

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2016

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

Board Members Absent: Kate Mitchell

Others Present: Officer David McGarry, Bryan Eichhorn, Laura Orr, Wayne Dietz, Tracy McLafferty, Katy Asher, Barbara Ryan-Baxter, Daniel Zawistowski, Christine LeDoux, Sam Noble, Gary Manougian, Midge Pierce, Margriet Hecht, Alissa Keny-Guyer, Emily Langston, Herc Silverstein, Vahid Brown

Introductions: The meeting opened with introductions led by Nancy Norby. The minutes from the November meeting were approved as written on a motion by Bing Wong, seconded by Brian Mitchell, and passed with an oral vote.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report was presented by treasurer Bing Wong. The balance at year-end 2015 was \$8,352.90.

Announcements: An article in the Portland Tribune announced a new development is being planned for the southwest corner of SE 50th Avenue and Division Street. Housing will be on the upper floors with a Green Zebra convenience store at street level.

John Laursen met with Commissioner Fish to discuss zoning changes that would affect Portland Nursery and the neighborhood, as well as a neighborhood request for refinement of the Upper Hawthorne Comprehensive Plan to a lower-intensity commercial zone so it will reflect the current transportation plan for the area. If you are interested in finding out more about Portland's 2035 Comprehensive Plan and zoning issues that affect the Mt. Tabor neighborhood, attend a meeting on Monday, February 29, from 7:30-8:00pm at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont.

Nancy Norby is working with the Water Bureau about access to the dog park on Mt. Tabor Park during the reservoir disconnection activity. As a 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.

Neighborhood Crime Issues: Officer David McGarry says things have been pretty quiet in our neighborhood but homelessness on SE 82nd has become a problem like it has in all areas of Portland.

Franklin High School Auction Sponsorship: Char Wilson, a Franklin High School parent and auction committee member, asked MTNA if they would sponsor this year's auction which will support arts activities. Paul Leistner made a motion to give a \$500 donation, it was seconded by Stephanie Stewart, and passed with an oral vote.

Tabor Trot: Matt Webber, Community Initiatives Manager for Donate Life Northwest (an eye, organ and tissue donation outreach organization), provided information about the family-friendly Tabor Trot which will take place in the park on May 28 this year. He assured neighbors that this activity and the organizers will abide by all noise and nuisance rules and welcomes any questions or concerns related to the event. For more info about Donate for Life Northwest and the Tabor Trot, go to donatelifenw.org.

MTNA Web Page Development: Laura Orr has volunteered to lead the effort to get MTNA's website back up and running. She has been in contact with other neighborhood associations and is working with Southeast Uplift to determine how to set up a sustainable system for keeping MTNA's website updated and functioning into the future. If you or anyone you know is interested in being a webmaster or helping with MTNA's web page development, please contact Laura Orr at (503)936-0159, Katy Asher at Southeast Uplift (503)232-0100 ext 319, or Paul Leistner at (503)232-3888.

Homeless Camps in Portland Neighborhoods: John Laursen led a discussion about the City of Portland's problem of homelessness, how it is affecting our neighborhoods, and what we might do about it. Two other neighborhood associations, Overlook and Mt. Scott/Arleta, have written letters to the Mayor and City Council, asking for specific actions which include requiring homeless camps to register with the city and provide the names of the homeless campers. Vahid Brown, an advocate for the homeless, said this is creating concerns among the homeless community, especially victims of domestic abuse and members of the LGBT community who fear further victimization if their location becomes public information. MTNA board member Stephanie Stewart made a motion for MTNA to support 1) efforts to create safe places for people to sleep, 2) the general intent of the letters of the Overlook and Mt. Scott/Arleta neighborhood associations to the mayor and city council, 3) neighborhood associations having a voice in the development of effective and appropriate policies and strategies to serve the needs of people who are un-housed in our community, and 4) the development of a specific, codified permit process with clear rules and expectations for the siting and management of tent encampments in our community. Brian Mitchell seconded the motion. An oral vote passed the motion with only one abstaining vote.

Housing Legislative Update: Oregon State Representative and Chair of Human Services and Housing, Allissa Keny-Guyer, gave an update on current housing legislation she is promoting which includes preservation of affordable housing, converting market rate housing into affordable housing with incentives for developers, increasing the number of shelters, raising document recording fees to increase revenue for emergency housing efforts, and crafting rent increase rules to protect renters. For more information, go to her website: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/keny-guyer/>

Y's Choice land purchase at SE 60th & Stark - Update: Paul Leistner provided info about the Portland Parks Bureau's decision to declare the property currently occupied by Y's Choice as

surplus. As a result, the Portland Housing Bureau stepped forward to acquire the property for development. Paul will communicate with the Housing Bureau to inform them of MTNA's support for mixed use development on the site to include Y's Choice and affordable housing.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park: Bing Wong shared a draft letter that Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP) will send to the Mayor and city commissioners about the city's lack of enforcement of the ordinance prohibiting camping in parks and the problems that could present to Mt. Tabor Park.

SE Uplift News: Metro's Powell-Division Transit Development Project has offered up two route options for transitioning between Powell and Division--a crossover that uses SE 50th and 52nd Avenues or one that uses SE 82nd Avenue. After a discussion at our January meeting, MTNA board member John Laursen made a motion to support the 82nd Avenue option because the 50th/52nd Avenue option is untenable. The motion was seconded by Bing Wong, and it was passed by an oral vote. Paul Leistner will take this message to SE Uplift who will provide the feedback to Metro.

The Mt. Tabor and North Tabor neighborhood associations have chosen April 30 for this year's neighborhood cleanup. Their co-hosted event will take place in the parking lot of Mt. Tabor Middle School.

The Thorburn safety project is moving along. Engineers have completed their analysis and suggestions to calm traffic include installing 10 or more speed cushions along Thorburn and also reducing speeds down to 25mph on Thorburn and 30mph on Burnside.

Cafe au Play, which is owned by SE Uplift, is closed due to losing their long-time volunteer who ran day-to-day operations. A community outreach visioning process is currently underway to determine the next stage in the life of this property.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 17th 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.