

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2015

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

Board Members Absent: John Laursen, Brian Mitchell, Kate Mitchell, Jim Smith

Others Present: Officer David McGarry, Steve Bingold, Margo Cantor, Midge Pierce, Jonathan Pulvers, Louis Fontenot Jr., Tode Oshin, Rick Sany

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

Treasurer's Report: The financial report was presented by treasurer Bing Wong. The balance is \$8,433.31. The MTNA 2015 Neighborhood Cleanup income/expenses report was presented by Bing, showing income of \$2,852.22. The report was moved for approval by Nadine Fiedler and seconded by Jonathan Pulvers.

Announcements: Nadine Fiedler led a discussion about recent problems with unauthorized amplified sound in Mt. Tabor Park. Since Dorie Stewart left the Parks Bureau, it appears that her replacement is not informing event organizers about amplified sound restrictions and requirements in Mt. Tabor Park. Paul Leistner will email Commissioner Amanda Fritz' office to find out who replaced Dorie, so Nadine can make contact with that person to bring them up to speed on the Mt. Tabor Park amplified sound restrictions and requirements.

The MTNA board offered up possible dates for the 2016 Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Cleanup which will again be a co-sponsored event with North Tabor Neighborhood Association. It was decided that April 30, 2016 will be the date of the next joint cleanup. Paul Leistner made the motion to approve that date, Nadine Fiedler seconded it, and it passed with an oral vote.

Movies in the Park at Warner Pacific was considered a success, so everyone agreed to do it again in 2016. The tentative date is August 6, 2016. The motion to approve this decision was made by Paul Leistner and seconded by Laura Smith.

Attendee Jonathan Pulvers asked if there was any interest in providing a forum for the neighborhood to hear political candidates stump for their runs for city or county offices. Paul Leistner will email Southeast Uplift to find out how this is done.

Neighborhood Crime Issues: Officer David McGarry gave an update on neighborhood crime issues which, as noted last month, were few in number. However, there were reports of gunfire at the top of Mt. Tabor in the last couple weeks. Officers investigating after midnight on one night of reported gunfire found shell cases on Mt. Tabor.

PDX Commons: Jim Swenson, founder of PDX Commons, and the architects from Works Partnership, presented their proposed cohousing project to be located at SE 43rd and Belmont. This property is currently occupied by the Good Food Here food cart pod. PDX Commons are 1, 2 and 3-bedroom condominiums ranging in price from \$350K-\$700K. Thirty-four households have shown interest in the 27 units which are all sold out. Though a setback of 11 feet is greater than required, the project will have it on all four sides of the property. There will be 24 parking spaces at ground level under the building along with bike parking. Groundbreaking is planned for December 2015 and completion is anticipated by December 2016.

Race to End Child Homelessness: Over 2,200 kids per night in Multnomah County are homeless. Paul Schroeder from New City Initiative provided information about their Race to End Child Homelessness which uses the proceeds for their efforts to aid homeless families. Their fundraising race event offers a family friendly 0.8 mile walk. It will be Saturday, October 31, during the morning hours. Paul asked MTNA to approve a noise variance for the amplified sound--a 20-piece pep band--to play at their event. Current requirements do not allow amplified sound before 12noon, but MTNA granted a variance for amplified sound between 10:00am-11:00am for their event. Mr. Schroeder plans to attend the MTNA meeting next month to get feedback. Nadine Fiedler will work with him to get the paperwork he needs to give to the Parks Bureau.

Portland Nursery and the Comprehensive Plan Update: Sara Ori from Portland Nursery was unable to attend our meeting as planned, so Paul Leistner gave an update on his meeting with Marty Stockton from City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. John Denney, owner of Portland Nursery, has hired a planning consultant who is aggressively lobbying City Council to rezone the nursery property as all commercial. While MTNA supports Portland Nursery, MTNA has concerns that all-commercial zoning will create the opportunity for the property to be sold later to a "big box" retail company which could build a larger facility and could cause bigger traffic issues than there are at that site now. Marty and the Planning staff recommend conditional use. Paul Leistner moved that MTNA support the Planning staff's recommendation for conditional use, Bing seconded the motion, one person abstained, and it was passed with an oral vote.

Land Use Updates: Paul Leistner told MTNA members that he will meet in October with Marty Stockton from City of Portland Planning and Development to discuss the Planning staff's recommendation to "downzone" on SE 50th Avenue between Division and Hawthorne. Downzoning reduces the size of future buildings. Also, at the meeting with Marty, they will examine new institutional zoning that will affect Warner Pacific.

Land use notices are currently going to MTNA board member Brian Mitchell's address. It was agreed that they should continue to be sent to that address until further discussion or notice.

Stephanie Stewart shared highlights from the first monthly meeting with Portland Water Bureau and Mike Stuhr to discuss initial spending priorities for monies to restore historic structures at Mt. Tabor Park reservoirs. At the meeting, it was announced that Fowler is the contractor chosen and contracted to do the disconnection work which will begin at the end of September. The first step is cutting the pipes, which will begin with Reservoir 1, then move to Reservoir 6, and then Reservoir 5.

As promised at last month's MTNA meeting, Stephanie provided information about 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.

Transportation Updates: Green bike boxes will be installed at SE 50th and Lincoln. Representative Alyssa Keny-Guyer offered to write a letter in support of MTNA's efforts with the Thorburn Street traffic calming issues.

Friends of Mt Tabor Park: Bing Wong gave the following updates: Twenty volunteers showed up for the September Weed Warriors meeting. The next meeting is October 31st from 9:00am until 12noon. Also, Parke Diem activities are planned in Mt. Tabor Park (as well as other parks around the city) on October 10 from 9:00am until 12noon--and you get a free t-shirt and goodie bag! For more information about volunteering, go to www.taborfriends.org. The annual Tar 'n Trail Run which directly benefits Friends of Mt. Tabor Park will be held on Sunday, October 11. MTNA voted to support this run with a motion by Paul Leistner, a second from Jonathan Pulvers, and a passing oral vote.

SEUL: Paul Leistner gave the following updates: Southeast Uplift has grants available for projects in the neighborhood. SEUL is helping MTNA with their website. If you'd like to volunteer to be MTNA's webmaster, please contact Southeast Uplift or MTNA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 21st 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.