

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2019

Board Members Present: Cliff Cox, Nadine Fiedler, Robert Krotser II, John Laursen, Sam Noble, Nancy Norby, Cassandra Rosenthal, Jim Smith, Laura Smith, Stephanie Stewart, Bing Wong

Board Members Absent: Robin Beavers, Barb Gamelgard, Brian Mitchell, Mike Turaski

Others Present: Sharon Nobbe, David Petrozzi, Rich Dreasher, Marc LaPine, Lynn O'Keiley, Gretchen Lawton, Leah Fisher, Samuel Lawton, Kay Shepherd, Midge Pierce

Introductions & Minutes: The meeting opened with introductions led by Nancy Norby (as Mike Turaski was absent). Bing Wong made a motion to make one correction to the April meeting minutes as follows: the spelling Dembro was corrected to Dembrow in the Email Notices section of the minutes. The minutes from the April meeting were approved with the correction with the motion seconded by Nadine Fielder, and passed in favor with an oral vote.

Treasurer's Report: Bing Wong requested approvals for reimbursements of \$255.98 to Robert Krotser for expenses related to the neighborhood cleanup, \$7.40 to Bing Wong for parking for a meeting with Commission Fritz and \$13.80 to John Laursen for printing costs related to reservoir project activities. The motion to approve the reimbursements was by Nadine Fiedler, seconded by David Petrozzi, and passed in favor with an oral vote. The current grand total in MTNA's checking and savings accounts is \$11,264.93, which includes deposits from the neighborhood cleanup fees collected. Costs incurred for the cleanup, reimbursements from various agencies, and the final accounting for the joint MTNA/NTNA cleanup are still in process. Net proceeds from the joint neighborhoods' cleanup will be split between the two neighborhood associations.

Call for Announcements or Neighborhood Issues and Concerns: Rich Dreasher reminded attendees that the 2019 Paint the Town Green litter clean-up and graffiti removal event that KINK Radio is sponsoring in tandem with METRO will take place on June 1st. He said volunteer can go to the Solv Oregon website to sign up. The activity includes a morning snack and lunch for volunteers. The area that MTNA has been assigned to be cleaned up will be on SE 50th Avenue between Hawthorne and Division streets and maybe east above 50th on Division.

The Mt. Tabor Art Walk is May 18-19. Maps are available online at www.mttaborartwalk.com.

Sunday Parkways starts May 19 with a SE Portland bike route as the first event of the 2019 season. Find details at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/58929>.

Sam Lawton and his neighbors in attendance at the meeting expressed interest in finding out more information about how to approach the owner of the Dairy Queen on SE Division and SE 55th about the neighbors' concerns about the proposed expansion of the restaurant. Concerns include whether the

proposed expansion would bring increased car traffic along SE 55th and SE Lincoln, and would create pedestrian safety issues for Atkinson School students, and whether a traffic impact analysis has been done or is required. MTNA agreed to send a representative to a meeting that the neighbors set up with the owner.

Marc LaPine, a neighbor living near SE 54th and Lincoln, expressed concerns about a daycare operating in a home adjacent to his property that is generating noise daily. Sharon Nobbe offered to guide Marc in researching the property info online for zoning and applicable permits.

Board Elections: MTNA Secretary Laura Smith opened the 2019-2020 board elections with a list of some of the accomplishments of the 2018-2019 MTNA Board:

- 2019 Neighborhood Cleanup proceeds were double compared to 2018.
- Mt. Tabor Park Reservoir Preservation and History Projects are in progress.
- MTNA provided input on the lighting and multimodal pathway into Mt. Tabor Park from SE Division Street, as part of the Mt. Tabor Park Maintenance Yard Master Plan.
- MTNA donated to the Mt. Tabor Park Stewardship Fund to help exceed Friends of Mt. Tabor Park's fundraising goals.
- MTNA assisted neighbors near SE 74th and Alder in addressing a derelict property by helping them connect with the City.
- MTNA has been facilitating conversation with neighbors and PBOT regarding the diverter at SE Lincoln and 50th.

As an all-volunteer group who does these activities in their precious spare time, the 2018-2019 MTNA Board members received a round of applause for their service.

After ballots for the 2019-2020 term were distributed and collected, Leah Fisher from SE Uplift counted the votes. All 2018-2019 MTNA Board members were re-elected. They are: Robin Beavers, Cliff Cox, Nadine Fiedler, Barb Gamelgard, Robert Krotser II, John Laursen, Brian Mitchell, Sam Noble, Nancy Norby, Cassandra Rosenthal, Jim Smith, Laura Smith, Stephanie Stewart, Mike Turaski, and Bing Wong.

MTNA Outreach Discussion:

Nancy Norby is working on writing a history of MTNA for our website.

Cassandra Rosenthal did research on National Night Out which is officially August 6, 2019 but includes activities held August 2-11 and which need to be registered by July 27. Midge Pierce volunteered to talk with a contact at Western Seminary to ask if there is a venue opportunity there. A suggestion was made that this could be an opportunity for local musical talent to perform.

Just a reminder: An MTNA outreach committee was formed including the following neighborhood members: Cassandra Cox, Laura Smith, Dean Salvador, David Petrozzi, and Sharon Nobbe.

Stephanie Stewart suggested that this committee as well as other committees could meet once a month for a "working session" to give members a regular time and place to meet and get work done

together. She will send out a “doodle poll” to determine the best day/time that works and she will look for a venue.

Mt. Tabor Reservoirs History Project Update: Stephanie Stewart told attendees about the difficulties encountered during meetings with Portland Water Bureau (PWB) on this project. Changes in PWB staff assigned to the project and their lack of collaboration are discouraging, especially with their imposition of a 100-word limit on each of the reservoir history signs.

The Community Team of the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs History Project created Criteria and Guidelines for this interpretive program which outlines ways they believe the signs can be compelling and approachable, even acknowledging the negatives, while respecting the park and park users, in a way that is accessible to those with limited mobility and vision impairments, as well as non-English readers, and all in a fiscally responsible manner.

Stephanie made a call for action for neighbors to testify to City Council about supporting these criteria and guidelines from the Community Team of the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs History Project. There are three-minute standing spots available every Wednesday with sign-up that day. Testimony is best if it is educational rather than confrontational.

Neighborhood Cleanup debrief and next steps: The cleanup committee will meet on Wednesday, May 22 at Horse Brass Pub at 6:00pm to discuss what needs to be done to wrap up this year’s cleanup activities. So far, we’ve counted 18 volunteers, 25 cubic yards of yard debris (about 7.5 tons), 14 large appliances, 4,000 pounds of electronics, 66 pieces of furniture, 4 large trash containers, and 1 container of metal recycling. Robert Krotser made a motion for MTNA to make a \$250 donation to Mt. Tabor Middle School’s Principal’s Account for art supplies to re-paint the damaged artwork as a result of the large trucks driving the containers over it during the neighborhood cleanup. Sam Noble seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

There was discussion about finding another location for the cleanup in 2020, due to the problems using the space at Mt. Tabor Middle School and the fact that the paved lot is now being painted with artwork as a playground beautification project. One suggestion was to approach Western Seminary about their parking lot availability.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park report: Weed Warrior work party will take place on Saturday, May 25. There were additional work parties this past month with school groups.

Southeast Uplift news: Sam Noble reminded attendees that the Office of Civic and Community Life (OCCL) survey regarding the Code update project is available through May 19 on OCCL’s website: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/>.

MTNA Email Notices: Elisabeth Jones Art Center is hosting an open meeting for all people involved in Neighborhood Associations, on Sunday, May 19th at 2:00pm. The meeting is a preamble to the art

center's exhibition on July 2nd titled "Neighborhood Associations Rock!" which they are organizing to raise awareness of neighborhood associations' impact over the decades. For more information, go to www.elisabethjones.art or contact Sunny Bleckinger at (503) 286-4959.

The next meeting of the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association will be Wednesday, June 19 at 7:00pm at Mt Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont, with social time starting 6:50 PM.

Subcommittee Work Sessions, monthly: Some MTNA subcommittees, made up of board and non-board volunteers, have monthly work sessions scheduled for the next six months on these dates: July 18, Aug 22, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 12. Subcommittees will report their work at general board meetings, as needed, for interested neighbors. You are welcome to attend and listen to the conversations, however, we will not be taking feedback from neighbors during these work sessions. Location: Warner Pacific University campus, Christiansen Conference Room located in the A. F. Gray building. Time: 7-8:30 pm.

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