

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2015

Board Members Present: Barb Gamelgard, Paul Leistner, Brian Mitchell, Kate Mitchell, Nancy Norby, Laura Smith, Jim Smith, Steve Stenberg, Bing Wong

Board Members Absent: Nadine Fiedler, John Laursen, Stephanie Stewart

Others Present: Officer David McGarry, Debra Monzon, Steve Bingold, Jonathan Pulvers, Elizabeth Morten, Cathy Kuehnl, Jim Pierce, Sara Ori, Jon Denney, Katy Asher, Sam Noble, Ron Beilstein

Introductions: The meeting opened with introductions led by Nancy Norby. The minutes from the September meeting were approved as written on a motion by Steve Stenberg, seconded by Jonathan Pulvers, and passed with an oral vote.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report was presented by treasurer Bing Wong. The balance is \$9,494.62. Communications reimbursement was received from SEUL during the past month. Sponsorship for the 2016 Concerts in the Park of \$600 was moved for approval by Bing and seconded by Paul Leistner, and passed with an oral vote.

Announcements: Two notifications from the City were received by MTNA this month: Notice of a home business (acupuncturist) at 6550 SE Morrison St., and notice of a demolition at 1127 SE 76th Avenue.

Debra Monzon provided an update from the Thorburn Street Safety Group. The City is still doing research on the issue and a new traffic count was done in August.

Jonathan Pulvers, who asked us last month if there was any interest in providing a forum for the neighborhood to hear political candidates, said he attended the most recent SEUL board meeting and discussed the idea there. SEUL suggested that Jonathan find out from MTNA what format they wanted and where it could be held. MTNA members liked the idea of opening statements by candidates followed by question-and-answer sessions. A possible location could be the Warner Pacific auditorium.

Amanda Fritz announced that she is giving her 2015 Spirit of Portland award to MTNA and the volunteers who worked on the reservoir negotiations. She was proud of what MTNA did and how they did it. Thank you Stephanie Stewart and John Laursen! The ceremony will be in City Hall on November 17 from 6:00-8:30pm.

Neighborhood Crime Issues: Officer David McGarry did not have much to report on crime in our neighborhood this past month but did solicit ideas for ways to make Portland Police as effective as they can with their reduced numbers. He reminded us that reporting crimes, no matter how small, is a good way for those statistics to help the Portland Police Bureau focus priorities.

Portland Nursery and the Comprehensive Plan Update: Sara Ori and Jon Denney from Portland Nursery along with MTNA board member Jim Smith led a discussion on the Comprehensive Plan update issues affecting Portland Nursery on SE Stark Street. MTNA supports Portland Nursery but has concerns that a change to all-commercial zoning could negatively impact the neighborhood in the future. Denney wants the zoning change because he feels that the current conditional use makes it difficult for the nursery to do improvements they want to do. MTNA continues to support the City of Portland's Planning staff recommendation for split zoning while supporting the continued success of Portland Nursery. Another meeting between Portland Nursery and MTNA will be scheduled some time in the coming month.

Tabor Commons Development Update (SE 62nd & Yamhill): Ethan Beck, Sarah Radelet, and Mark Desbrow shared changes in their development plans as a result of neighborhood input. Total number of units is now 12, common space has been increased, sidewalk will go around the large maple tree on SE Yamhill to save it, and there will be a pedestrian connection from Yamhill to Belmont providing a north route to Mt. Tabor Park. The pedestrian connection will be built to park trail standards but cannot be bike friendly nor ADA accessible because of the steep grade.

SEUL: Katy Asher told us that \$23,000 in Neighborhood Small Grants is available, and two free grant information workshops are being offered (October 26 at 6:30-8:30pm and November 14 at 10:00am-12noon). Go to www.seuplift.org/NSG for more info.

Paul Leistner provided an update on the property currently occupied by Y's Choice at SE 60th and Stark whose lease with the City will soon end. Because it is considered the City's surplus property, other city bureaus are given priority in developing it. Paul will find out which bureaus may be interested in this property.

Paul met with residents of Courtyard Plaza at SE 60th and Division about ways they can get involved in the neighborhood. They were particularly interested in traffic issues, especially the recently completed SE 67th Street crossing and the future SE 64th Street crossing.

MTNA may qualify as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This would allow MTNA to get donations directly instead of going through SEUL. There is an IRS EZ form and a \$400 first-time fee. Paul and Bing will explore this further.

Land Use Updates: Sarah Wright from City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability has offered to come to our November meeting to discuss zoning designations in the new Comprehensive Plan. Neighbors expressed interest and MTNA will follow

Stephanie Stewart and John Laursen have met twice with the Portland Water Bureau and so far things are proceeding smoothly. Michael Stuhr, the new director, was present at both meetings and has expressed his commitment to honoring the arrangement that we reached this summer with regard to restoring the reservoir structures and keeping them filled with water. Stephanie and John will continue to report to the MTNA at our monthly meetings.

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.

Friends of Mt Tabor Park: Bing Wong gave the following updates: Funding was approved for a split rail fence on the south slope of the children's play area, to help stop pedestrian and bicycle damage to that slope. Weed Warriors had a record turnout of 136 volunteers at their September 26 meeting which was due in part to the Nature Conservancy's sponsorship with free lunch, hats and shirts. Tar 'n Trail grossed \$3,400 in this annual fundraiser for Friends of Mt. Tabor Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th 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.