

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2024

Facilitator: Paul Leistner

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

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

Other attendees: Toni Chandler, Sameer Kanal, Nikki Mandell, Laura Orr, April Parker, David Raphael, Rick Sany, Katie Shrall, Brad Yazzolino

After introductions, the April minutes were approved unanimously. **Bing Wong** presented the treasurer's report. MTNA's bank balance is now \$6261.79, including \$285 for the April cleanup, pending split of proceeds with NTNA. Ongoing expenses include Zoom \$12 monthly fees. Other expenses were an \$899 reimbursement to Paul Leistner for an OWL hybrid meeting device. Bing refiled the correct form for changing MTNA's federal nonprofit status, which has a \$50 filing fee instead of \$100. Bing also filed the SOS Corporation Division 2024 annual report, naming Paul Leistner as president and Bing as treasurer, with a \$50 fee reimbursable from SEUL.

Neighbor Announcements, Questions, and Concerns Not on Agenda

David Raphael urged people to attend the Mt. Tabor Art Walk May 18-19.

Paul Leistner proposed an amendment to the MTNA bylaws stating that the board should have a minimum of three members; this will be voted on in a later meeting.

Midge Pierce suggested that we draft a letter alerting police to issues that arise in MTNA meetings.

Rob Galanakis reported that a traffic signal at 60th & Salmon is being worked on to make it easier for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Bing Wong said that he has seen PGE contractors trimming trees that were planted by Friends of Trees, who grew more than they had counted on.

MTNA Board Election

Nadine Fiedler presented a slate of eight candidates for the MTNA board; Nikki Mandell moved to accept the slate as presented, and Midge Pierce seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The MTNA board now consists of **Nadine Fiedler, Rob Galanakis, John Laursen, Paul Leistner, Dave Petrozzi, Midge Pierce, Bing Wong, and Brad Yazzolino**. The new board members can now choose officers: Paul Leistner was chosen as president, Bing Wong as treasurer, and Nadine Fiedler as secretary. One position, liaison to SEUL, remains open. Dave Petrozzi moved to accept the board slate with these officers by acclamation, Brad Yazzolino seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Correction to Amendment of MTNA Articles of Incorporation

Bing Wong discussed a correction in MTNA's articles of incorporation, changing our status to a membership organization from the status of a non-membership organization, allowing members and not just the board to vote. This change opens the way to qualify as a 501C3 organization if we want to pursue tax-exempt status. MTNA is currently a nonprofit registered with the Oregon secretary of state, but is not tax exempt. The change would allow us to raise and control tax-deductible donations without going through SEUL, which has changed its fee for fiscal sponsorship from a flat fee to a percentage. Bing moved to resubmit the amendment to MTNA's articles of incorporation to the secretary of state using the suggested form. Nadine Fiedler

seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

MTNA Cleanup Report

Paul Leistner reported that the April cleanup, in collaboration with the North Tabor NA, was a big success. It drew 258 vehicles, filled 7 40-yard drop boxes and a metal drop box, recycled tons of styrofoam and electronics, and was staffed by many volunteers. 60% of the people came from the Mt. Tabor neighborhood, and 30% from the North Tabor area. Attendees found out about the cleanup mostly from signs (46%), 10% from word of mouth. People came mostly in cars (46%), with 20% in SUVs and 1% on bikes. Both sponsoring NAs will probably net around \$1500.

Mary Louise Ott Recognition

Paul Leistner followed up on the drive to recognize the late Mary Louise Ottt, the former president of the South Tabor NA, who worked for decades to establish a path to Mt. Tabor Park from Division St. She also pushed for lane reconfiguration for traffic safety on Division, and her leadership made both efforts come to fruition. The parks bureau has said that a piece of the park can't be named for a person. Both MTNA and STNA have voted to recognize Ott, who was also active in the Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church and the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park. Paul proposed that all these organizations work together to find a way to recognize her contributions.

Reminder of Mt. Tabor History Project Community Open House

Nikki Mandell reminded the group that the history project will take place on Thursday, May 16, from 7 to 8:30. She has passed out fliers and spoken to people about it at the cleanup. She will record oral stories and memories from people who grew up in the neighborhood or have been residents for a long time, and we will gather photos. OHS said they would love to be a repository for these oral histories. Bing Wong said that the Mt. Tabor reservoir preservation has lots of photos, which John Laursen may have.

Quick Updates

- Laura Orr said that no location has been yet announced for a temporary location for holds pick-up while the **Belmont Library** is under construction for renovation. She said lots of people helped her learn to advocate and that we all need to know how to become successful advocates.
- Bing Wong said that when the north cell of **Reservoir 6** was filled, the water bureau found a possible leak. They filled the south cell and are monitoring the situation. The new light posts have been installed around Reservoir 5.
- Midge Pierce noted that the date for the **neighborhood community safety training** is June 26, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church. A Zoom session is also being planned. She moved that we authorize her to pay the church \$50-\$80 for room rental in advance as required. Nadine Fiedler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Paul Leistner has purchased an **OWL unit for hybrid meetings**, and he secured the dining room of the Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church as a meeting site. It will be free for the first three months, and then we will pay their nonprofit rate.

Reports

- The **Hawthorne Street Fair** will be held August 25.
- Nikki Mandell noted that the people working to mitigate the **Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub** have had positive conversations with state legislators, so something positive may happen.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park

Bing Wong reported that the FMTP elected officers for the coming year are chair—Lily Sobolik, vice-chair—Thor Hinckley, secretary—Kathleen Cornett, treasurer—Rachel White, communications—Marisa Morby, and membership—open.

Mt. Tabor Park received another award, Leave No Trace Spotlight, with activities on May 3 and 4, in addition to the Subaru award. The Weed Warrior volunteer coordinator volunteered at the event. Bing participated in a walk led by park ranger Kelley Deas and Vicente Harrison, the health, safety, and emergency manager, who is also a board member of Bird Alliance of Oregon. Next Weed Warrior work party will be on Saturday, May 25, 9 am to noon.

Bing talked about the Wednesday night raves at the park and said that Vicente Harrison had sanctioned the raves and given them formal approval to be in the amphitheater. Neighbor Katie Shrall, who walks a lot in the park, had serious concerns and said they use the park like a warehouse: she likes the ingenuity of the dance party but said the crowd is huge, sometimes over 1,000 people, they leave a ton of trash, and don't move off the streets. Neighbors have no place to park, the whole park is dominated with their loud amplified sounds, and there's lots of smoking and vaping, including weed. She thinks they should rent a venue and not have their dances in the public park, and an event of this kind should be held once a year with permits and port-a-potties. Their dance area last year was beaten to dirt, and the amphitheater is not set up for that kind of heavy usage. She also worries about people doing fire dancing.

Neighbor Toni Chandler lives next to the park and said the sound was so loud on their Saturday rave and the following Wednesdays that neighbors couldn't hear themselves speak, and that the raves don't have security or medical, which are needed for other events in the park, so this is a disaster about to happen. The Saturday event ran from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Paul Leistner and Midge Pierce said they will follow up with Toni and Katie, and will invite people from Parks to a meeting. Katie will file a noise complaint, and Midge said she and Toni should make their concerns known to bureaus of police, fire, noise, and parks.