

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020

Board Members Present: Nadine Fiedler, Sam Noble, Nancy Norby, Stephanie Stewart, Bing Wong, Sharon Nobbe

Board Members Absent: Cliff Cox, Barb Gamelgard, John Laursen, Brian Mitchell, Cassandra Rosenthal

Others Present: Alice, Joseph Carter, Tom Thomas, Maggie Derk (PBOT), Mauricio Leclerk (PBOT), Commissioner Amanda Fritz

Introductions: Nadine Fiedler hosted the meeting via Zoom. The minutes from the August 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Nancy Norby, seconded by Stephanie Stewart passed with an oral vote (8 in favor, none opposed).

Treasurer's Report: No treasurer's report was presented at the meeting.

PBOT presentation: Maggie Derk and Mauricio Leclerk of the Portland Bureau of Transportation visited to present the proposal to reconfigure car lanes on Hawthorne. This proposal could result in significant changes to Hawthorne, including a reduction of car lanes.

You can learn more about this project here:

<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/planning/se-hawthorne-pave-and-paint>

You can give PBOT feedback about this proposal, or suggestions for improvements and alternatives here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HawthornePavePaint>

This project proposes changes to Hawthorne from 24th - 50th Avenues. No changes are proposed for 12th - 24th Avenues. This project also involves new curb ramps; construction will begin for those curb ramps next month and carry on until May 2021.

Questions and comments were taken from the meeting attendees. Some of those comments included:

- Hawthorne is too complicated for all of the modes that currently use it, and it won't be an easy place to bike even with these changes. The greenways were created near Hawthorne to offer a safer biking space, and to help reduce complications on Hawthorne.
- Please more carefully consider the work done in the lengthy community involvement process known as the Hawthorne Transportation plan.

- Reducing a street like Hawthorne down to 1 lane in each direction with a middle passing lane, as has been done on upper Hawthorne, creates inefficiencies and increases danger to pedestrians. It forces cars to idle inefficiently behind buses all the way up Hawthorne. This induces people to pass the bus in the center lane, which we know to be dangerous to pedestrians.
- As our climate has already changed, we will likely see more wildfires and more threats of mass evacuations which require the efficient flow of cars out of neighborhoods. The road system in our neighborhood has been squeezed down to such a degree already, we fear we cannot efficiently evacuate. Please don't squeeze our roads anymore.
- Did PBOT consider "Alternative 1" plus additional stop lights? This could calm traffic, move it efficiently, and also improve pedestrian crossing safety? A: No, stop lights are too expensive for this project's budget.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz presentation:

Commissioner Amanda Fritz visited to educate us about three ballot measures she and her colleagues have referred to the November ballot.

26-213 Parks levy

26-217 Police Oversight

26-219 Uses of Water Bureau Funds

Announcements:

Sam Noble reminded us John Laursen has identified that the neighborhood entryway needs mulch for the installation of the Peace Poles (happening Sept 21st). A motion made by Stephanie Stewart and seconded by Bing Wong to authorize John to spend MTNA funds from our dedicated entryway account, passed (8 in favor, none opposed).

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 21st at 7 PM, to be held electronically via Zoom.

For more information, please visit www.mttaborpdx.org.