

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2020

Board Members Present: Nadine Fiedler, Sam Noble, Stephanie Stewart, Bing Wong, Sharon Nobbe, John Laursen, Brian Mitchell, Cassandra Rosenthal, Cliff Cox

Board Members Absent: Barb Gamelgard, Nancy Norby,

Others Present: Heather Flint Chatto (PDX Main Streets), Midge Pierce, Ben and Martha Ware, Tom Thomas, Dave Petrozzi, Tony B, Scott McClellan, Rick Sany, Alice Burkleaux (Unity Spiritual Center), Michi Slick, Mo Klein

Introductions: John Laursen hosted the meeting via Zoom. The minutes from the September 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Sam Noble, seconded by Nadine Fiedler passed with an oral vote (15 in favor, none opposed).

Treasurer's Report: Bing presented the Treasurer's report. He said that we are still waiting for \$1341 reimbursement from Southeast Uplift's Communications Fund. As discussed at last month's meeting, John Laursen paid for mulch on behalf of MTNA to revitalize the neighborhood entrance at 50th and Hawthorne. He will send Bing a receipt for the mulch with a reimbursement request of \$100 which will come from the dedicated entryway account.

Announcements:

John Laursen discussed the installation of the Peace Poles at the Neighborhood entryway at 50th and Hawthorne on September 21st which is International Peace Day. The poles were previously placed at the Hawthorne Hostel but needed to be relocated as the Hostel is closing.

The Harvey Scott statue at the top of the Mt. Tabor park was vandalized, torn down and then removed by the city. Sam Noble mentioned that the statue could be listed as a contributing feature on the park's designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Resources Code discussion:

Heather Flint Chatto with PDX Main Streets (<https://www.pdxmainstreets.org/>) gave a detailed discussion of the proposed update to the Historic Resources Code. PDX Main Streets is an organization that evolved out of the Division Design Initiative which was also led by Heather. PDX Main Streets is a citywide collaborative of business groups, neighborhood associations, architects, designers, advocates and community leaders. The group's website has many tools to help community members advocate for the critical main streets that help define neighborhoods across the city.

The city's Planning Commission public meeting to discuss the revision to the Historic Resources code will occur on October 27th. The proposed change to the city's code is significant for a number of reasons. This policy identifies, designates and protects historic properties. Critically this code defines the process for forming a Historic District or Conservation District. The Upper Hawthorne commercial corridor does not have a designation.

Currently the Landmark Commission is the primary decision making body when determining designation and protection of historic Landmarks and Districts with recommendations from the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC). The proposed change would flip this arrangement and the PSC would become the primary decision making body and would receive recommendations from the Landmarks Commission. There are a number of other changes to the code including demolition delay requirements, solar panel placement and an unclear way for the communities to impact current districts or help develop new districts.

There is no official designation or protection for any area on Hawthorne Boulevard. We discussed the significant historic buildings on the street and important value they have in our community. A prior review by the city called the "Low-rise Commercial Storefront Analysis" identified 57 buildings on the "Hawthorne Special Buildings" list. However this does not indicate that they have special protections defined by the city.

Stepanie Stewart made a motion that she would officially submit a comment about the Historic Resources code update on behalf of MTNA. The content of the letter was to ask for a delay to the code change to allow for additional time to collect public input. Additionally the letter was to contain information about the points discussed in the prior two paragraphs of these minutes. The motion was seconded by John Laursen and then approved by a vote of 16 yeas, no nays and one abstention.

Heather asked that MTNA officially support the PDX Main Streets Guidelines. These are very detailed guidelines that were developed over the past six years with the input and expertise of key stakeholders. The guidelines include building design items that reflect ideal ways to integrate into the surrounding community. A critical aspect of the guidelines is stating that the guidelines are not intended to restrict development or density but are instead focused on ensuring an ideal integration with surrounding buildings and community. The organization provides awards to buildings that reflect the recommended design guidelines (<https://www.pdxmainstreets.org/2020awards>). Heather stated that the guidelines are cost effective and provided examples of new buildings in Portland that have not cost more to develop.

Sharon Nobbe made a motion for MTNA to officially support the PDX Main Street Guidelines and this was seconded by Dave Petrozzi. The motion passed with 15 votes in support, none in opposition and two abstentions. Sharon made another motion for MTNA to support the draft list of 57 buildings on the "Hawthorne Special Buildings" list and this was seconded by Dave Petrozzi. The motion passed with 14 votes in support, none in opposition and one abstention.

Stephanie Stewart made a motion to adjourn and seconded by John Laursen and then unanimously supported.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th at 7 PM, to be held electronically via Zoom.

For more information, please visit www.mttaborpdx.org.