

March 2021 MTNA Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter offers information about civic issues, and has some overlap with the conversations that happen at our monthly community meeting.

Community news

Homeless camps in public parks –

At the March meeting most attendees expressed alarm that City Council is poised to approve an Open Space Code change that will allow homeless camps in public parks. We voted to request City Council extends the education and comment period for this proposal, as much confusion remains. We also voted to sign a letter written by informed park advocates, objecting to camps in parks in any case other than a natural disaster.

This is an excerpt from our letter to Council:

“At our March meeting, few neighbors were aware of or understood the code changes proposed. Specific confusion arose over the use of City parks for temporary camps or shelters. A major concern is that fire, trash, human waste and safety hazards could ensue.

Other questions about the proposal include:

1. How will the project be managed to the high standard proposed?
2. What safety measures will be implemented to protect children and other park users from the erratic behaviors of those among the houseless that are mentally ill or intoxicated? Will City staff verify no residents are sex offenders?
3. What measures will be taken to stop unsanctioned campers on the sidewalks and front stoops of the businesses and residences near these sanctioned camps?
4. What services will be provided to the houseless to help them into more dignified housing?

The houseless crisis is tragic and heartbreaking, and it requires immediate solutions that are smarter and more dignified than this. Taxpayers have generously funded city parks with the intention that they be green spaces open to *everyone* in need of relief from the dense city. Turning parks into residences allows highly intense use by one group that will be present 24 hours a day, and that does not sound like sharing to us. Ask taxpayers to fund real housing projects, and we feel certain they will give generously also to that need. But do not break trust and use our park funding to create a feeble, fractional-solution to the housing crisis.”

This code change is rolled into a host of recommendations made in the Shelter To Housing Continuum project. Read the City’s page on this project here:

<https://www.portlandmaps.com/bps/mapapp/proposals/#/s2hc>

Read the letter from park advocates, which MTNA signed, here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vr-oHGHPiLayXyWOKNSdDEfQQByHGHcf/view?usp=sharing>

The April meeting will be on Zoom at 7pm, on April 21 – REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdumtqjMpE9NC0HnYMCh1P5GvwmlVXKYi>

Useful links for Covid-19 repercussions

Salem Marion County fairgrounds vaccine appointments - This Oregonian article makes it clear that people from our area are expected and welcomed at vaccine appointments at the Salem Marion County Fairground's mass vaccination site. The fairgrounds site has availability for shots this week, is now taking even Group 6 eligibility, and you can book appointments online here:

<https://www.salemhealth.org/covid-19/covid-vaccine?fbclid=IwAR1FSeCTBaCbhKJaYWgO-nrrmMnUlfhO8dbiluyBapmlRmK93B0FkwG8uO8>

The Oregonian article:

https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2021/03/searching-for-a-covid-vaccination-in-portland-try-taking-a-road-trip-to-salem.html?fbclid=IwAR2me-D_BO0oZ_txi0TRR5Kslbm7Ekm-GysN7JySowb4ovZjS4_uIYJS9ew

Vaccine sequencing, Oregon: To learn more about Oregon's sequencing plan go here:

<https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/#prioritization>

OHA Covid data dashboard: See all kinds of fresh stats, including available ICU beds for our region:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19#!/#!%2F>

Treasurer's Report

Update by Bing Wong

Asset: Bank Balance

Total: \$5751.61

Liabilities:

Recurring Expenses: Zoom monthly fees (consolidated for reimbursement to Stephanie Stewart, year 2020 (\$11.99 x 7) \$83.93 (Communications*) Check sent, pending bank clearance.

Reimbursement for Wix.com renewal to Bing Wong, \$204 (Communications*). Check made and cleared bank.

Received form: Oregon Department of Justice CT-12 Filing Due May 15, 2021: \$20 Fee. Check sent, pending bank clearance. (SEUL reimbursable expense)

*Communications- SEUL refundable up to \$500 total for 2021.

This newsletter was compiled by Stephanie Stewart: contact.mtna@gmail.com.

Much of what you read here was posted to the **Mt Tabor Neighborhood Association's** facebook page @mttaborna . Not to be confused with the "Mt. Tabor Neighborhood" group facebook page. Please join us on facebook so you can read our posts as they happen.

Receive an email with this newsletter each month, by joining our email listserv (follow the instructions here: <https://www.mttaborpdx.org/copy-2-of-connect-get-involved-1>)

www.mttaborpdx.org