

Mt. Tabor Meeting Minutes, 2/16, 2022, Amended  
Facilitator Jim Pierce with Tech rescue by John Laursen

**Members Present:** Brian Mitchell, Bing Wong, John Laursen, Sharon Nobbe, Nadine Fiedler, Jim Pierce, David Petrozzi

**Missing:** Nancy Norby

Special Guest: Leticia Kleinberg, Guest: Paul Liestner

**Attendees:** See separate list

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10VQ9KaT4m3Qjt4zLx8jJ6YNNmmOoEXFAF3XiLv-HZVA/edit?usp=sharing>

**Treasurer's Report:** Bing Wong reported a bank balance total: \$6,196 with liabilities that include monthly zoom fees and a \$20 Department of Justice filing due in May. He reiterated that Southeast Uplift is planning a \$50 per account Administrative fee. (Apparently, SEUL has since clarified that it would be a single fee for all accounts, rather than individual charges. Further clarification is needed.)

Discussion ensued about MTNA options and whether it could withdraw its funds to manage as a state 501 C-3. For federal tax purposes, however, MTNA would need an IRS 501 C-3 designation. Three of the accounts are minimal, but two are substantive: The Reservoir account has \$6,308 and the Gateway entry to the neighborhood has \$546.

**Announcements:**

MTNA officer Stephanie Stewart is stepping back to take care of her Dad and family. Members expressed hope that she will return and discussed ways to acknowledge her years of dedicated work on landuse, transportation, preservation of the Mt. Tabor reservoirs, events and general ability to keep the board moving forward in a fair and just manner. She was also responsible for setting up zoom meetings and providing blogs and other information on the website and to the community at large. She is sorely missed.

Bing Wong reminded the group that elections are coming up in May. Bing, who has been treasurer for decades, indicated he may one day need to step down. He expressed the need for drawing more diversity to the board.

Former member Paul Leistner, returning from his own hiatus, volunteered to fill Steph's vacancy and was unanimously elected.

**Tabor Reservoir Update:**

John Laursen emphasized how invaluable Stephanie's contributions to the MTNA Reservoir Task force had been. The task force is currently involved in difficult negotiations with the Water Bureau regarding the still empty large basins above 60th. Ave. The basins have been empty for upwards of six months for maintenance and repairs. Laursen pointed out that leaving the basins empty causes further deterioration and is in violation of city regulations. John is seeking an

expedited fix so that the basins are at least partially filled in order to prevent further damage. Laura Orr supplied historic context and unique aspects of how and why the reservoirs were built to supply our superior Bull Run water and how they are integral parts of the park's ambience.

According to an Historic Landmarks Commission decision made when the open reservoirs were decommissioned, the City is required to keep the basins, which are designated National Historic Landmarks, filled at about 85% of historic capacity. Laursen stressed that this is a regulation with the force of law behind it, but that both the Water Bureau and City Council were not around when it was made and may not realize this requirement.

Laursen also pointed out that the City has spent some four times as much on the Washington Park installations.

**Safety Advocacy Presentation** - In the wake of life-threatening arsons at the Western Seminary, drive-by shoot-outs that almost struck a six-year-old and an impaired speeder knocking out a structural pillar at the pink lodge at Belmont and 55th., Leticia Kleinberg presented tools and resources that Portlanders can use to have their voices heard. She recommended solution-driven approaches to City officials such as requesting more officers for the Focused Intervention Team and police liaisons that interact with communities to build trust. She urged resident to ask for support, build coalitions across diverse neighborhoods and name initiatives such as having administrators handle more paperwork in order to free up officers to respond to incidents.

(Note: this meeting transpired the weekend before the horrific events at Normandale Park.)

Midge Pierce volunteered to work with Western Seminary on a follow-up Forum, now scheduled for March 10.

### **Southeast Uplift Report**

SEUL rep Jim Pierce said he is resigning his SEUL board seat, but since bylaws allow non-board members to serve on committees, he expects to continue his role on the Bylaws committee. (His request was later denied by SE executive board.) Pierce expressed concern about process violations, bias against longtime NA members that has created a toxic environment for volunteers and decisions ranging from not recording meetings to releasing unsubstantiated accusations against an individual.

Paul Leistner volunteered to replace Jim and was unanimously elected.

All are invited.