual Meeting – March 11, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**Minutes approved at March 24, 2018 Annual MMNA Meeting**

**Call to order** – President Ellen Jackman called the meeting of the Monument Manor Neighborhood Association to order at 4:01pm at 8528 Desert Shadows, Joshua Tree, CA (Bobby Furst’s event space).

**Review of 2016** – Ellen gave a review of MMNA sponsored activities since last Annual Meeting, including Neighborhood Party in May, three board meetings (April 2016, July 2016, January 2017), four Road Work Parties, initiated Membership Drive (needs more work).

**Introductions** – All members introduced themselves, told where they lived. 33 were in attendance.

**Minutes of 2015 meeting** – Linda Doyle read the minutes of the March 2016 meeting and they were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Dan Stork reported on the following:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>January 1, 2017 – March 11, 2017</b>
<b>Meeting expenses</b>	\$152.81	\$0.00
<b>Materials and signs</b>	\$794.23	\$0.00
<b>Road labor and sand</b>	\$1,085.00	\$4,500.00
<b>Bank interest</b>	\$2.90	\$0.47
<b>Key deposits</b>	\$300.00	\$0.00
<b>Contributions</b>	\$4,745.00	\$4,325.00
<b># of contributors</b>	63	49
<b>Ending cash balance</b>	\$6,794.40	\$6,619.87

In 2016, 16 contributions were of \$100 or more, including one each at \$500, \$250, and \$200, and two at \$150.

So far in 2017, **28** contributions have been of \$75 or more, including two at \$300, three at \$150, one at \$200, 16 at \$100, and 6 at \$75.

**Mailboxes’ Report** – Dan Stork reported that three key deposits for HC boxes were received. There are three available HC boxes. He also reported that USPS is going to link our physical street addresses and get rid of the HC box numbers. However, carriers are contract employees and have not been given additional funds to swap out the HC boxes with these changes. It was reported that it took 29 Palms five years to make the transition from HC Box number to physical address. Until further notice continue to use the HC Box address along with your physical street address. It was also reported by Mark Wheeler that this change is prompted by the court system needing to send jury summons to physical addresses not HC Box numbers.

**Committee Reports:**

**Road Committee** – Geary Hund, as the new Chair, thanked Will Harner for his years of volunteer service as the Road Committee Chair.

Geary reported on the following:

(1) Overview of the Past Year

- In 2016, the contractor (Gary Ward) and Manor volunteers put in over 300 hours of work on the roads,
- We had four Road Work Parties, used two contractors, dragged the roads six times the roads after rainfall,
- Need for repairs dated back to the monsoon of 2015,
- Preventative measures included: the installation of nine Rolling Dips to divert water off the road to reduce erosion, stakes and signs to mark “caution” for the new rolling dips,
- Ongoing road maintenance,
- Four work parties to fill in eroded areas and construct water retention berm,
- Construction of a rolling dip and berms to divert water off of portions of Vista Way and Wagon Wheel to reduce erosion, and
- Geary has mapped our repairs and the installed rolling dips.

(2) Gary Ward in January 2017 – An Example of Work Completed Under Contract

- Constructed two Rolling Dips on Road Runner,
- Constructed one Rolling Dip on Uphill,
- Constructed one Rolling Dip on Vista Way,
- Created two Berms (one on Vista Way and one on Wagon Wheel) as part of water diversion project,
- Repaired deep, long rut on Single Tree,
- Filled in ruts at the intersection of Old Vine and Wagon Wheel in concert with road party,
- Transported dirt to Old Vine and Road Runner to assist road party in building water retention berm,
- Filled rut at Desert Shadows and Rocking Chair/Turtle,
- Filled in rut and covered protruding rock on upper Turtle,
- Filled in multiple small ruts on Tortuga,
- Filled in large rut on Coyote,
- Altered drainage at the bottom of Desert Shadows and Uphill to prevent future washouts,
- Filled in rut on Uphill at Rocking Chair, and
- Imported 13 (17 yard) loads of dirt.

(3) Potential Work in 2017-2018 (assessed by Geary as he drives/walks the Manor looking for ways to improve the roads)

- Erosion repairs on Turtle/Rincon,
- Repair and realignment of drainage on Uphill between Wagon Wheel and Rocking Chair,
- Realignment of drainage and potential drainage structure at the bottom of Rincon,
- Retention basin at Doggie Trail and Old Vine,
- Repair of ruts on Rockhaven, Rocking Chair and Wagon Wheel, and
- He would like to find a heavy equipment operator to be on standby to do immediate repairs after a bad rainfall. He will talk with Sean Molina.

(4) Test Road Projects:

- We’re considering changing the grade of a portion of the steeper part of Uphill Rd to direct storm runoff to one side of the road instead of down the middle. This should prevent ruts from forming that impede travel. If it works, we’ll repeat the process in other areas. We’ve begun testing the use of small water retention berms to hold back the initial pulse of storm runoff before it reaches the roads, allowing it to soak into the desert instead of running down the road and causing erosion. Excess water will be released from small spillways. At our last road party we installed the first berm at Old Vine and Roadrunner.
- Water was diverted into an existing gully parallel to Vista Way and Wagon Wheel to reduce erosion on the two roads. As a result, the lower Vista Way and upper Wagon Wheel were in much better shape after heavy winter rains. With the permission of other property owners, we would like to extend the diversion farther down Wagon Wheel.

(5) Thank you goes out to:

- Will Harner and Jeff Bowers for dragging the roads.
- Randy Melton and Marsha Collins for their huge efforts to divert rainwater from Vista Way and Wagon Wheel, by personally utilizing and building a berm along an existing natural gully that runs across their property. Their “sweat equity” work reduced the amount of equipment operator time needed to complete the project, saving the Manor money.
- Anita and Jim Dobbs for allowing us to build a retention berm on the edge of their property at Old Vine and Roadrunner, and
- Dave Taylor thanked the Road Committee volunteers for their efforts. Ellen Jackman reiterated the focus on long-term plans not just emergency repairs to the roads.

General Discussion: Everyone agreed that the Road Parties are a great way to meet people in our neighborhood. Dave Taylor would like to volunteer to drag the roads when possible. Jack Perrodin let everyone know that the tire drag is located on Rocking Chair.

**Sign committee** – Geary Hund reported that Jack Perrodin after many years has resigned as the Sign Committee Chair. The members thanked him for his dedication to the Manor. Geary will now take over these duties and stated that the Sign Committee is now a sub-committee of the Road Committee. Members were in agreement that coordinating the Road Committee and Sign Committee is a good idea. Geary will be looking for someone to take the lead for the Sign Sub-Committee.

**Bylaws** – At the last Board meeting in January 2017, the Board discussed changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws were last updated in 2011. Proposed changes include:

- MOTION PASSED WITH NO CORRECTIONS
  - **Require re-approval by Board of Road Committee Chair’s \$1500 one-time discretionary road expenditure limit by the Board in the event the limit is reached.**
    - Change to Bylaws was read, motion was made to accept the change, another member seconded the motion, discussion was held, President called for a verbal vote (All those in favor, All those opposed), Motion passed with no corrections.
- MOTION PASSED WITH NO CORRECTIONS
  - **Add Road Committee Chair to elected Board.**
    - Change to Bylaws was read, motion was made to accept the change, another member seconded the motion, discussion was held, President called for a verbal vote (all those in favor, all those opposed), Motion passed with no corrections.
- MOTION PASSED WITH NO CORRECTIONS
  - **Road Committee Chair does not have a vote on road expenditures.**
    - Change to Bylaws was read, motion was made to accept the change, another member seconded the motion, discussion was held, President called for a verbal vote (all those in favor, all those opposed), Motion passed with no corrections.
- MOTION PASSED WITH NO CORRECTIONS
  - **Redefine Sign Committee as a sub-group of Road Committee.**
    - Change to Bylaws was read, motion was made to accept the change, another member seconded the motion, discussion was held, President called for a verbal vote (all those in favor, all those opposed), Motion passed with no corrections.
- PROPOSED CHANGE IS TABLED, AND NOW WITHDRAWN
  - **Allow Board to change Bylaws between annual general meetings by unanimous vote, subject to ratification by 2/3 members in attendance at the next annual general meeting.**
    - Change to Bylaws was read. Members felt like they needed more time before voting on the motion. This change to the Bylaws is tabled until the Board can further evaluate the issue. If needed, we can send the draft Bylaws out via email to members and call for a vote at that time.

## **New Business:**

**Membership Contributions** – Members discussed the contribution amount of \$50 per property owner. Some felt the need to increase this amount to allow adequate resources available for road repairs/preventive measures. Dan Stork reported that since the beginning of 2017, we have received 24 contributions of \$75 or more. Others have contributed as much as \$300. It was suggested that we send out an outreach letter just to Airbnb property owners seeking contributions. Members also suggested we send out a special Incident Outreach letter related to emergency funds needed for road repairs, if needed. Members agreed that we would keep the contribution level at \$50, \$75, \$100 or more to be more inclusive for those that cannot afford higher contributions.

**Traffic by West Entrance to Joshua Tree National Park** – Traffic by the West Entrance station continues to grow. In addition, visitors are driving into the Manor looking for a quicker way into the park or a way to jump in front of the line. Residents state that visitors are also leaving trash along the roadside, letting their dogs off leash as the cars are waiting in line, and that it is difficult for residents to access their homes from Quail Springs. We were informed that the new kiosk is scheduled to be built by 2019, though it was reported that park officials indicate that they are trying to move it up sooner. Members discussed the need for NO ACCESS SIGNS, PRIVATE ROAD SIGNS to be posted along Quail Springs.

**Off-Road Vehicles in the Manor** – Residents are seeing more off-road vehicles in the Manor. This is ILLEGAL according to county ordinance. Visitors are rude when told it is illegal to ride on our private roads and only drive away when informed that the Sheriff will be called. Members discussed the need for NO OHV SIGNS, NO ACCESS SIGNS, PRIVATE ROAD SIGNS to be posted at entrances to the Manor plus up by Old Vine and Doggie Trail.

**Website** – MMNA now has a website. Check it out at: [www.monumentmanorneighborhood.com](http://www.monumentmanorneighborhood.com). Linda was thanked for her work. Dave Taylor also mentioned that members should check out Nextdoor. It is a quick and responsive way to stay in touch with neighbors in the Manor.

**Vacation Rentals** – Members are concerned about the increase in vacation rentals in the Manor. Dan said that there is a draft proposal by the County regarding regulating vacation rentals. Members were asked to send their comments about this issue to Mark Lundquist at [Restomark51@gmail.com](mailto:Restomark51@gmail.com). We will post the draft proposal on the Manor website.

**Election Of Officers** – The meeting proceeded to the election of Officers. Upon nominations duly made and seconded, the following were elected:

**President** – Ellen Jackman  
**Treasurer** – Dan Stork

**Vice President** – Ron Bastrup  
**Roads Chair** – Geary Hund

**Secretary** – Linda Doyle

**Announcements** – No additional announcements from the members.

**Adjournment of meeting** – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.