

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2023

Facilitator: Dave Petrozzi

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

Board members present: Nadine Fiedler, Rob Galanakis, Paul Leistner, Brian Mitchell, Dave Petrozzi, Midge Pierce, Bing Wong

Other attendees: Susan Armstrong, Annette Breed, Nancy Chapin, Jane DeMarco, Jane Friesen, Kathleen Haley, Sgt. Leo Harris, Mary McWilliams, Laura Orr, Jim Pierce, Elsa Porter, Steve Wax, Jeff Wyatt

After introductions, the September minutes were approved unanimously. Bing Wong presented the treasurer's report. MTNA's bank balance is now \$7269.48. Ongoing expenses include Zoom \$12 monthly fees.

Portland Police East Precinct Report

Sgt. Leo Harris discussed the current state of East Precinct, which now is understaffed at 100 officers, down from 150 10 years ago. The recruiting process is being revamped, and training takes 18 months. He mentioned the crime statistics dashboard, which you can find at https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/portlandpolicebureau/viz/New_Monthly_Neighborhood/MonthlyOffenseTotals . This website allows you to pull up crime stats for the Mt. Tabor neighborhood. Sgt Harris' background encompasses 22 years on the force, including in the training division, and he's been in charge of the wellness program for four years.

Dave Petrozzi asked if he had success stories of citizens working with police. Sgt. Harris said he's trying to build trust through building relationships and education on both sides, and mentioned the importance of citizen academies and community advisory councils. He'd like more people to know they can have input on police policies. He sees NAs as great resources to build trust. He also asked if there is interest in ride-alongs, which are a good way to understand police.

Transition to New Form of Portland City Government

Jane DeMarco, one of 17 members of the City of Portland Government Transition Advisory Committee (www.portland.gov/transition/advisory), gave a slide presentation on Portland's transition to a new form of government. She's lived in Portland for 50 years and was a teacher, a principal, and director of the Lan Su Chinese Garden. Her presentation is summarized below.

- The role of the advisory committee is to ensure that implementation is done effectively, to maintain communication, and to advise the city on the transition plan.
- Differences from current form of government include
 - Ranked choice voting instead of voting for one person
 - 4 geographic districts instead of citywide election
 - 12 councilors instead of 4 commissioners and a mayor
 - City council sets policy, and the mayor manages the city with the help of a city administrator, instead of the mayor and council members managing city bureaus
- 58% of voters approved of the charter change
- Immediate changes include
 - Change in election methods due to ranked choice, and voter education
 - Changes in council operation, salaries, budgeting, City Hall facilities, code review revisions, city administrator recruitment

- She urges people to think about running for city council. November 24 will be the first election using the new districts and voting method
- Voter education includes candidate training and focuses on hard-to-reach voters
- New salaries are \$175,463 for mayor, \$168,758 for auditor, and \$133,207 for councilors
- City organization chart will be considered by city council on November 1
- The cost estimate for the transition ranges from \$4 million to \$5.9 million each year for three years. Ongoing annual cost estimates range from \$.9 million to \$8.7 million. One-time cost estimates include transition project administration and facilities
- City budget overall is \$6.81 billion, with 10% set aside as discretionary
- Website and monthly newsletter are at www.portland.gov/transition/updates . Email is transition@portlandoregon.gov

Q&A

Paul Leistner shared that Commissioner Dan Ryan's office clarified in an email dated October 27, 2023, that the box in the draft org chart under assistant city administrator labeled "community relations" would be relabeled "Office of Community and Civic Life" and that OCCL's current programs would remain intact.

Midge Pierce asked where the transition funding will come from. Jane said from taxes. Midge asked if we have to wait 10 years for an adjustment if we encounter problems, and Jane said we can ask for a change in one aspect, but not the whole arrangement. It would require a vote to change the entire new system.

Bing Wong commented that the new voting method eliminates the primary, and more people will vote. In ranked choice you don't have to vote for all 6 candidates. He also mentioned a budget discrepancy for staffing. Jane replied that that is still under discussion, and that councilors may possibly share staff members. Bing asked if the new councilors will have offices in their districts, and Jane replied that this is an ongoing discussion; issues are security and the need for councilors to work together in one location.

Communications

Paul Leistner talked about MTNA using Slack for internal communications. **Dave Petrozzi** said it's the gold standard for teamwork communication and is more efficient than email; Slack 101 can be found on YouTube. **Rob Galanakis** moved that MTNA try out Slack for a trial period to see if it works for us; Dave seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Paul Leistner has continued to research methods for hybrid meetings. OWL is currently out of stock, but he'll keep pursuing it. Zach Powers with the Cully NA has offered to help us do a test run.

Paul Leistner asked for ideas about what to add to the MTNA website. His ideas include an activities tab, major accomplishments, and more info on volunteer opportunities. He also asked if we should schedule a strategic policy retreat; **Midge Pierce** noted its importance, and Paul replied that we should keep thinking about it.

Quick Reports

- *Cascadia Action*: **Paul Leistner** said that Cascadia Action has asked MTNA to sign 11 letters, but there hasn't yet been enough time for MTNA to read them and vote.
- *Reservoir 6*: **Bing Wong** said the hiring of a contractor is pending. Steve Wax added that chief engineer Jodie Inman hopes that the work will be done and the reservoir filled by the end of the year.

- *City community safety program:* **Paul Leistner** said that the city offers a one-hour training, and he and **Midge Pierce** could also schedule a separate forum online.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

Bing Wong reported that chair Steve Law resigned due to time commitment to writing his book. Board member Lucy Voigt is stepping up to serve the remainder of Steve's term and will be confirmed at the next board meeting, November 13. Mount Tabor Tar N Trail run/walk and FMTP fundraiser is on October 29, starting at 9 a.m. The parks bureau informed FMTP that the revision of the tree map must be reviewed by the urban forestry office for approval, and that the foot patrol is not allowed to repair trail markers as it's union-represented employee work.