

## **Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association**

Zoom Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2024

Facilitator: Paul Leistner

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

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

**Other attendees:** Officer Dan Bernard from East Precinct, Nancy Champlin, Nancy Chapin, Daniel DeMelo, Duane Fickeisen, Amanda Golbek, Officer Jeffrey Haagenson, Nikki Mandell, Nancy Norby, Laura Orr, David Raphael, Melissa Robertson, Phyllis Shelton, Herc Silverstein, Theodora Tsongas

After introductions, the January minutes were approved unanimously. **Bing Wong** presented the treasurer's report. MTNA's bank balance is now \$6830.85. Ongoing expenses include Zoom \$12 monthly fees. Other expenses were a \$235.27 reimbursement to Kate Mitchell for 2023 iPower and a \$20 filing fee to the Oregon Department of Justice for the 2023 CT-12 for Oregon Charities form.

**Laura Orr** asked if MTNA should be raising funds, and if that is a good bank balance. **Paul Leistner** said that we get funds from the annual cleanup, and that some NAs have larger balances and some have less. **Bing** noted that we formerly had free meeting space, but will have to pay more in the future if we opt for hybrid meetings.

### **Neighbor Announcements, Questions, and Concerns**

**Rob Galanakis** said that the grant to the Glencoe PTA for depaving and planting the playground, which MTNA supported, had been awarded.

**Duane Fickeisen** hopes to get MTNA support to do away with gas powered vehicles and equipment in Mt. Tabor Park; he tried to get attention from City Council with no results. He'd also like support for elimination of the giant puddles on Lincoln St. between 60th and 64th.

**Paul Leistner** reported that neighbor and realtor Jan Caplener had donated the \$676 expense for the scanning of the history panels that Jan and Kevin Caplener had made, to be used for MTNA tabling and on the MTNA website. Jan has also offered his office on upper Hawthorne, with historic photos of Mt. Tabor, to be used for community gatherings. Paul moved that we formally thank Jan for all his support to the neighborhood for documenting history. Nikki Mandell seconded. Nikki is a historian and said she would help with a history event, and Midge Pierce said she would also help. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Portland Police East Precinct Update**

**Officer Jeffrey Haagenson** said that Mt. Tabor is pretty safe, and that he walks here every day.

**Laura Orr** asked if the police bureau could help with seeing if a shredding event can happen again. **Officer Dan Bernard** said he will get back to her.

**Bing Wong** reported reading about gunshots on NextDoor, and asked if the officers knew anything about the final teenager sentenced for arson in the park. Officer Bernard said he didn't know the status of that.

**Melissa Robertson** said she lives on 60th across from the park, and wants to know how to coach a 19-year-old German woman visiting her about how to stay safe and go off on her own.

**Officer Bernard** said that most of the crime they respond to is not stranger to stranger, it's mostly from drugs, prostitution, and guns. **Paul Leistner** said that MTNA will be putting on a personal safety training and that he will put Melissa in touch with the community safety team.

**Rob Galanakis** said that he lets his 5th and 3rd grade children walk alone, and that the neighborhood is very safe.

**Nikki Mandell** said that a police officer last year was unaware of raves in the park and the fire danger they caused, and asked what the police bureau is doing to make sure the public use of the park is safe, without fire danger. **Officer Bernard** responded that the bureau works with the fire department on these issues, and that fires decreased when the city banned fireworks.

**Amanda Golbek**, pastor of the Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, said that the church is working on having personal safety classes at Taborspace.

### **Candidate Daniel DeMelo Presentation**

City Council candidate **Daniel DeMelo** introduced himself. He's been on a county committee focused on homelessness, which is one of his major concerns. He thinks that public money has not been well spent and would like to make better progress, and would like more transparency from local government. His website is demeloforportland.com. He offered to answer questions.

**Nikki Mandell** asked if he thinks we have enough money to address homelessness, and he said we do, but only 25% is being used for shelters, and it should be all. Nikki then asked what he thought about the use of Portland's clean energy funds. He responded that the funds should be better used, since it has been used for street response and not energy concerns.

**Paul Leistner** mentioned that SEUL is having a candidate forum so we can hear from other candidates as well, on Thursday, April 4, from 6 to 8 p.m.

### **New City Government and District Neighborhood Coalitions**

**Nancy Champlin**, executive director of SEUL, offered a presentation about how coalitions have been affected by the new form of city government. She said the public can have a voice, and you can sign up for SEUL's newsletter at southeastuplift.org. Her points included:

- SEUL's budget has been cut by 31%, including the small grant program. Their strategy will be to leverage allies for increased funding and identify new sources of funding.
- SEUL supports NAs in ways that include grants, election support, advocacy, fiscal sponsorship, and insurance.
- SEUL's decisions are guided by mission, vision, and values, with board and community input.
- SEUL committees include climate justice action, land use and transportation, houselessness action, and civic engagement.
- She encouraged the group to testify at City Council about how SEUL has made a difference and helped NAs.

**Paul Leistner** said that funding has gone down for ONI and the civic life office, but SEUL's work has not diminished. If you value the system, advocate for no budget cuts.

**Bing Wong** was concerned about losing insurance coverage for NA officers and board members, but was assured that the insurance would not be cut.

### **Quick Updates**

**Reservoir 6:** **John Laursen** said that the ice storm had caused several delays in filling reservoir 6, but it is scheduled to happen after concrete is patched and has time to cure, and the temperature is above 50 degrees.

**Rumble on the River:** Nikki Mandell ([nikki.mandell@gmail.com](mailto:nikki.mandell@gmail.com)) spoke about the last community forum, focused on fossil fuels and the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub, and pointed us to the [braidedrivercampaignpdx.org](http://braidedrivercampaignpdx.org) website.

**Neighborhood Association letter to public officers:** will be released to the press on April 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Augustana Lutheran Church.

**Neighborhood Personal Safety Training** is being organized by Paul Leistner and Midge Pierce. They are seeking locations.

**Hybrid Meetings:** Paul Leistner said we will borrow an OWL hybrid device and give it a try.

**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.

**Local Business Announcements:** Nancy Chapin reported on April 27 parade on 82nd Ave., Geek Week the end of April, and Mother's and Father's Day events. She'd like to plant roses on 82nd and have a rose photography contest.

### **Friends of Mt. Tabor Park**

Bing Wong reported on storm damage to the park. Much of the north side is restricted from auto traffic. The FMTP visitor center has been closed since the start of the snow/ice/wind storm event and will open on 2/23. Only about 10% of the park sustained damage. Power and restrooms must be operative and further delays are possible. FMTP will consider a fundraiser to repair or replace the picnic area A shelter (across from the main parking lot).

The tree identification brochure update is ongoing as PP&R is reviewing and making changes.

The next Weed Warrior work party will be on Saturday, February 24, 9 a.m.-noon.

The next FMTP board meeting will be on February 26.