

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2022

Submitted by Jim Pierce

Members Present: David Petrozzi, Jim Pierce, John Laursen, Nadine Fiedler, Bing Wong

Absent: Stephanie Stewart, Sharon Nobbe, Nancy Norby, Brian Mitchell

Others Present: Bill & Ginny Allen, Midge Pierce, Kerry Politzer, Debra Monzon, Paul Leistner, Steven & Kathleen Wax-Haley, Mo Klein, Katelyn Weakley,

Treasurer's Report: Bing reported on a notice from SE Uplift regarding potential financial charges on MTNA in exchange for holding the NA's accounts under SEUL's 501C-3 umbrella. SEUL is facing a challenging budget process with flat or declining budgets. The five accounts SEUL holds for MTNA are:

- Emergency preparedness
- Hawthorne Gateway
- Mt. Tabor Reservoirs
- Thorburn Safety
- General Account

Given that most of the accounts have little money in them (\$43 in Emergency, for instance) and fund-raising for these accounts is inactive, Laursen proposed that they be consolidated into a single account, held solely by MTNA. Wong indicated these are currently not MTNA registered accounts. Fiedler suggested revisiting the issue next month after SEUL budget process is complete.

Announcements:

- A new Farmer's Market is planned for 34th and Powell.
- 523 SE 53rd is a new rental
- Thorburn Safety efforts have been successful: Debra Monzon reported on improvements that include Thorburn's traffic calming speed bumps and marked crossings at Stark and 62nd. Funds designated for these improvements came from Thorburn neighbor donations. With \$4,300 left in the fund, Monzon said the next project might be safety improvements at Thorburn and Pine. If that project is too expensive, additional calming measures such as calming planters along Thorburn might be next.
- MTNA members applauded the Thorburn Safety initiative as a positive example of how concerted resident efforts can reap positive results.

Concerns:

- Residents of SE 51st at Hawthorne reported safety concerns about a car caravan with propane tanks and large, portable generators that allegedly set an open fire along the street, harassed residents and engaged in drug dealing. They also reported that a State Farm employee was unable to get out of an employee parking area because of caravan blockage.

- The group noted that the caravan has since moved to 57th Ave. by the Seminary (where residents later reported similar concerns).
- Bing Wong reported on two car fires adjacent to Mt. Tabor.
- Discussion ensued about what options exist for both the housed and unhoused. Midge Pierce volunteered to put a resource list together and asked others to contribute suggestions. The work-in-progress resource list is included with the minutes as an addendum.

Empty Reservoir:

The massive, dual basins at the bottom of Mt. Tabor Park have been empty for months. John Laursen reported that the Portland Water Bureau is in violation of a City resolution to keep the basins filled at historic levels. The cells are empty because of repair work. Laursen says the MTNA reservoir task force seeks to expedite engineering on fixes and raise awareness that PWB is in violation of the Resolution agreed upon when the reservoirs were decommissioned. The task force seeks PWB photos to assess damages and costs as well as cessation of PWB fear-mongering about the basins's potential dangers. Laursen says PWB knows that keeping water in the basins is the most cost effective way to keep them safe and prevent cracks that exacerbate problems. He will report back next month after further meetings.

Air Quality Action Committee - Mo Klein keeps MTNA abreast of environmental issues. She reports that letters from an action group with which she is affiliated will be sent to businesses to clean up emissions that violate clean air practices. None of the businesses are in Mt. Tabor.

Friends of the Park - Bing Wong reported on hiring for a coordinator "stewardess" and updated the group on questions about Maintenance Yard work underway. Members with institutional memory confirmed that the long blocks are part of Mt. Tabor Park which the City can not sell off, but can use to store plant cans. He added that work parties started in January on the last Saturday of the month. Board member elections will be held in March.

SE Uplift Report - Jim Pierce reported that SEUL's Executive Committee will be bringing board members a vote on whether or not to record Zoom meetings. A staff report has recommended against video recordings claiming they take extensive minutes and need to protect the privacy of people fearful of having their identities exposed.

During discussion, it was pointed out that since SEUL gets most of its funding from the Office of Community and Civic Life (formerly Office of Neighborhood Involvement) it should follow existing ONI meeting Standards. The downside of not recording is that nuance, tone and specific details may not be captured by minutes. Concerns were also raised about leadership locking individuals out of participation and how lack of transparency increases distrust and can facilitate misrepresentations.

Paul Leistner, a former Civic Life employee, said that recording is actually not required, but if SEUL chooses to record, they can not destroy records which should be available to the public upon request. Also, anyone attending a meeting has the right to record it.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2022 @ 7pm via Zoom:

For newsletters, minutes, meeting links, newsletters, blogs and beautiful art go to:

www.mttaborpdx.org

The Addendum on the following page is a work in progress and is not intended to be a definitive list. MTNA members are encouraged to add Resources they may have.

ADDENDUM: HOUSELESS REPORTING & RESOURCES:

Generic Numbers:

- One Point of Contact via www.PDXreporter.org and calling 311
- www.portlandoregon.gov/campsites
- police non-emergency (**503-823-3333**),
- Fire department (**503-823-3700**) and
- Parking enforcement division. (**503-823-5195**).

Other:

- Suspicious activity reports can be filed @ <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police>
- Dan Ryan is in charge of the Housing Bureau:
CommssonerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov, [503-823-2375](tel:503-823-2375),
- To send a message to the Mayor's office visit the form page at <https://www.portland.gov/help/contact-elected-official>. You can also email mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov. or call at **503-823-4120**.
- Metro is another point of contact:
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/supportive-housing-services>
- <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/regional-leadership/contact-metro>, 503-797-1700

RESOURCES FOR HOUSELESS:

- Homeless and Urban Camping Reduction Program under director Jonny Lewis.
<https://www.portland.gov/impactreduction/campsite-assessment>.
- Shower and hygiene services (Harbor of Hope and Hygiene4All),
- Housing assistance (Home For Everyone),
- Meals (Beacon Village PDX)
- "WeShine."working to create micro-villages in Portland neighborhoods to support people who are living unhoused to transition into micro-villages: (<https://weshinepdx.org/>)

Of Note: Jonny Lewis, the campsite assessment director, spoke at a Richmond Neighborhood Association meeting last fall. He said the city does assessments, outreach to connect people with services and maps out next steps based on complaints and problems. He encouraged frequent calls.

Pre-COVID-19, the city removed 40-60 sites per week with 24-48 hours response time. With COVID-19, the CDC recommended not removing camps. Since July 2020, camp removals resumed, with three to 10 removals per week and one to 14 days response time. He said his program is seeking more funds from the city and working on new data dashboard.

