

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, July 19, 2023

Facilitator: Dave Petrozzi

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

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

Other attendees: Heather Flint Chatto, Allen Field, Laura Orr, Jim Pierce, Kerry Politzer, Ethan Scarl, Robyn Urbach

After introductions, the June minutes were approved unanimously. Bing Wong presented the treasurer's report. MTNA's bank balance is now \$7398.36. Income includes \$1,498.38 for our share of cleanup funds, shared with the North Tabor NA. Pending income includes SEUL reimbursement of \$70 for the CT-12 charitable activities form and the secretary of state filing. Expenses included a \$200 donation to Unity Church, which hosted the joint cleanup. Ongoing expenses include Zoom \$12 monthly fees.

Neighbor Announcements, Concerns, and Questions

Kerry Politzer raised concerns about a homeless camper at 51st & Hawthorne who is cooking with propane tanks and collecting garbage; her worries include the possibilities of rats and fire. She asked if there's a way to move people to shelters. Paul Leistner volunteered to work with Kerry to navigate the new rules about homeless camps. Midge Pierce said she's like to form a safety committee to address concerns and act as a squeaky wheel. Rob Galanakis suggested reporting this camp to PDX Reporter, including photos, and repeating if necessary.

Heather Flint Chatto, from the Sustainable Southeast Community Coalition, S2C2, would like MTNA to act in conjunction with S2C2 to get an event permit for an International Peace Day celebration on September 21. They would like to close Hawthorne St. from 50th to 51st, from 3 to 7 p.m. After discussion, Paul Leistner moved that MTNA support the event, John Laursen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Paul Leistner said that Pastor Katelyn Weakley invited MTNA to staff an information table at Seventh Day Adventist Church's Community Fun Day on September 17, and that we can also table at the Hawthorne Street Fair on August 27. Paul moved that we table at both events, Dave Petrozzi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Midge Pierce asked if MTNA still wants to pursue a possible forum about the city charter changes. Dave Petrozzi underscored the importance of citizen education on this change, but asked if this is a role for the NAs, or for the city. Midge would like to move forward on this but would like board approval. Bing Wong suggested that SEUL should host, since it affects a wide area of the southeast. Laura Orr suggested giving feedback to the transition committee. Paul Leistner is mostly concerned that the city has said that they'll stop funding neighborhood coalitions under the new district system, so that community engagement will be lost. The discussion continued without resolution as to the possibility of a forum.

Dave Petrozzi said he attended a meeting of the new Police Accountability Bureau, which will enforce disciplinary issues in the police department, and that this is a hot button issue.

Rob Galanakis talked about the librarian that was killed by a car near the Belmont Library and would like to do something to help the situation.

Hybrid Meeting Possibility

Allen Field said that the Richmond NA began using the OWL hybrid meeting technology in April. The camera needs to be no more than 10 feet from the participants, so it would require people at the in-person meeting to sit close together. The OWL now costs about \$890, and Allen has spoken with a tech person to help with some problems. He said that this has improved meeting participation. A discussion followed about the merits and drawbacks of this technology and meeting in person. Paul Leistner would like MTNA to do a test run of the OWL system. Allen said he can bring the system to us so we can test it, and John Laursen suggested a testing and exploration subgroup later in the fall. By assent, we agreed to explore this further.

Dumpster Day

Paul Leistner discussed the possibility of participating in Dumpster Day, an event sponsored and paid by the city. The city will drop off and pick up drop boxes for bulky items. This would not replace our annual cleanup and would take place between November and the spring. Several people asked if hazardous waste would be collected, and Paul will do more research on what would be accepted in addition to “large household” items, and get back to the group.

Endorsement of New District Maps

Dave Petrozzi introduced the topic of the city’s new proposed redistricting maps and asked if MTNA wants to endorse any of the three possibilities: Cedar, Alder, or Maple. The Mt. Tabor neighborhood is not broken up on the maps and stays allied with other historically close Southeast neighborhoods. Bing Wong mentioned that the new maps link some eastside neighborhoods with the west side, which would balance the population numbers. Paul Leistner thought that we do not need to say anything more since it doesn’t affect neighborhood boundaries. Midge Pierce said the bigger issue is cost and the geopolitical aspects, and anyone concerned should write to city council. Laura Orr had attended the independent district commission meeting and said that the majority of people there ended up favoring the Alder map. Dave said that we can table this issue for now.

Temporary Board Responsibilities

John Laursen talked about his upcoming two-month absence from MTNA meetings and how his responsibilities would be filled. The board discussed this and came up with solutions.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

Bing Wong reported that the next Weed Warrior work party will be Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m. to noon. Next FMTP board meeting will be on July 24.

