

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, May 17, 2023

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: Nancy Chapin, Rob Galanakis, Laura Orr, Midge Pierce, Maureen Sorrell

After introductions, the April minutes were approved unanimously. Bing Wong presented the treasurer's report. MTNA's bank balance is now \$5949.05. Expenses included a \$50 fee for the Oregon secretary of state report, and reimbursement to John Laursen for parking fees. Ongoing expenses include Zoom \$12 monthly fees.

Neighbor Announcements, Concerns, and Questions

Bing Wong alerted us to the sinkhole at 76th & Yamhill, on the bus route.

Paul Leistner reported that he had taken up Pastor Katelyn Weakley's offer to talk to her Seventh Day Adventist congregation about the neighborhood and MTNA, and praised her work in building bridges.

Dave Petrozzi requested a meeting of the communications committee.

Neighborhood Cleanup

Paul Leistner reported that the April cleanup, in partnership with the NTNA, was very successful, taking in more than \$3,000 in donations. Initial numbers indicate that they handled 271 visits and filled six giant drop boxes. They filled a 20-yard box with metal and received \$270 for it. 50% of the visitors were from the 97215 zip code, and 25% were from the 97213 zip code north of Burnside. 59% of visitors heard about the cleanup from lawn signs and 10% from word of mouth. Interaction with the Unity Church at Stark and 47th was great. Of the \$5,000 grant from Metro, some went to Unity Church, and some for the drop boxes. Bing Wong noted that the event was set up as a fiscal sponsorship with SEUL, and NTNA handed out a QR code for tax deductions, which go through SEUL. Paul spoke about the value of in-person interactions.

Proposed Amendment to MTNA Bylaws

Paul Leistner spoke last month about a bylaws change that would shift board officer selection to board members. General membership would still elect the MTNA board. He says it will be better for MTNA and how it functions collegially, giving decision-making power to the entire board, not just the officers. This issue comes to a vote tonight and would take effect immediately.

Bing Wong noted his concern that electing board officers in June, which has been proposed, might affect the report that is due to the secretary of state in June. Paul amended the proposal to reflect that officers would be chosen at the May annual meeting instead.

Jim Pierce asked for clarification on officers, and Paul said that the officers are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and SEUL liaison. Paul also said that a candidate must have a majority of votes to be elected to the board, and we have a choice to vote on individuals or to vote on the entire slate by acclamation.

Dave Petrozzi noted that these changes are due to the present situation, where the MTNA board is smaller than it used to be, resulting in fewer volunteers. With fewer board members, MTNA must parcel out responsibilities, and board members must be willing to share responsibilities that were once part of the president's job. Paul moved to adopt the bylaws change as amended, Dave seconded, and the proposal passed unanimously.

Board Elections

Paul Leistner discussed the value of board membership, including being able to participate in a direct democracy and community engagement. Board members can put in much time as they wish, and the association is not bureaucratic. It's a gateway to learning how to connect with others and amplify your voice. He's experienced great personal growth since joining the MTNA board.

Dave Petrozzi added that MTNA does practical and tangible good such as helping neighbors get speed bumps and dealing with safety issues.

Jim Pierce asked if Midge Pierce would join the board. After much praise of Midge and discussion, she decided in favor of joining the board.

Dave moved that we vote for the board slate by acclamation, board members being Nadine Fiedler, Rob Galanakis, John Laursen, Paul Leistner, Brian Mitchell, Dave Petrozzi, and Bing Wong. The motion passed unanimously.

The officers were then voted on unanimously: Bing Wong as treasurer, and Nadine Fiedler as secretary. Midge Pierce was then appointed to a board position.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

The next Weed Warrior work party will be Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m. to noon. The FMTP is in an ongoing process of renewing the lease for the visitor center and the Weed Warrior and foot patrol storage rooms. The next FMTP board meeting will be on May 22.

Mt. Tabor Park Lamppost Removal and Reservoirs Update

John Laursen had attended the parks bureau public meeting tonight, which was recorded and which MTNA can make available. He said there was good news, in that the bureau is approaching the lamppost replacement more thoughtfully. Now the Mt. Tabor posts will not be removed without a review from the Historic Landmarks Commission, and posts will only be removed when a replacement is available. John is no longer concerned about the quality of the replacement lampposts, whose criteria included durability of 50 to 100 years.

The replacements are very similar to the present posts and are adjusted for warmer and more efficient LED lights, as well as being responsive to dark sky and wildlife concerns.

There was discussion about the process during the decision to replace the posts so hastily. The parks bureau was in violation of the city's community outreach standard and of the agreement made 12 years ago in mediation with MTNA; the bureau is now aware of that. Commissioner Ryan was previously not interested in community engagement but is now trying to engage.

John mentioned that Nancy Chapin was instrumental in pushing back on the original replacement plans with neighborhood groups.

John reported that the water bureau is still waiting for the analysis of the damage to Reservoir 6 and the cost of repairs, which will enable the reservoir to hold water. He asked chief water

bureau engineer Jody Inman to attend a future MTNA meeting. He fears that there won't be any city money allocated for repairs, although the city is bound by agreement with MTNA to do so.

Midge Pierce also attended the parks bureau meeting, where she raised safety concerns, including the dance parties in the park. She asked if MTNA would want to invite Todd Lofgren, deputy director of Portland Parks and Recreation, to a meeting.

Bing Wong thinks that reservoir repair may take another year, since the budget vote is in June. He attended a Sunday Parkways event and spoke to a park ranger about activities in the park. The ranger said that any action is complaint driven, so people should call if they don't like what's going on in the park. Right now the parks bureau has no enforcement power but is asking for authority to write citations; all they can do now is ask and inform.

Dave said that the collaboration between NAs and the city about the lampposts is a great success, working together to produce effective change. He urged that this success be noted on the MTNA website.

Process for Inviting Speakers to MTNA Meetings

Midge Pierce said that we must understand the park's safety issues and would like a meeting to take place in collaboration with FMTP. Dave Petrozzi said this raised the question about the procedure for inviting guests to the meetings: do we empower Midge to do this on her own, or do we discuss the possibilities first and then inform Midge?

Paul Leistner thought it would be good to have the board involved. We get many requests from people to speak at our meetings, and not all are what who we'd like to hear from

Bing Wong said that if an issue affects several neighborhoods, we should coordinate with other NAs. He said that the MTNA communication committee can prioritize requests, but Nadine Fiedler pointed out that the communication committee is a temporary body convened only to work on present communication issues.

John Laursen brought up the idea of having a forum about park rangers, safety and arson in the park, and the like, and asked if this should be a joint meeting with South Tabor NA and FMTP.

Dave said that the speaker coordinator should be in communication with the board, which would mean that Midge would put speaker requests before the board before she invites them.

Midge noted that recent speaker requests have come through MTNA email, and it takes work to schedule them. The proposed safety meeting should be regional and will take coordination to happen later in the summer. Nikki Mandel has been invited to speak in June about the Critical Energy Infrastructure Project, as well as a speaker on solar energy. But Midge said that the June meeting agenda looks big, so we may have to reconsider speakers.