

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2023

Facilitator: Dave Petrozzi

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

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

Other attendees: Nancy Chapin, Rob Galanakis, Jessica Hardy, Elliott Kaplan, Nikki Mandel, Emily Matis, Mary McWilliams, Nancy Norby, Laura Orr, Midge Pierce, Isaac Ross, Maureen Sorrell, Stephanie Vetter, Tamra Walker, Katelyn Weakley

After introductions, the February minutes were approved unanimously. Bing Wong presented the treasurer's report. MTNA's bank balance is now \$5968.41. Ongoing expenses include Zoom monthly fees. The following balances are in the MTNA fiscal scholarship account at Southeast Uplift: general account, \$92.79; emergency prep, \$42; gateway, \$546; reservoirs \$3,092.39, previously \$5,583; Thorburn safety, \$2,069.11, previously \$4,312.37. Bing completed the 51-question renewal application.

Neighbor Announcements, Concerns, and Questions

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Midge Pierce reported on the Neighborhood Coalition Summit. Sixty NAs were represented, with over 200 attendees, a strong message that NAs are not going away, and that they care about their neighbors. Commissioner Dan Ryan was there, as well as TJ McHugh, the temporary director of the Office of Civic Life. There was a feeling among attendees that our voices are not being heard, and that there should be community input before the city does projects such as lamppost removal in the parks.

Elliott Kaplan spoke of his new brewery, TPK Brewing, in the old Tabor Bread building at 50th and Hawthorne. He plans to have craft beer and games there.

Sustainable Southeast Community Coalition (S2C2)

Nancy Chapin has organized this new nonprofit, aimed to serve the 5 neighborhoods and 3 business districts connected to Hawthorne. Their first project was the September Day of Peace, and they are planning an Earth Day cleanup and peace pole presentation on April 22. Other ideas for the group include a sustainability map of local businesses, already highlighting solar panels on the Safeway and the frame shop on 50th and Hawthorne. S2C2 is looking for a representative from each NA in its mission, including MTNA, and the represented business districts. The annual meeting is March 29, and they can accept board members at that meeting. Their next regular meeting is on March 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 at Gigantic Brewing.

Laura Orr mentioned that there are no names on the S2C2 website and wanted to know their bona fides. Nancy said that the current board members are Nancy Chapin, Roger Jones, Billy Woods, Alan Fields, and Heather Flint Chatto.

Nancy said that S2C2 is a 501C3, and that they are looking for fiscal sponsorship. Bing Wong asked if they would be at the Hawthorne Street Fair, and Nancy said yes, and that MTNA would

be welcome there.

Nancy said that bikers are asking for more signage on Hawthorne. Rob Galanakis responded that the Hawthorne Business Association didn't want bikeways and urges them to reconsider from a sustainability and safety standpoint and to get the bikeways in better shape.

Paul Leister expressed appreciation for S2C2 pulling us all together and will look to get involved. Dave Petrozzi also thanked Nancy.

Parks Bureau Plan to Remove Lampposts

John Laursen summarized the controversy so far: the parks bureau is removing all historic lampposts in several parks because a person who tied a hammock to a park lamppost was injured and sued the city. The 81 lampposts in Mt. Tabor Park are set to be removed, but John does not know how many have been removed so far. This makes the parks unsafe at night, so the parks bureau says they will impose a 10 p.m. curfew; John says that will not work.

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park sent a letter outlining the historic status of the park, which they thought might slow down the lamppost removal. John hopes that MTNA will respond to that letter.

The parks bureau claimed that this is a public safety issue, which John says is a knee-jerk reaction. There was a SEUL Zoom meeting on March 14 for NAs affected by the removals, but there was no action or organizing against the park bureau's decision.

Nikki Mandel talked about the city code that states that city agencies have to notify NAs if they act in a way that affects livability, and says the city is breaking the law. She also mentioned the danger to women in the dark parks at night.

John suggests that MTNA send a letter to the mayor and Commissioner Ryan, saying that we are unhappy with the decision and citing the code. People will be shocked when the lampposts are gone, and we should try to stop it.

Laura Orr mentioned the Historic Landmark Commission meeting about the issue, which she believes has a transcript and audio. The commission put parks on the spot.

Paul Leistner said that the city has ignored both 3.96 city code and the city's public involvement principles, which are binding. The city did not look at the possible impact of their actions and tried to defend it later.

John asked if we can go to an ombudsman if we do not get a positive response, and Paul said that was possible.

Midge Pierce underscored the urgency of action: posts have been removed in both Sellwood and Col. Summers Parks. She has reached out to TJ McHugh and wants us to act tonight.

Paul said there are procedures for complaints, but this is a political issue, and we must urgently address the concerns.

John said Commissioner Ryan is the right person to address about this and that we all should call him tomorrow. He is deeply concerned about the safety issue.

Rob Galanakis mentioned the big maintenance backlog in the parks and thinks political pressure is the best route. The parks bureau doesn't have the money to replace the posts.

Nikki says we should demand a pause of the post removal. She will work with others to put signage up in the park with contact info for the city so people can complain. She'll meet people in the park on Friday morning.

Midge wondered why the parks didn't put up signs telling people not to attach hammocks to

lampposts. She will work on press contact.

Dave and John discussed a letter from MTNA opposing the removals. John will draft a letter to the mayor and Commissioner Ryan asking to meet with them, over the board's signatures, and will pass on to the board for review. Dave moved to approve the letter writing, Jim Pierce seconded, approval was unanimous.

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