

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2015

Board Members Present: Barb Gamelgard, John Laursen, Paul Leistner, Nancy Norby, Jim Smith, Laura Smith, Steve Stenberg, Stephanie Stewart, Bing Wong

Board Members Absent: Nadine Fiedler, Brian Mitchell, Kate Mitchell

Others Present: Josh Sorem, Dawn Sorem, Bruce Melzer, Robyn Urbach, Peter DeBelton, Amy Benjamin, Jeff Benjamin, Andrew Millard, Marta Millard, Sylvia Marks, Marg Stewart, Mike Shaver, Edward Hershey, Mike Whalen, Julie Rhodes, Dan Caccavano, Jenni Hanna, Ann Dodds, Roger Myers, Darlene Myers, Teresa Ulrich, Shelley Banfe, Marie Banfe, Amy Larson, Damian Barron, Cicely Barron, Midge Pierce, Gary Newkirk, Tommy Allen, Bob Bernstein, Jerry Shrall, Doug McCarne, Sara Genta, Gary Gorowski, Margaret Leach, Wayne Dietz, Debra Monzon, Randy Schlechter, Chris LeDax, Daniel Zawistowski, Cathy Kuehn, Stephanie Bowen, Craig Bowen, Elizabeth Taylor, James Taylor, Brian DeGraff, Bernard Raze, Gary Monzon, Rich Powers, Katy Podbielski, Krandek Podbielski, Catherine Tosswill, Rebecca Casanova, Stacey Goldstein, Sarah Slatham

Introductions: The meeting opened at 7:00pm with introductions led by Nancy Norby. The minutes from the May meeting were approved as amended on a motion by Jim Smith, seconded by John Laursen, and passed with an oral vote.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report was presented by treasurer Bing Wong. The balance is \$9,557.05.

Announcements: None.

Neighborhood Crime Issues: There was no Portland Police officer present.

SE Thorburn Street Traffic Calming: Debra Monzon, a Mount Tabor resident, presented information about unsafe conditions on SE Thorburn from SE Gilham to SE 62nd. She and residents in attendance described significant increases in traffic and speed along this dangerous stretch of road not designed for heavy vehicular transport and that features no shoulder or sidewalks. Debra asked MTNA to support and endorse the neighbors' petition to the City of Portland seeking permanent engineering modifications to improve safety. Paul Leistner offered to work with Debra and the neighbors and he made the motion to have MTNA support and endorse the petition. Bing Wong and John Laursen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Traffic Diverter at SE 52nd/Division - Status Update: Rich Newlands, a traffic official from the City of Portland, presented a review of the new 52nd Avenue bikeway traffic data from tests conducted by the City. While residents along 52nd were generally pleased with the closure of the street to northbound cars at Division, residents of adjacent streets of 51st, 53rd and 54th Avenues said they were absorbing increased traffic with frustrated drivers speeding on their streets. Residents challenged the traffic data as incomplete and flawed, with an example being that the tests lasted only days rather than months as neighbors expected.

Residents made the following suggestions for improving the traffic problems: further traffic calming on 51st, 53rd and 54th Avenues, more testing for better counts and speed assessment, arrow lights at the northbound 52nd left turn signal, a diverter at 50th and Lincoln, a curb extension on Division at 51st, a 4-way stop at 51st and Hawthorne, lane striping at 50th and Division, installation of Local Traffic Only signs on 51st and 53rd, bike boxes at Lincoln and 50th, and strategies to prevent trucks from using air brakes at 53rd and Sherman. MTNA asked that the City redo the tests accurately and as originally promised. Board member Paul Leistner will send a formal letter to the City with the retesting request along with neighbors' suggestions.

Comprehensive Plan Map Update: Marty Stockton, Portland Planning and Sustainability liaison, presented a review of draft recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan related to residential infill and mixed use zones. Examples of proposed changes in our neighborhood include a compromise for split designation (commercial/multi-dwelling) at Portland Nursery and a redesignation of Warner Pacific College from multi-dwelling to campus/institutional use. Marty also explained how developers are currently taking advantage of historic lots of record that are 25x100' plats which are filled with skinny houses.

Marty reminded citizens to provide input to the City because the Comprehensive Plan Map update is done only once per generation. A final plan will be recommended to City Council in late summer. The open public comment period is August through November of this year. Testimony can be written (include your name and address) and in person in front of City Council.

MTNA offered to re-establish their committee that met with Portland Nursery and work with Marty to bring solutions back to MTNA for consideration.

Marty would like to return to MTNA's September meeting to provide further updates.

Proposed Land Division at SE 60th and Salmon: A proposal for a flag lot to be split from a property on SE 60th was reviewed. Concerns included the proposal's lack of following code requirements for setbacks and flag lots. MTNA board member Paul Leistner motioned to support endorsement of honoring the standards for flag lots and observing setback requirements for this case and not endorsing the variances requested. Motion was seconded by Stephanie Stewart, who said she will write MTNA's letter of opposition to the City of Portland. The motion passed.

Coquine Cafe at SE 69th and Belmont - New owners of the former Songbird restaurant provided information about themselves and their new restaurant. Coquine will be a casual, counter service coffeeshop and lunch space by day and a full-service restaurant by night. Grand opening is July 16, with dinner service starting July 17, and coffeeshop/lunch service starting in August. They will close weekdays at 9pm and weekend at 10 pm.

Subdivision and Development of Land East of Marquis Care: Mark Desbrow of Green Light Development provided an update on the design changes for their project at SE 62nd and Yamhill. Previously Mark said the project would contain 9 to 15 lots but now it will be 15 to 17 lots. Also, Green Light said they eliminated their proposed green space in part due to Portland Bureau of Transportation's 15-foot width requirement for the proposed pedestrian connection through the site. Also, City of Portland required sidewalks at upper Yamhill which will necessitate removal of some mature trees.

Green Light asked for MTNA's support in perpetuity for their proposed public easement. MTNA said that further input from neighbors was needed before taking a position. Stephanie Stewart said she would connect with neighbors for input.

Land Use - Update on Appeal Process for Mt. Tabor Reservoir Disconnect: Stephanie Stewart and John Laursen provided an overview of the May 28 appeal hearing before City Council. New information was presented by the Water Bureau for a reduced number of days they are able to hold water in the reservoirs. MTNA and the Water Bureau were in disagreement about two conditions from the Historic Landmarks Commission's conditions for approval of the reservoir disconnection project.

City Council extended the public comment period to June 11. Commissioners asked MTNA and the Water Bureau to mediate a compromise for the conditions and bring it to the next City Council session on June 25 at 2:00pm.

SEUL: Paul Leistner gave the following updates. Kelly Fedderson at Southeast Uplift is working with a consultant to fix MTNA's website. The summer movie night at Warner Pacific is August 5 and they will be showing "The Lego Movie." The SEUL board will be reconstituting its land use and transportation committee. SEUL is participating in negotiations with the City on the move of R2D2, the homeless camp.

Friends of Mt Tabor Park: Bing Wong said they have a new website. The annual picnic will be August 11 at 6pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 15 at 7 PM at Mt Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont, (downstairs in the dining hall) with a social time starting 6:50 PM.

For more information, please visit www.mttaborpdx.org.