

## **Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**April 19, 2017**

**Board Members Present:** John Laursen, Paul Leistner, Brian/Kate Mitchell, Sam Noble, Nancy Norby, Jim Smith, Laura Smith, Steve Stenberg, Bing Wong

**Board Members Absent:** Nadine Fiedler, Barb Gamelgard, Stephanie Stewart

**Others Present:** Cathy Kuehnl, Cassandra Rosenthal, Jason Powers, Breesa Culver, Wayne Dietz, Josh Baudhuin, Diana Dickinson, Jay Torborg, Debra Monzon, Jaime English, Katelyn Randall, Bernard Rate, Terry Dublinski-Milton, Matthew Gracianette, Midge Pierce, Rebecca Gundle

**Introductions & Minutes:** The meeting opened with introductions led by Nancy Norby. The minutes from the March meeting were approved on a motion by Bing Wong, seconded by Jim Smith, and passed with an oral vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial report was presented by treasurer Bing Wong. The total balance of checking plus savings on April 18, 2017 was \$6,773.62. Nancy Norby requested reimbursement for the annual \$110.00 for cookies provided at MTNA meetings which was approved at last month's meeting.

**Neighborhood Crime Issues:** Because a Portland police officer did not attend the meeting, this agenda item was tabled for the month. Online crime reporting is on the City's website here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/>.

**Announcements:** Paul Leistner said he hasn't yet but will soon contact the (Oregon) State Historic Preservation Office and (Portland) Historic Landmarks Commission to inquire about a drive through the Mt. Tabor neighborhood and assessment whether any of the neighborhood might qualify as a historic district.

Nancy Norby said the Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan includes removal of the compost collection areas in the park and she will contact the Portland Parks Bureau to make a request to get that process started.

The site of the old Washington High School property located between SE Stark, Morrison and 12th and 13th Streets has a 1.3-acre parcel that is owned by Portland Public Schools. The central eastside neighborhoods are parks-poor and lack a community center, so this parcel is a rare opportunity for it. Sam Noble made a motion to ask the City of Portland to exercise their

right to purchase this parcel from Portland Public Schools before their rights of first refusal expire in May. Bing Wong seconded the motion, and it passed by an oral vote in favor.

**60s Neighborhood Greenway/Bikeway:** As part of the Growing Transit Communities Project outreach by Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and the North Tabor Neighborhood Association, SE Uplift's vice chair Terry Dublinski-Milton provided a slide show and information about the 60s Neighborhood Greenway/Bikeway which is the Project's next regional priority. Currently, there is a gap in the north-south network that spans the SE Uplift coalition area between the 50s and I205. The 60s Greenway/Bikeway will serve six SE Uplift neighborhoods by building pedestrian crossings at 12 high-crash and neighborhood corridors and creating a MAX-to-Division transit connection. Leveraging a path around the east side of Mt. Tabor Park will provide a north-south bike and pedestrian corridor which is less expensive, safer, requires less parking removal, and will displace less traffic than other options on the west side of the park. More info can be found at this web link:

<http://www.seuplift.org/?newsletter=se-portland-bikeways>. Advocacy requests for this concept came from the Brentwood-Darlington, Foster-Powell and South Tabor neighborhood associations with a unanimous SE Uplift Board vote of endorsement. Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association board member Brian Mitchell made a motion for MTNA to support the concept of bringing a north-south bike and pedestrian route through our neighborhood, Sam Noble seconded the motion, and it passed with an oral vote in favor of the motion.

**Thorburn Safety Project update:** Debra Monzon gave an update on the results of the traffic speed tests conducted on Thorburn. Since the speed limit was lowered by 5 mph, speeds on average were lower by only 3 mph. Ten speed bumps have been approved for installation this season.

**Mt. Tabor Park stair handrail project update:** Jaime English, Portland Parks and Recreation project manager, gave an update on stair handrail projects planned in Mt. Tabor Park. The project considerations included ADA compliance, long-term maintenance and the historic park setting aesthetics. The longest series of new railings will be along the "grand staircase" on the northeast side of the park leading to the top where there are no railings currently. The project has already commenced, with an installation date planned for Fall 2017. For more information, contact Jaime at (503)823-2568 or [jaime.english@portlandor.gov](mailto:jaime.english@portlandor.gov).

**International Student Home Stays:** Tanja Kontturi, from ANDEO International Homestays, provided handouts and a brief overview of their Portland-based nonprofit educational homestay programs (ages 14 years through college). In addition to setting up homestays in the Portland metro area for international students, they also arrange for American students to stay in homes abroad. For more information, go to their website: [www.andeo.org](http://www.andeo.org).

**MTNA Board member nomination:** May is the month when MTNA holds their annual Board member elections. If you reside, own property, maintain a business, or are the single designated representative of a nonprofit organization located within the geographical boundaries of MTNA,

then you are eligible to be an MTNA Member. To be on the MTNA Board, you must be an MTNA Member. If you would like to be on the ballot, contact the nominating committee chair, MTNA Board Member Laura Smith. Nominations must be received at least seven days in advance of the election which will be held at the next MTNA meeting on May 19. Laura is accepting nominations via email at [contact.mtna@gmail.com](mailto:contact.mtna@gmail.com).

**Land Use Update:** Because land use chair Stephanie Stewart was not in attendance, this agenda item was tabled for the month. However, Bing Wong and Nancy Norby provided an brief overview of recent activities for attendees.

**MTNA Email notices:** The City of Portland's Cannabis Program is requesting applicants for the 2017-18 Cannabis Policy Oversight Team (CPOT). CPOT is the City of Portland's cannabis policy advisory group made up of community members, cannabis industry members, and health officials (among other stakeholders). CPOT facilitates discussion about cannabis policy to ensure that Portland's cannabis regulations are fair for businesses, maintain the safety and livability of our neighborhoods, and reflect Portland's values. Applications will be accepted until May 10, 2017. Please click the following link for the application and for more information about CPOT: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/article/557563>. If you have any questions, please contact the Cannabis Program at 503-823-9333 or [cannabis@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cannabis@portlandoregon.gov).

Eastside Village is a non-profit organization that helps its members age at home. Services include volunteer assistance, such as completing handyman tasks, offering gardening help, and giving rides when they are needed. The Village also organizes social events and outings and has a list of preferred providers recommended by members if a professional is required. For more information about becoming a member or volunteering, contact them at [info@eastsidevillage.org](mailto:info@eastsidevillage.org) or by calling (503) 866-0571. Even better, learn more about Eastside Village by attending a "Village 101" information session. The next session will take place on Saturday, May 20th, at Woodstock Wine and Deli, 4030 SE Woodstock, from 10:30 to noon. In June, "Village 101" will be held at Hot Lips Pizza, 2211 SE Hawthorne, on Saturday, June 17th, from 10:30 to noon.

The City of Portland Budget Committee will hold a public hearing about the annual budget for the Mayor and City Council to receive testimony from Portland residents regarding the citywide budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Testimony tickets will be available an hour and a half prior to start time. They will be drawn at random throughout the course of the event. Each speaker will have two minutes to address the council. The hearing will take place on Thursday, May 11, from 6:00pm - 8:30pm at City Hall, Council Chambers, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland.

**SE Uplift News:** Vibe of Portland is the temporary tenant at the Tabor Commons/Cafe au Play space. Vibe connects local teaching artists to students without the means to get music and visual arts classes outside of their school day. Vibe has partnered with PTAs at Atkinson and Bridger Elementary schools among others in the Mt. Tabor area.

At their most recent monthly meeting, SE Uplift renewed all the fiscal sponsorships for MTNA projects, including the Gateway, Reservoir, Thorburn Safety, and a general MTNA fund.

MTNA is considering a fall neighborhood cleanup. Further research is needed about finding ways to keep prohibited materials (like asbestos) out of the collection bins to avoid fines. It was reported that the Buckman neighborhood cleanup simply has a no-construction-materials policy. MTNA will observe how the cleanups go for the Foster-Powell neighborhood association on May 6 and the Richmond neighborhood association on May 27.

**Friends of Mt Tabor Park Update:** Restoration of the restrooms at the top of the park is under way. Once the work is completed and the restrooms are functional again, plans are to lock the bathrooms at night.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

The next meeting of the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association will be Wednesday, May 17, at 7:00pm at Mt Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont, with social time and homemade cookies starting 6:50 PM.

For more information, please visit [www.mttaborpdx.org](http://www.mttaborpdx.org).