

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2024

Facilitator: Paul Leistner

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

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

Other attendees: Nancy Chapin, Wynne Furth, Mary Lou Hennrich, Nikki Mandell, Rick Sany, Katelyn Weakley

After introductions, the November minutes were approved unanimously. Bing Wong presented the treasurer's report. MTNA's bank balance is now \$6830.76. Ongoing expenses include Zoom \$12 monthly fees. Bing asked for a third signatory on MTNA's Wells Fargo checking account. Paul Leistner volunteered, Bing so moved, Nikki Mandell seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Neighbor Announcements, Questions, and Concerns

Mary Lou Hennrich asked about the public hearing for the light replacements at Mt. Tabor Park and if MTNA had taken a stand on the issue. **Bing Wong** replied that the replacements look very much like the old light posts, and since the park and reservoirs are on the National Register of Historic Places, the replacements had to look historically appropriate.

Reservoir 6 Update

Bing Wong, who is on the reservoir preservation committee, reported that the repair work is in progress and should be finished by March, according to the water bureau. Enough funding has been secured for installation of historic lighting around reservoir 5.

Neighborhood Safety Training

Midge Pierce and **Paul Leistner** met with Jacob Rostoff of the city's community safety office. Midge hopes to have the first part of the training, focusing on personal safety, set for the end of February. That part will cover areas such as assertiveness and de-escalation. She's looking for a meeting venue that uses hybrid technology.

Political Candidate Requests to Attend Meetings

Rob Galanakis likes to hear from candidates but is not keen on inviting them to meetings. He would prefer that if they attend they introduce themselves. He mentioned that Roseway NA is having a candidate forum for District 3 City Council candidates; we should see if other NAs are doing the same and help get the word out.

Paul Leistner said that we can't take positions on candidates but can invite them.

Bing Wong mentioned that MTNA has had candidates, including Julia Brim-Edwards, attend meetings, but they were residents: campaigning is a different issue.

Midge Pierce said that Richmond NA is having a candidate at their meeting and asked Bing if an MTNA resident would get more time. He replied that neighborhood issues are more important.

Mary Lou Hennrich, an MTNA resident who is a candidate, says she's trying not to do electioneering but likes to speak at NA meetings. She attended another NA meeting—she went first, did a quick intro, and answered questions, and it worked well.

Nikki Mandell asked if we can have a Q&A with a candidate, and asked if SEUL can do a

forum. **Nancy Chapin** said that SEUL now covers the new City Council District 3: three NAs previously part of the CNN coalition area are included in District 3; three NAs, previously part of SE Uplift, are now included with District 4, which also includes most of the westside of Portland. **Paul Leistner** described how the Richmond NA had had a candidate visit and participants asked a lot of questions. He thinks maybe we should give candidates a limited time for an introduction and Q&A at an MTNA meeting.

Nadine Fiedler said she'll respond to candidate requests with this info.

Annual Neighborhood Clean-up

Paul Leistner would like MTNA to team up again with the North Tabor NA, which is part of the city's equity map, to do a spring clean-up, maybe in April. He moved that we do so, Bing Wong seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. **Nikki Mandell** asked if we could add shredding, and Paul said that Laura Orr had been looking into it.

Increasing MTNA Membership

Rob Galanakis would like a better understanding of the history and purpose of NAs, and asked if MTNA worked better when it was better attended. He plans to follow up and asks for people to email him or message through Slack.

Paul Leistner thinks this would be a great topic for the MTNA retreat. We need to see what issues are important to our community and how we can be helpful and visible; we can publicize volunteer opportunities, speakers, and fun events and the like.

Midge Pierce wants to know what the elements of success have been for MTNA, including the big issues of the park and the reservoirs. She asked if there are ways to build community around the damage in the park from the recent winter storms.

Mary Lou Hennrich asked if she can be helpful by handing out MTNA materials when she knocks on doors as a candidate this spring. She said that NAs were a big deal when they began, but now there are not many ways to let people know about them.

Paul mentioned that Midge Pierce and Stephanie Stewart have done MTNA flyers and wondered if we can revive or revise them, and that MTNA used to print a monthly newsletter that was delivered throughout the neighborhood. He then shared a screen about neighborhood identifiers, which he said are also important to get people excited about belonging to a neighborhood. Those identifiers included murals, monument signs, street sign caps, and utility pole banners. He is working on a guide about neighborhood identifiers and will get back to the group with ideas.

MTNA Retreat

Paul Leistner said that this would be a formal board meeting, with the public invited, in perhaps February or March. It would include a Zoom component. **Nancy Chapin** mentioned the Seminary Chapel as a good ADA-compliant venue. **Midge Pierce** would like to collect ideas for topics beforehand, which may include membership, identifiers, and tougher issues such as goals and parameters. **Paul** added as an issue how board members work together.

Communications

Feedback on Slack

Rob Galanakis said there's not enough activity yet on Slack, which was suggested as an alternative to email. **Paul Leistner** would like to talk about Slack at the MTNA retreat.

OWL and Hybrid Meeting Methods

Paul has been looking into OWL, but says the cheaper nonprofit version is still not available. He

said Zach of the Rose City NA may be able to help us figure out how to get one. **Nancy Chapin** said that SEUL has an OWL setup.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

Bing Wong gave a storm damage update: several trees have fallen within the park. Picnic area A shelter was destroyed by a direct hit from falling trees. The maintenance buildings and the visitor center are safe, as is the restroom. One of the three kiosk boards was destroyed. Friends will discuss with PP&R about raising funds to rebuild picnic area A and the information kiosk. The park is unsafe and people should visit by foot with caution. The visitor center has been closed with reopening scheduled Friday but may be longer. PP&R closed all the gates, locked bathrooms, and turned off water prior to the wind storm and freezing rain events.

The Friends have developed an information sheet with a QR code to a water bureau site for reservoir #6 repairs and refilling, posted at the visitor center. The anticipated dates are frequently shifting.

Next FMTP board meeting will be on January 22.

Announcements from Nancy Chapin, from HBBA

Hong Phat has purchased the Walmart store in Eastport Plaza. They will continue to operate their existing store as well.

A Father's Day event is planned for upper Hawthorne on June 15.

Every second Saturday is an HBBA clean-up, from 10 a.m. to noon, starting at Dairy Hill, and anyone may volunteer.

The Sustainable Southeast Community Coalition (S2C2) meets every third Wednesday at 9 a.m. They sponsor the Day of Peace, which is set for September 21.

Hawthorne Street Fair is set for August 28.