

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2022

Facilitator: Dave Petrozzi

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

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

Other attendees: Midge Pierce, Katelyn Wheatley

After introductions, the October minutes were approved, with an amendment by Bing Wong concerning the treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report: *Assets:* Bing Wong reported a bank balance of \$5,865.67. *Liabilities:* Zoom fees from June 2022 onward. Reimbursements for expenses up to \$50 for the October 1 neighborhood meet-up are pending receipts from organizer Julie Scherr. \$200 was paid for barkdust from the Gateway Fiscal Sponsorship account (\$546) for the neighborhood entryway on 50th & Hawthorne in preparation for the International Day of Peace on September 21 pending payee information. Bing will send the SEUL expense form to John Laursen.

Announcements and Concerns

John Laursen gave an update on the reservoirs. The Water Bureau now has enough money to study both cells of Reservoir 6 with lidar tests to look for voids in the concrete. Work starts this month. Reservoir 5 has been drained because of a leakage; a membrane specialist will work on it, and refilling is expected in January.

Bing Wong reported that a poster on Nextdoor was going to organize a cleanup on the demolished DQ site on Division St. However, the owner said that they had just received permits for construction on a new DQ. Paul Leistner will follow up with Stephanie Stewart, who has been tracking neighbor concerns.

Paul Leistner said he had called Mt. Tabor Middle School about the possibility of staging the neighborhood cleanup there again. They replied that they needed to determine if that would harm the artwork on the parking lot surface. If that site will not be possible, Paul will explore other options. He is also looking for cleanup yard signs.

Midge Pierce stated that she had contacted fire investigator Jason Anderson about the arsonists in Mt. Tabor Park. He said that the charges had been dropped, but the investigation is ongoing. Midge will keep track of this story.

Dave Petrozzi expressed curiosity about the vacant Friends of Eagles building on 50th & Hawthorne. John Laursen said that the organization's charter had been revoked and the building was sold, but plans are unknown. Dave also said he'd like to send meeting notes to the SE Examiner from now on.

Midge Pierce asked if MTNA should have a planning retreat again. Paul Leistner agreed that it's a great idea, and said he'd been talking to other NAs about issues such as who we are and what issues we should pursue. There was then a discussion about the best date for such a retreat, with most people thinking about December or January. Midge will poll the board for ideas for a retreat. Paul said that the HAND NA and others found that an important part of their strategic process was determining who's in their neighborhood. He had met today with other NA

leaders, and found common interests in how to work with the new city government in terms of community engagement. It's an opportunity to tell our own story about the value of NAs, such as getting people together and mentoring new leaders. After a discussion, December 14 was determined to be a good date for the retreat. John Laursen will set up the Zoom for that meeting and for regular meetings for next year, and Paul will set an agenda. The retreat can also be posted on the listserv.

Communications

Paul reported on a previous informal communications meeting with him, John Laursen, Midge Pierce, Laura Orr, and Nadine Fiedler, and a separate meeting Laura and Paul had with Dave Weaver, vice chair of the Kerns NA and chair of the SE Uplift board. Dave Weaver likes the idea of NAs sharing ideas, both in SE and across the city, and has created a website, Neighborworks, for this function and has created other communication vehicles. Dave Petrozzi said that all board members should have known beforehand about any such meeting. Paul is trying to meet with other NA communications people to see what they're doing and what works for them. It's an evolving concept, exploring issues such as houselessness and transportation, and NA involvement. There is no real committee yet. John Laursen said there are many ways for NAs to support each other, and this is a moment to have vision and move forward.

We then discussed how faith groups might fit into this strategy. Pastor Katelyn Wheatley said she welcomes a partnership. Paul would like to include other kinds of groups as well, since connecting with others is strategically important. The discussion moved to different ways to communicate with neighbors, including newsletters and fliers with QR codes. The salient points are who we want to communicate with, what tools we have to do that, and how we can use those tools most effectively. Then we discussed listing and prioritizing all the communication venues we have used and can use, including the SE Examiner, social media, website, listservs, yard signs with QR codes, and then perhaps surveying neighbors to see which communication sources they use. Right now MTNA is not using all of them, and we have no webmaster right now. We will have to figure this out, as volunteers. Dave stated that we are rebooting the NA, thanks to Paul.

Possible Topics and Speakers for 2023

* Bing Wong suggested having a representative from the mayor's office to talk about what's ahead: how it will affect neighborhoods and what it will mean for community engagement. Related concerns include the reassignment of bureaus to City Council members, leadership of the Office of Community Life, confusion about what the next steps are and how and when we can get involved.

* Dave Petrozzi suggested inviting the new leader of the Office of Community Life, sometime in the first quarter of the year. Others also suggested inviting City Council members or their staffers.

* Paul Leistner suggested we include some big issues, such as safety, neighborhood history, how to research homes, and graffiti cleanup.

* Bing suggested a discussion about what was here before, and its history. Paul said he'd love to do a history booklet because knowing about Native origins and the racist past would be important.

* Katelyn Wheatley suggested a reprise of information about earthquake planning. Midge Pierce will try to get speakers, perhaps for February.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Report

Bing Wong reported that the next Weed Warrior work party will be on Saturday, November 26, 9 a.m.-noon. The Weed Warrior coordinator organized several work parties with middle school and high school groups. Participation in the Urban Nature Series increased after FMTP set up a Meet Up account. To register click on "Visit the Park, Urban Nature Series" at taborfriends.org. The native plants walk had about 25 participants. The FMTP board had a retreat on November 5, identified projects and priorities for the next three years, improved trail markers and signage and did a new tree identification brochure, did two concerts, explored a comedy show, and had a movie in the park. The board was disappointed with the news that the charges were dropped against the park arsonists because the DA did not present evidence to the grand jury.