

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2016

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

Board Members Absent: Nadine Fiedler, Paul Leistner, Brian/Kate Mitchell, Stephanie Stewart

Others Present: Officer David McGarry, Laura Orr, Sam Noble, Midge Pierce, Margriet Hecht, Amade Raimando, Sally Stenson, Jim Torgeson, Tatiana Raimondo, Rick Sany

Introductions: The meeting opened with introductions led by Nancy Norby. The minutes from the January meeting were approved (with a correction by Bing Wong for the year-end 2015 bank account balance) on a motion by Steve Stenberg, seconded by Bing Wong, and passed with an oral vote.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report was presented by treasurer Bing Wong. The account balance at the end of January 2016 was \$7,665.05.

Neighborhood Crime Issues: Officer David McGarry reported there was an uptick in car prowls. He reminded residents to remove valuables from their cars, lock them, and encouraged the use of lighting in places where you keep your car because prowlers tend to avoid lighted areas.

Announcements: Board members John Laursen and Nancy Norby met with the owners of The Tanker and Sewick's bars, per the good neighbor agreement terms to meet every six months, to discuss issues at these two storefronts that may affect upper Hawthorne neighbors around SE 49th Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard. The Alhambra Theater will soon change from a concert hall to a vintage pinball and game venue. Sewick's property has been sold to a developer who plans to build a mixed-use project on that corner.

Aaron Brown, a representative from Fix Our Streets Portland, contacted MTNA via email to let us know they are looking for support to an upcoming ballot measure for a temporary gas tax to fund road improvements. For more information, go to www.fixourstreetsportland.com.

Land Use Update: Attendees were reminded about the Mt. Tabor Public Meeting on Local Traffic on Monday, February 29, being hosted by MTNA. The meeting is from 7:00-8:45pm in the downstairs dining hall at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont. Staff from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) will attend this special public meeting about transportation and traffic issues specific to our neighborhood. Learn about reporting traffic complaints and issues via a PBOT online tool, hear about issues our neighborhood has raised and projects with solutions already underway, in addition to finding out about funded long-range improvements currently in process and future plans not yet funded.

MTNA board members John Laursen and Stephanie Stewart recently met with the head of the Portland Water Bureau (PWB), Mike Stuhr, and PWB's chief engineer, Theresa Elliott, in one of the regularly occurring meetings for the Mt. Tabor Reservoir Restoration Project. PWB reiterated that they are committed to this project and have received approval to spend \$750,000 of the \$4 million that the Portland City Council agreed to spend on the restoration work needed.

At a separate meeting of MTNA board members and the project manager of the reservoir disconnect project, the re-opening of SE 61st Avenue and SE Lincoln Street after construction work stops in the evening was discussed. Covering the enormous holes each night takes a lot of time at the expense of the project. So MTNA board members weighed the competing concerns of local access versus cost and time lost to complete the project and agreed to have workers fence off the area and provide signage for bicyclists and walkers using that route. This solution will allow the project to be completed 30% sooner.

Another reminder: There are [hotlines for reservoir disconnect construction issues and updates](#). For online updates, go to: www.portlandoregon.gov > Bureaus > Portland Water Bureau > What we do > Construction Projects > Mt. Tabor Reservoir Disconnection Project. For human contact, call or email Terry Black, Sr. Community Outreach, 503-823-1168 or terry.black@portlandoregon.gov.

The lot at SE 60th and Belmont, which has been vacant for at least a couple decades, has experienced renewed activity related to development for the site. The owners have successfully lobbied City Council to amend the Comprehensive Plan designation to allow for a four-story mixed-use building on the property. MTNA thinks that the current proposed Comprehensive Plan designation for up to three stories is a better choice for that location especially in light of the traffic congestion issues at that corner. MTNA urges neighbors to write to the Portland City Council asking them to follow the Planning Bureau's recommendations (which MTNA supports) to maintain the three-story limit for that lot.

MTNA Website Update: Laura Orr announced a meeting with Katy Asher at the Southeast Uplift office (3534 SE Main St) on Tuesday, February 23, from 6:00-7:30pm to discuss website issues and volunteer opportunities. In the short term, a neighbor has volunteered to help with some needed website updates. Dawn Smallman maintains the MTNA Facebook page.

Disaster Preparedness: Girl Scout Troop 45502 members, Maxine and Charlotte Deibele, and parent Theresa Deibele gave an informative presentation on what you need after a disaster. They shared their survival kit contents and how those items can help after such an event.

SE Uplift News: This agenda item was postponed for the month.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park: Bing Wong announced two upcoming Weed Warrior trainings on February 20 and March 12 from 10:00am-12noon (lunch is included). For info: contact Stasia Honnold at fntp.weedwarriors@gmail.com.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park's annual meeting winter program will be held March 15 at 7:00pm at the Western Seminary at SE 55th Avenue and SE Hawthorne Boulevard. Doors open at 6:30pm and refreshments are provided. The featured speaker is Kevin Robinson, director of the Mt.

Tabor Adult Soapbox Derby, who will provide an entertaining presentation about the popular derby.

Approval for installation of hand rails for the grand staircase in Mt. Tabor Park has been given by the Portland Parks Bureau. The next step is for a City Council vote in June and the assigning of a project manager.

Long-time Friends of Mt. Tabor Park volunteer Mary Kinnick is stepping down from several of her duties. The MTNA board will take suggestions for appropriate recognition for Mary's contributions to Mt. Tabor Park and will communicate an interest in collaborating with FOMTP. One idea discussed was a bench installed in one of Mary's favorite places in the park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 16th at 7:00pm at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont (downstairs in the dining hall), with a social time starting at 6:50pm. For more information, please visit www.mttaborpdx.org.