

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2024

Followed by Board Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2024

President: Paul Leistner

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

Board members present: Nadine Fiedler, Paul Leistner, Dave Petrozzi, Midge Pierce, Bing Wong, Brad Yazzolino

Other attendees: Nancy Chapin, Drew Flint, Lisa Kirby, Nikki Mandell, Laura Orr, Cathy Pearson, Katelyn Weakley

Announcements, Question, & Concerns

Midge Pierce asked if we want to invite Vincent and Sofia, the park rangers who didn't attend the June meeting, to the August meeting. The consensus was yes. Midge explained that she's framing her concerns as park safety and fire danger, not so much as noise. **Dave Petrozzi** thinks that should be broadened, and that we'd like to cement our relationship and open up to an ongoing conversation. **Paul Leistner** said that we want an understanding of what they do in relation to police and fire and the like. **Bing Wong** would like them to address parking in the neighborhood and inside the park.

Cathy Pearson is attending tonight's meeting on behalf of her mother, who lives at 53rd & Stark. The house behind that will be torn down and she would like to know what the developer, Aaron Greenberg, is planning to do. Paul Leistner will follow up with her.

MTNA Consent Agenda

The June minutes were approved unanimously. **Bing Wong** presented the treasurer's report: the balance is now \$7211.86. We received reimbursement from SEUL of \$120 for CT-12 filing, SOS Annual Report, and Articles of Amendment. MTNA's share of the funds from the joint cleanup with NTNA came to \$1,360.

MTNA Bylaws Amendment

Paul Leistner proposed changing the minimum number of board members from 10, as stated in the bylaws, to 3, the number required by state law. Nadine Fiedler moved to adopt the change, Brad Yazzolino seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Neighborhood Personal Safety Training

Midge Pierce reported that 12 people of diverse ages attended the in-person training, which focused on how to avoid confrontation. She talked about the current frustration about slow response from 911. **Paul Leistner** asked if we should also organize the same training on Zoom.

Adult Soapbox Derby Presentation

Drew Flint, a Soapbox Derby board member, reported on this year's upcoming event, its 25th anniversary, on Saturday, August 17, from 10 to 4. There will be the same vendors, 42 racers maximum, and a launch party on August 3 with a themed beer from Migration Brewing.

Bing Wong asked if they post on social media suggesting alternate forms of transportation to the event. Drew said they do so on Instagram and Facebook, along with XRay Radio. **Laura Orr** asked if they have a website with current info since not everyone uses social media. Drew replied that they don't have a webmaster right now but will bring it up with the board. Bing suggested a blurb in the SE Examiner.

Drew said they have an urgent need for 150 volunteers. **Katelyn Weakley** asked what the volunteer opportunities are, and he replied that they need beverage servers, merchandise sellers, bullhorn operators for safety, and a tow-back crew. People can sign up at volunteer@soapboxracer.org .

Brad Yazzolino asked if they notify or work with Parks. Drew said they do, and this year they will hire Venture Medics and have a tent.

Bing asked how long the shifts are for crowd control, and Drew said they are either a full or half day.

Community Organizing/Advocacy Project—Increasing Accessibility in Mt. Tabor Park

Paul Leistner reported that he and Cathy Kudlick from S. Tabor, a specialist in disability and accessibility issues, met with neighbors Kay and Ron Hall, who attended the MTNA June meeting, to talk about accessibility in the park. Paul also met with Johna Rosetto about her concerns about accessibility from Courtyard Plaza and with representatives from Warner Pacific College. Paul hopes that the other NAs near the park, schools, the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park, and other groups can work together on these issues and asked if the group supports this. Bing Wong and Dave Petrozzi voiced their agreement. Paul said that we should be aware of the disability rights movement and make sure they have a voice.

Candidate Forum

Paul Leistner said that other NAs are organizing a candidate forum and asked if the group thought that was a good idea. Nadine Fiedler and Nikki Mandell agreed that it is. Paul said that candidates have until August 27 to file. **Bing Wong** said that we need at least two forums, one for the District 3 city council race and one for the mayoral race.

Paul then displayed the letter that MTNA sent to the city about pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Dave Petrozzi noted that bicycle infrastructure is pivotal for the city and hopes the city can keep pace with its reputation. He admires that the letter is non-confrontational and talks about the effects of increased density, especially in terms of new developments. **Bing Wong**, a former bike commuter, said that a big issue is the poor maintenance of separate bike lanes.

Quick Updates

- Bing Wong reported that both cells of **Reservoir 6** are full and that the Water Bureau will monitor for leaks. There are new lights up around Reservoir 5. He also said that John Laursen is working on cleaning the plaques at the neighborhood gateway on 50th & Hawthorne, with help from Bing and Jan Caplener.
- Nancy Chapin reminded us of the September 21 **International Day of Peace** at the gateway's peace poles.
- Nikki Mandell said that the **Mt. Tabor Neighborhood History Project** has a meeting next week at the Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church. Brad Yazzolino has been reading old Oregonians and Oregon Journals online for local history mentions; he mentioned the forerunner of NAs, the Mt. Tabor Improvement Association, and a religious group that camped on Mt. Tabor in 1908 and raised a ruckus so that neighbors complained about noise. Paul Leistner said that Brad will be photographing National Historic Register properties in the neighborhood.
- Laura Orr said that a temporary location for holds pick-up while the **Belmont Library** is under construction will be on 36th & Hawthorne St. at the former Goodwill, to open in early September.
- Paul Leistner would like help with tracking down good utility poles for **Mt. Tabor neighborhood banners** to promote neighborhood identity. He also mentioned

opportunities for MTNA tabling at the Hawthorne Street Fair on August 25 and the Seventh Day Adventist Church Fun Day on September 15.

Reports

- Nancy Chapin noted that the **Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association** will have a happy hour on August 1, and they hold a cleanup every second Saturday.
- Nikki Mandell said the **Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub** holds 90% of the liquid fuel used statewide and 100% of the fuel used by the airport. 48 NAs and 33 community and faith groups signed on to a letter sent to elected officials in the city, county, and state that has brought attention to the problem and provoked legislation to make the hub safer; a bill has passed to require a risk assessment report. The airport will replace their tanks with seismically safe ones and move them to the airport, and Swan Island's Vigor Industries is taking down the largest tank.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

Bing Wong reported that FMTA discussed accessibility for park visitors. Board member Cathy Kudlick and the STNA secretary have backgrounds in ADA compliance and have started meeting with MTNA and community members to consider a joint accessibility committee for park access issues. Information gathering starts with collecting data from board members visiting the park and taking notice of challenges for those who are in a wheelchair and want to visit their favorite places. Not all places will ever be accessible to all. Next hybrid board meeting will be on Monday, July 22. Visit taborfriends.org for a schedule of guided nature walks.

MTNA BOARD MEETING

Board members present: Nadine Fiedler, Paul Leistner, Dave Petrozzi, Bing Wong, Brad Yazzolino

MTNA president **Paul Leistner** spoke of the need to schedule board meetings. MTNA has not separated the general membership from the board in meetings. Some NAs look for input from general members, and then the board makes a decision. Under state law as a nonprofit corporation, we're required to have the board in charge with a role separate from general members. Insurance companies want a board in charge to make responsible decisions. The city has asked NAs to make sure that the general membership is not voting on important issues. Only board members should vote on formal policies and speak on contentious topics. We need to think about this at our retreat.

Paul Leistner said that Johna Rosetto has asked to join the board. She lives in Courtyard Plaza and is a go-getter who is concerned about accessibility and issues concerning Courtyard Plaza. Nadine Fiedler moved to have Johna join the board, Brad Yazzolino seconded. After a discussion about how this would give more residents a voice, the motion was approved unanimously.

Paul Leistner discussed MTNA's response to the Mt. Tabor Dance Community's noise variance as something to think about. There were board questions about how we make decisions about noise and other event-related issues. Events are wonderful but can have impacts on the neighbors. Some do well and others are problematic; for instance, Soapbox Derby has made it work well. We must be clear that we support positive activities and say what we support by drafting a formal policy about our approach to events in Mt. Tabor Park. We want to talk about the character of Mt. Tabor Park as a natural sanctuary but we can't be nay-sayers. We must give specific examples of what success looks like and what are the concerns and pitfalls. We

must give guidance and work as a group.

Bing Wong agreed that we need good communications in dealing with noise variances; the dance community did change their stated end time from 9-9:30 to 8:30. Parks did not communicate well with them.

Dave Petrozzi said that we can help by noting in our mission statement that we strive for balance. Mt. Tabor is a quiet park and received a national award for that. So we can give guidance and work with groups that will work with us concerning what to avoid and what is successful. If event organizers come to us early we can cultivate a non-confrontational relationship. The dance group was amenable, and we could have suggested a silent disco or other win-win scenarios. We can work with people and Parks to prevent snowballing.

Paul Leistner added that NAs get in trouble if they just “don’t like stuff.” The Kenton NA worked well with its community concerning a women’s encampment, for example. We have to be specific about problems such as parking, litter, and noise and work together to talk about them. We have a history of what’s worked well and we can help people if they’re working with Parks.

Brad Yazzolino agrees that people might be reluctant to go to Parks about their event. He asked if we could post a notice on the park bulletin board near the crater that explains what MTNA prefers as a procedure for events in the park. **Bing** said that FMTP controls that board. Paul would like MTNA and FMTP to work together to have a joint policy statement. Bing said that Parks may get involved. **Dave** asked if the message could be something like “Are you planning an event in the park? Let us help you,” which would be better than posting rules or policies.

Nadine Fiedler said that we need to understand Parks’s policies about noise variances, which has changed to bypass NA input. It is also unclear what the park policy is: it used to state that there would be no amplified sound in the park after 5 p.m., which is why a variance was necessary if noise is produced later than that. **Paul Leistner** said he has spoken with the city noise control officer, Paul Van Orden. He says that no sound should come out of the park into the community, and if it will, the event needs a noise variance. He wants feedback from the community and has very practical concerns. **Brad** asked if we can encourage silent disco in the park.

Paul Leistner would like MTNA to map out who’s responsible, what works and doesn’t work, and what limits to set. He asked if the rules are being followed. The city noise officer agrees that 8:30 p.m. is the right ending time for events. **Dave** would like MTNA to make sure that we are re-inserted into the Parks process.

Paul Leistner recommends a board retreat this fall where we will forge a communication plan, maybe including a newsletter. There are 9,000 people in our neighborhood, with 300 people on the listserv, and a newsletter was effective in the past. **Bing** would like us to take a look again at committees we’ve had before to see where people might volunteer, and added that we need a SEUL liaison. **Paul** agrees that we are stronger and can achieve positive solutions when we connect with others such as schools, the business community, and communities such as Courtyard Plaza.