

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2015

Board Members Present: Barb Gamelgard, John Laursen, Brian/Kate Mitchell, Nancy Norby, Jim Smith, Steve Stenberg, Stephanie Stewart, Bing Wong

Board Members Absent: Nadine Fiedler, Paul Leistner

Others Present: Officer Gary Manougian, M. Hecht, Brent Charbonneau, Laura Smith, Susan Tompkins, Amy Benjamin, Bob Bernstein, Steve Bingold, Rick Sany, Jeff Benjamin, Radcliffe Dacanay, Heidi Beierle, Katy Asher, Steve Hassett, Midge Pierce, Katie Shrall, Rogers Myers, Darlene Myers, Nadine & Dave Cosen, Heather Abu Sneineh

Introductions: Association boundaries were reviewed. Nancy Norby led introductions. Minutes from April 15 were approved without amendments.

Treasurer's Report: Bank account balance is \$9,854.91. Bing Wong reported that there is no report total as yet for the recent neighborhood clean-up. \$5000 was collected, expenses and reimbursements need to be tallied. Net will then be split between the MTNA and North Tabor. Bing recommended that each NA donate \$50 to Mt. Tabor Middle School PTA.

Announcements: Kate Mitchell is taking a leave of absence but will remain the secretary of record for the City. Meanwhile, she raised concerns about how to handle a new system of notifications about alterations and additions that the City is now forwarding to the NA. She sought clarification on notification requirements and expressed concerns that board members lack the resources to make judgement calls about who to notify and when. Plus, as volunteers, board members simply lack the time to track down notify interested neighbors.

For now, the notifications will be forwarded to the google group listserve.

Midge Pierce indicated that she spoke with artists during the Art Walk who are interested in participating in an art fundraiser to support the reservoir. Follow up and a coordinator needed.

Neighborhood Crime: Gary Manougian said a new data system is not reporting crimes accurately so updated crime data was not available. He warned of a rash of package thefts from porches and said that thieves follow delivery trucks. Attendees suggested people collect packages from UPS, FedEx or Amazon Lockers.

The big news, however is that Officer Manougian is retiring after 38 years. He received a round of applause and well wishes.

Elections: Despite pleas for more neighbors to step up and volunteer to serve on the board, the slate of nominees was familiar:

- Nadine Fiedler, parks liaison
- Barb Gamelgard
- John Laursen - land use assistance
- Paul Leistner - SEUL
- Brian Mitchell - Land use co-chair and Kate Mitchell secretary of record
- Nancy Norby - facilitator
- Jim Smith - Division Design
- Steve Stenberg - Warner Pacific
- Stephanie Stewart - Land use co-chair
- Bing Wong - treasurer

Bing Wong moved to accept the slate by acclamation. Laura Web seconded the movement. The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting the slate as presented.

Shortly after the vote, Kate reiterated her plea for interim secretary help. (Midge Pierce is likewise unable to assume due to family responsibilities and caretaking.) Laura Smith stepped forward and was unanimously voted in as a new board member and interim secretary.

Powell Division Transit Development: Radcliffe Dacanay updated the group on the high capacity transportation plans for inner Powell to outer Division. Enhancements being planned for implementation by 2020 may include dedicated transit “ways” for buses only, traffic signal priorities and more amenities at bus stops. The buses will use Tilikum Crossing instead of Ross Island Bridge.

A potential crossover from Powell to Division at 50 and 52nd was of most concern to attendees. Dacanay said 82nd is the preferred route but the 50 and 52nd option is needed for comparison. June 1 is the next transit steering committee meeting. Concerned citizens were encouraged to attend.

Discussion also ensued about the Belmont Line, how crowded it is at peak hours and how it will tie in with other services. Dacanay said all SE lines were being reviewed as part of Metro’s Future Transit Action Plan.

Reservoirs: The City Hall hearing is still scheduled for May 28. Stephanie Stewart reviewed the history of the fight to preserve the integrity of the reservoirs. John Laursen urged citizens to attend to show support and yet be respectful of the process.

Stewart also sought and received reaffirmation of her fund-raising authority. John Laursen made a motion that her fund-raising authority be extended through the end of the year. It was so moved. Stewart also received approval to proceed with a state land use appeal (LUBA) if needed after the May 28 City Land Use hearing. She indicated that if that proceeds, it will likely

cost upwards of \$20K in legal fees. Current legal expenses originally estimated at \$7K are now close to \$9K. Fundraising has so far netted \$11K.

Other Land Use Issues: Stewart reported that changes to a pocket housing cluster project on Adventist property on Yamhill above 60th (for which the NA had initially provided a letter of interest) had morphed into more houses with less greenspace that would block view corridors and angered neighbors.

A lot-splitting proposal for **6912 SE Yamhill** was met with resistance by neighbors because the position of an existing house would not allow for a standard 36 foot width unless a variance was granted to allow the split closer to the existing structure. The City had advised the homeowner to solicit neighborhood input. Kate Mitchell suggested that neighbors meet with the homeowner to see if there is a compromise position and compile a synopsis for the City.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park: Bing Wong told the group to mark calendars for annual picnic on August w11. He also reported that 85 volunteers showed up for the last weed warrior revegetation event.

The concert series will resume every Tuesday in July.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 7 PM at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont, with social time starting at 6:50 PM.

For more information, please visit www.mttaborpdx.org