

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2024

Facilitator: Paul Leistner

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

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

Other attendees: Greg Bourget, Nancy Chapin, Lindsey Johnson from SEUL, Nikki Mandell, Ute Munger, Jim Pierce, Katelyn Weakley, Brad Yazzolino

After introductions, the March minutes were approved unanimously. **Bing Wong** presented the treasurer's report. MTNA's bank balance is now \$6225.76. Ongoing expenses include Zoom \$12 monthly fees. Other expenses were a \$349.89 reimbursement to Kate Mitchell for 2024 iPower. Bing renewed **SE Uplift fiscal sponsorships** for MTNA. Account balances as of 2/29/24: emergency prep \$42; gateway \$546; general: \$93.09; reservoirs \$3,092.39; Thorburn safety alliance: \$2,069.11 (renewed by Debra Monzon). SEUL is changing their fee system from \$50 per year to a flat 7.5% deducted from incoming revenue.

Changing MTNA status: Bing urges other board members to sign up for a free SEUL session on federal nonprofit status via Zoom on May 29. Stephanie Stewart has contacted OR DOJ and completed changing MTNA's registry category from "401- Homeowners association" to "402- Other activity aimed at combating community deterioration."

Action item: Stephanie Stewart is working on a process for the community to make donations to MTNA digitally including future charter change to attain federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and change the Secretary of State articles of incorporation. This requires a filing with board approval and \$100 fee reimbursable by SEUL before June 30 (fiscal year end). A proposal was emailed to board members before this meeting. These changes are needed prior to considering filing for Federal 501(c)(3) status. Bing moved to make these changes, Brian Mitchell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Neighbor Announcements, Questions, and Concerns Not on Agenda

Midge Pierce reported on a new tentative date of June 12 for personal safety training, offered by the city's community safety division. There will be an in-person session and a Zoom session.

Bing Wong said that the S. Tabor NA had held an annual shredding event, sponsored by realtors.

Greg Bourget, Portland Clean Air Presentation

Greg Bourget, executive director and lead researcher of Portland Clean Air (portlandcleanair.org), discussed the organization: it's a 501(c)(3) that addresses industrial pollution, trapping and measuring particulate matter with stationary and mobile monitors. They work with 65 NAs, 42 of which have sent letters to public agencies in support of the group's work and findings to mitigate their local pollution. MTNA can also endorse a letter.

Some points from his presentation:

- They monitor VOCs, volatile organic compounds, and can monitor smokestacks
- Portland had the worst respiratory distress in the nation
- They've documented 12 industries that are the worst polluters, including Columbia Steel, Portland Raceway, Hillsboro Airport, and Albina Railyard
- 10 NAs have reached out to truck fleets with unfiltered vehicles
- They'd like the CEI hub to move
- The Mt. Tabor neighborhood is well situated to avoid pollution

Bing Wong recalled the effects on him from pollution from diesel truck exhaust at his former workplace at 138th & Airport Way, resulting in pneumonia.

Midge Pierce mentioned the problem of construction trucks. Greg added that short-haul local delivery box trucks are the worst. Midge moved that MTNA endorse the letters of support for Portland Clean Air's efforts, John Laursen seconded, and the motion passed.

64th Avenue Pathway to Mt. Tabor Park

Bing Wong proposed that MTNA join the S. Tabor NA in recognizing their late president Mary Louise Ott for her work in fighting for safe access to the park from S. Tabor. The park doesn't name pathways, but we'll look for some other form of recognition. Bing moved to support some form of recognition, Nadine Fiedler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

MTNA Shift to Hybrid Meetings

Paul Leistner discussed our successful test of the OWL hybrid meeting technology, aided by Zach from the Cully NA and Allen Fields from the Richmond NA. **Bing Wong** noted that Stephanie Stewart is looking into raising money for the OWL, with help from SEUL; he also said that we'll need a meeting facilitator and a Zoom operator when we use OWL. Paul said we'll go live with OWL in June. John Laursen moved that we spend \$900 to buy an OWL, Rob Galanakis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

MTNA Correspondence

Paul Leistner reported that MTNA correspondence has been going to former board member Kate Mitchell's house. Alternatives include having mail sent to SEUL, which means someone would need to pick it up there; a PO box, which still means someone would have to check it; or having it sent to someone else. Paul offered to get mail at his house. John Laursen moved that we authorize Paul to receive correspondence, Bing Wong seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

MTNA Cleanup

Paul Leistner said it is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, at the Unity Community on Stark, in collaboration with the North Tabor NA. Everything is set and ready to go. Churches are sending volunteers, styrofoam and electronics will be picked up, and Habitat Re-Store will take usable items.

Quick Updates

- Nikki Mandell reminded us of the **local history open house**, sponsored by Jan Caplener, on Thursday, May 16, at 5015 SE Hawthorne. One focus will be gathering oral histories and photos from people who grew up in the neighborhood.
- MTNA **board elections** are set for the May meeting.
- Laura Orr set in motion a letter to the Multnomah County Library requesting a **temporary location while the Belmont Library** is under year-long construction. The Library said a full-service location would be expensive, but they'll look for a place for picking up holds.
- John Laursen said that **Reservoir 6** started being filled, but there was water flow under the reservoir. The Water Bureau plans to fill only one cell for now to figure out the problem. Chief engineer Jodie Inman has been helpful and methodical and is trying to get water back in the reservoir.
- Nikki Mandell reported that the **press conference about the CEI Hub** was successful, bringing in local media. The letter signed by 48 NAs was presented, asking officials to take immediate action to mitigate and prevent risks from the CEI Hub.

Local Business Associations Report, Nancy Chapin

- Jaciva's is staying put for now, and the 4511 property is being monitored.
- A new group called PEMO, property environment management office, is helping with issues such as graffiti and garbage.
- September 21 is the annual UN Day of Peace, with a celebration at the Mt. Tabor neighborhood gateway.
- August 25 is the street fair, and NAs can have booths around 34th St.
- The owners of the old Eagles lodge at 50th & Hawthorne want to put up an 11-foot fence, but that may not be lawful.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

Bing Wong reported that chair Lucy Voigt will be stepping down and will not run for re-election at the next board business meeting to elect officers on April 22. The next Weed Warrior work party will be on Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.–noon.