

## **Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association**

### **Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**

**May 18, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** Nadine Fiedler, Barb Gamelgard, John Laursen, Paul Leistner, Brian Mitchell, Nancy Norby, Jim Smith, Laura Smith, Steve Stenberg, Stephanie Stewart, Bing Wong

**Board Members Absent:** Kate Mitchell

**Others Present:** Officer Rich Holthausen, Dave Smith, Sam Noble, Midge Pierce, Mark Miller, Sharon Grigar, Margo Cantor, Amanda Caffall, Kelly Fedderson, Robin Scholetzky, David Simon, Christopher Lancefield, JJ Koll

**Introductions:** The meeting opened with introductions led by Nancy Norby. The minutes from the April meeting were approved as written but with a correction to the Friends of Mt Tabor Park report, on a motion by Bing Wong, seconded by John Laursen, and passed with an oral vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial report was presented by treasurer Bing Wong. The current account balance is \$7,636.05.

**Neighborhood Crime Issues:** Officer Rich Holthausen attended in place of Officer David McGarry. Nothing new was reported, but Officer Holthausen introduced Dave Smith from the Portland Police Bureau's East Precinct who is the Coordinator of East Portland Involved Citizens (EPIC). EPIC is a volunteer program that provides information to citizens about law enforcement topics. Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of every other month. The May 25th meeting's speaker is a lieutenant who will talk about the Department of Justice settlement with the Portland Police Bureau. Meetings are from 6:00-8:00pm. The July meeting's topic is "Motorcycle Cops."

**Announcements:** The Mount Tabor and North Tabor Tree Teams will co-host a workshop on Selecting and Promoting Diverse Species, Saturday, June 4 from 10:00am-12noon at Western Seminary, Bueermann Hall, Room 101, 5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Learn how to plant the right tree for the right place from Friends of Trees and Bureau of Environmental Services, meet neighbors, get familiar with issues and threats facing neighborhood trees, and go on a tree walk. Register to attend at: <http://tinyurl.com/N-Mt-Tabor-DiverseSpecies>

Tabor Community Gardens has asked MTNA for a donation for their beautification project along the borders of the garden. Bing Wong will get design and budget information from them and will share it at a future MTNA meeting.

A Montavilla neighbor is having her wedding on Mt.Tabor with amplified sound. She will work with MTNA board member Nadine Fiedler to make sure the event's amplified sound follows neighborhood guidelines.

**Proposed 28-Bed Memory Care Facility at 6125 SE Division:** Robin Scholetzky, a land use planner, and Mark Miller, from Ankrom Moisan Architects, provided information and design

illustrations about this expansion of the Courtyard at Mt. Tabor campus. PBOT requested removal of the existing historic stone walls along SE Division and SE 60th with its landscaping and trees to make way for a wider sidewalk. The Courtyard owner, their land use planner and architects are planning to propose a public works alternative review from PBOT to save the historic wall, and they have asked MTNA for a letter of support. Paul Leistner made the motion to write the letter supporting retention of the historic stone walls along SE 60th and Division in their existing location with existing landscaping. Jim Smith seconded, and there was a unanimous vote in favor. Stephanie Stewart will write the letter and work with Robin Scholetzky.

**MTNA Website Project:** Paul Leistner reported that MTNA volunteer Laura Orr and SE Uplift's Katy Asher have reviewed proposals from several website designers and they are recommending Collage Creative based on costs, timelines, expectations, and training aspects that aligned with MTNA's needs. Laura's May 16 memo to the MTNA board provided the recommendation and a comparison grid of all proposals. Discussion ensued and concerns were raised about some possibly unnecessary migration costs and also about ongoing costs. Paul will take feedback to Laura Orr. Bing will ask Friends of Mt. Tabor Park's webmaster to do a proposal if interested. Going forward, Kelly Fedderson will be taking Katy Asher's place working with Laura Orr and Paul on the website project.

**MTNA Board Elections:** Outreach since the April meeting netted two new candidates. Ballots were cast and duties assigned, and the 2016-2017 MTNA board members are: Denise Barrett, Nadine Fiedler (park noise coordinator), Barb Gamelgard, John Laursen, Paul Leistner (SEUL delegate), Kate/Brian Mitchell, Sam Noble, Nancy Norby (facilitator), Jim Smith (agenda builder), Laura Smith (secretary), Steve Stenberg, Stephanie Stewart, Bing Wong (treasurer).

**Land Use Update:** MTNA representatives are continuing to meet with the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) regarding maintenance of the reservoirs. An area affected by the reservoir work is the off-leash dog park. The off-leash dog park entrance has been blacktopped recently. This is causing dog owners to be concerned about burns to dogs' paws in hot weather, as new blacktop absorbs more heat than the previous, aged paving. The right kind of mulch is needed to top the blacktop as a protective measure. Also, the hardware on the entrance gate has problems with its installation for some dog patrons. Nancy Norby requested support from MTNA to be the MTNA representative in the efforts needed to get the right surface for the off-leash dog park entrance, gate hardware, and all things related to the off-lease area. Paul motioned support, Stephanie seconded, and it was passed with a unanimous vote.

John Laursen gave an update on the three comprehensive plan and zoning issues that will affect the Mt. Tabor neighborhood: 1) the amendment to change Portland Nursery's zoning to all commercial failed to pass and instead will be zoned as previously submitted by city planners granting conditional use approval for retail nurseries in residential zoned property, 2) proposed zoning changes to the empty lot on the northeast corner SE 60th and Belmont to a higher density commercial zoning which allows four stories of construction did pass, and 3) a correction to the comprehensive plan was approved, restoring mixed use dispersed designation to Hawthorne Blvd from 50th to 51st Avenues, in keeping with the PBOT traffic designation change for the upper Hawthorne area.

Although the MTNA has supported the staff report from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability with regard to continuing the split zoning at Portland Nursery's Stark Street location, the MTNA also very much wants Portland Nursery to continue to thrive and be successful. MTNA board member John Laursen presented a draft letter to be sent to the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability expressing MTNA's support for a proposed zoning code and map amendment allowing retail nurseries in residential zones as conditional use. This amendment would reverse a code revision from 1991, which changed nurseries in residential zones from conditional use to nonconforming use and had the effect of limiting Portland Nursery's ability to grow and evolve. Changing the zoning back to conditional use for existing nurseries will give them greater flexibility in updating and adapting their businesses in line with current nursery practices. The board voted unanimously to send the letter in support of the amendment to the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and to support the amendment as it makes its way through the process.

**SE Uplift News:** SE Uplift held their annual retreat this past month and discussed ways to use their budget. More information on the budget will be available soon.

Movies in the Park on the grounds of Warner Pacific College will be held on Friday, July 29, and will be showing "Inside Out."

**Friends of Mt. Tabor Park:** Bing Wong announced an upcoming 5k event in the Park will be held on May 28 as well as a Weed Warrior work party that same day from 9am-12noon, thanked Midge Pierce for coverage of park activities in the SE Examiner, and reiterated Mary Kinnick's step down from the board in June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 15th at 7:00pm at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont (downstairs in the dining hall), with a social time starting at 6:50pm. For more information, please visit [www.mttaborpdx.org](http://www.mttaborpdx.org).