

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2021
Submitted by Brian Mitchell

Board Members Present: Nadine Fiedler, John Laursen, Sharon Nobbe, David Petrozzi, Jim Pierce, Stephanie Stewart, Bing Wong

Board Members Absent: Nancy Norby

Others Present: Allen Field, Midge Pierce, Nancy McDade, Donald MacGillivray, Katelyn Weakley

Introductions:

The meeting opened with introductions led by Stephanie Stewart. Due to an inability to contact the Board member in charge of writing the September meeting minutes, they have not been completed at this point and are unable to be discussed or approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The current bank balance is \$6,008.44. The current liabilities include monthly Zoom fees. South East Uplift (SEUL) has provided communication grant funds to cover the Zoom costs from January to September which is the end of the SEUL fiscal year. ,

Neighborhood Issues:

An artist has contacted MTNA about ideas they have to place artwork in Mt. Tabor park. It was agreed that he should be formally invited to discuss his ideas at a future meeting.

Allen Field announced that Heather Flint Chatto, a Board member of the Richmond Neighborhood Association, is hosting a "Historic Resources Lunch and Learn" on Zoom meeting at noon on October 28th. On November 3rd there is a Portland City Council meeting on this topic.

Stepahnie started a discussion about an Op-Ed written by Portland Commissioner Mingus Mapps in The Oregonian - <https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2021/09/opinion-more-police-expanded-alternatives-must-be-part-of-gun-violence-response.html> . The article discussed Portland Police and current gun violence in Portland. He wrote that the city of Portland must address rising gun violence. In the article he broadly outlined a four point plan to address the increased violence. In response to the letter the NA discussed if they should formally support the ideas he outlined in the article. A member brought up the conflict that exists between the Police Union and the Black Lives Matter movement. Another issue discussed was the current number of police officers and proposals to increase the number of officers. Multiple neighbors expressed that this is a nuanced situation

without simple solutions. The Street Response Program that was piloted in the Lents Neighborhood.

Neighbors also discussed other major citywide problems including inadequate mental health services and safe housing. Housing created through Metro bonds is beginning construction. Neighbors expressed concern that the city's widespread density of people without housing is much worse than other major cities across the country.

There was general agreement that the city has a major problem with gun violence. Members at the meeting expressed appreciation for Mingus Mapp's desire to seek a solution to address the problem. David Petrozzi made a motion that MTNA write a letter in support of Mingus's four response proposal. There were nine yes votes, zero no votes and two abstentions.

Midge Piece gave an overview of the City's proposed update to the Historic Resources Code Project (www.portland.gov/bps/hrcp). There will be an opportunity for public testimony about the proposal at the City Council meeting on November 3rd. There has already been public support and opposition to the proposal by significant groups/organizations. This division seems to mirror the discussions that happened with the City's Residential Infill Project. An aspect of the proposal that has garnered significant support is the inclusion of support of properties of value in the city's minority and underrepresented communities.

Land Use:

The property owner of 6134 E. Burnside has requested that the City delist the property on the city's Historic Resources registry. This could impact future development of the property and house.

A number of neighbors have contacted MTNA with a concern that the City is going to turn the Long Block portion of Mt. Tabor park into a large homeless camp/village. Bing stated that construction on the Maintenance Yard position of the park began October 18th. This required that plants/trees in pots be placed behind a fence on the long block.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park:

This portion of the minutes were written by Bing Wong.

Weed Warriors regular work parties on Oct. 30 and Nov. 27, 9 am at Visitor Center. City wide **No Ivy** work parties on Nov. 20.

The Nature Series walks continue. See taborfriends.org web site for details and registration.

Several "invasive" trees in the park have been marked for removal.

Mt. Tabor Maintenance Yard project started Oct.18. Funding from 2014 Parks Replacement Bond. South Tabor Neighborhood Association had advocated for a multimodal pathway at SE 64th and Division for many years before the bond election. See <https://www.portland.gov/parks/construction/mt-tabor-maintenance-yard-project> There is going to be a public art display as part of the update to the property. Historically this portion of the park was attempted to be sold to a private developer working with a former city employee. This scheme was uncovered by a neighbor who contacted the MTNA who worked with the city to stop the sale and ensure that it remained part of the officially designated park.

Reports of falls in the park. Both on PWB property. The bicycle accident where a wheel of a bike was caught in the grate near Reservoir #1 has resulted in a lawsuit. The gate at that location is closed with traffic cones and hazard tape in place. A message came to the friends about a person falling near tree id post #22. Bing investigated and found potholes and damage to the drain channel on the PWB access road just past the gate near the Lincoln Street access point. PWB has put in a repair proposal to repair the road and I sent the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Preservation project manager pictures of the area where the falls took place. Don't know when repairs will be made.

The FMTP fundraiser **Tar 'n' Trail** fun run took place after getting insurance from SEUL after much effort.

SEUL:

Jim Pierce, the neighborhood representative to SEUL, gave the report. There has been a major change in the leadership staff at SEUL. Nanci Champlin was hired as the new Executive Director. She said that she wants to "tone things down" at the next SEUL meeting on November 1st. There has been a significant proposal to change the bylaws of SEUL. The proposed update to the rules includes the removal of the statement "Neighborhood Association Directors may only be removed with the consent and approval of their neighborhood association." Jim Pierce sent a letter to SEUL in inquiry of the proposed change as he received two separate proposed bylaws changes in emails from members of SEUL. There was a very extensive discussion about the new ability for SEUL to remove neighborhood association Board members without input from the Neighborhood Association that they represent. Apparently non- NA Board members can be removed from the SEUL board without consultation from any other organization or individual. Much of the MTNA discussion centered on how bylaws changes are made at SEUL, notice timeframe (14 days vs. 30 or 45 days), which SEUL member organizations should have control over who is on the SEUL board (NA only, no groups or all groups). Another part of the proposed bylaws change was that they only required a two thirds majority vote by those present at the meeting. There is no minimum number of attendees to establish a vote. Jim pointed out that there have been some SEUL BOard meetings with only 10-11 members and it would be easy for someone to stack the deck with at-large attendees when there is a vote. The 14 day window is particularly troublesome for neighborhood associations which only formally

meet once per month. It was pointed out the SEUL was formed in support of volunteer neighborhood associations in Southeast Portland decades ago, not an organization independent of neighborhood association volunteer leadership. Stephanie Stewart made a motion which was seconded by Jim Pierce that John Laursen writes a letter that states MTNA opposes the proposed bylaws changes. The letter will also contain the recommendation that the bylaws update notice must be sent electronically at least 45 days in advance, all member organizations (not just NAs) have the ability to vote for and remove their Board representative at SEUL. The motion also included the ability for John to consult with other NAs while drafting the letter from MTNA. The extension of the member organization's control over their representative gives equitable power to all of the non- NA members. The motion included that Jim was to vote no to the Bylaws changes at the SEUL meeting and utilize the points in this motion and the letter in stating why MTNA opposes the SEUL bylaws modification. This was approved unanimously by the MTNA board.

Our next meeting will be November, 17th, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom. Please register in advance at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odeyurTlrHNf7p5Zu2O4yvrADnBn8gJ-h>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information, please visit www.mttaborpdx.org .