

## **Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**March 15, 2017**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Brian/Kate Mitchell, Sam Noble, Steve Stenberg

**Others Present:** Louise Miller, Stelios Viazis, Andrea Jean Krause, Wayne Dietz, Midge Pierce, Elissa Adair

**Introductions & Minutes:** The meeting opened with introductions led by Nancy Norby. The minutes from the February meeting were approved on a motion by Bing Wong, seconded by Jim Smith, and passed with an oral vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial report was presented by treasurer Bing Wong. The balance on March 14, 2017 was \$6,798.16. The \$84.00 annual fee for Wix for our website was paid this past month as well as the \$600 contribution for the 2017 Summer Concerts in the Parks sponsorship. A motion was made by John Laursen to reimburse Nancy Norby \$110.00 for cookies provided at MTNA meetings, the motion was seconded by Stephanie Stewart, and it passed with an oral vote.

**Neighborhood Crime Issues:** Because a Portland police officer did not attend the meeting, this agenda item was tabled for the month. Online crime reporting is on the City's website here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/>.

**Announcements:** A discussion about historic districts provided observations that there are strong opinions on both sides of the issue. Paul Leistner offered to call the (Oregon) State Historic Preservation Office and (Portland) Historic Landmarks Commission to drive through the Mt. Tabor neighborhood and assess whether the entire neighborhood or certain areas might qualify as a historic district.

The Division Transit Project is moving forward to serve Division (not Powell). General feelings among neighbors in attendance at tonight's meeting were that the project would not serve inner Division well because of current traffic issues there and that articulated buses had not worked in the past in Portland and would only compound current traffic problems and service delays. While SEUL has continued to oppose the project, MTNA has not taken an official position.

Portland United Against Hate is a community initiated partnership of community based organizations, neighborhood associations, concerned communities and the City of Portland, that

reports and tracks hateful acts and provides support and protection to combat oppression. Portland United Against Hate has asked MTNA to join them. After discussion, a motion was made by Stephanie Stewart for MTNA to endorse Portland United Against Hate, which was seconded by John Laursen, and passed with an oral vote. For more information about Portland United Against Hate, go to <http://nwnw.org/portland-united-against-hate/>

Elissa Adair, representing Donate Life Northwest (an eye and tissue donation nonprofit organization), announced that this year's third annual Tabor Trot will be held on Saturday, May 27, from 10:00am-12noon.

**MTNA Email notices:** Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson will meet with neighbors over coffee at Old School Coffee, 8101 SE Division, on Saturday, March 18.

There will be a Portland Parks town hall on how to spend \$20 million of the Parks Replacement Bond, at East Portland Community Center, 740 SE 106th Avenue, on Tuesday, March 21.

SE PDX Run Club meets at SE 65th and SE Foster and is looking for more runners. Contact them at FoPo Run Club on Facebook.

**Land Use Update:** At the Community Conversation meeting held on March 9 about future use for the Long Block area (between SE Harrison and Lincoln Street from SE 60th to SE 64th Avenue), some neighbors expressed concerns that its proposed uses for holding nursery plant stock and expanding the community garden would reduce the open space. However, others felt that these proposed uses would benefit the community as a whole by discouraging future sale of the property to commercial development.

The off-leash area in the park has been replanted.

The City Budget Office (CBO) has recommended not awarding the coming fiscal year's budget allocation (\$1 million of the \$4 million committed by City Council) for the Tabor Restoration project. MTNA fought hard for these funds to be used to repair the crumbling historic structures in Mt. Tabor Park which the City has not been maintaining for many years. MTNA will continue their efforts to work with the City to make sure promised repairs are completed.

**SE Uplift News:** A property management company (Habitate) is now actively engaged to find a temporary renter or business for the Tabor Commons/Cafe au Play space for the next two years while long-term plans are determined. A sample flyer was distributed.

SE Uplift has fiscal sponsorship for several MTNA projects, including the Gateway, Reservoir, Thorburn Safety, and a general MTNA fund. Paul Leistner made a motion to renew all four project fund sponsorships, Stephanie Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed with an oral vote.

This evening, Paul Leistner stepped down as the SE Uplift chair on the MTNA Board. However, a motion was made by Stephanie Stewart to appoint Paul as MTNA At-Large Member who will continue as MTNA liaison for the Tabor Commons project. The motion was seconded by John Laursen, and passed with an oral vote.

North Tabor Neighborhood Association has proposed a bike route around Mt. Tabor Park. A map of the proposed route was distributed.

MTNA will not hold a springtime neighborhood cleanup event, but we are considering a fall event. Further research is needed about finding ways to keep prohibited materials (like asbestos) out of the collection bins to avoid fines.

**Friends of Mt Tabor Park Update:** The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP) annual meeting took place on March 14, where Dennis Puetz (foot patrol coordinator) was awarded as Friend of the Year, Honorary Friends Membership went to Johannes Venghaus (senior park tech), and current board members were re-elected (Susan McCarthy, Martrese White, Laura Mason). Recent accomplishments of FMTP include funding the drinking fountain near the visitor center, split-rail fence above the road near the playground, and Weed Warrior coordinator and training. The annual FMTP picnic will be Tuesday, August 8, at Picnic Area A (Visitors Center, and all are welcome.

Funding of the Weed Warrior Stewardship from the Portland Bureaus of Environmental Services and Portland Parks ends June 30 when the Tabor to the River work ends. FMTP is looking for new funding sources to continue ongoing work to control invasive species.

Consider joining as an FMTP member for as little as \$15 for an annual fee. Members get a beautiful electronic newsletter and annual report. Check out the FMTP website for more information: [www.taborfriends.org](http://www.taborfriends.org).

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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

For more information, please visit [www.mttaborpdx.org](http://www.mttaborpdx.org).