

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2022

Facilitator: Dave Petrozzi

Secretary: Nadine Fiedler

Board members present: Nadine Fiedler, John Laursen, Paul Leistner, Brian Mitchell, David Petrozzi, Jim Pierce, Bing Wong

Other attendees: Jeff Burns and Aaron from Soapbox Derby, Nancy Chapin, Mo Klein, Laura Orr, Yvette Perex-Chavez, Midge Pierce, Goldann Salazar, Tom Skiles, Steven and Kathleen Wax

After introductions, the May meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bing Wong reported a bank balance of \$6,176.69 with liabilities that include monthly Zoom fees and iPower bills.

MTNA's fiscal sponsorship accounts administered by SEUL and their current balances:

Emergency preparation: \$42

Mt. Tabor gateway: \$546

Thorburn Society: \$4,312.37

Reservoirs: \$5,683.

Announcements and Neighbor Concerns

Laura Orr reported on an email from a neighbor concerned about the Wednesday dance parties in the park. She will inform the board about it for further action. Midge Pierce tried to resolve it last year but it didn't resolve anything. Bing Wong said that the Parks Bureau is planning to have a full-time ranger in the park.

Paul Leistner asked if MTNA would be interested in having a presence at this year's Movies in the Park at Warner Pacific. Several people supported the idea. Paul will look into how that can take place next year.

Discussion about Reservoirs

Guests from the office of City Commissioner Mingus Mapps—policy advisor and Water Bureau liaison Goldann Salazar and community engagement and operations manager Yvette Perez-Chavez—attended the meeting to speak with MTNA about the state of the Mt. Tabor Park reservoirs.

Goldann said \$250,000 has been allocated for a study to determine repairs to Reservoir #6, which she lobbied for, and the next step is to get the reservoir functioning and filled. The outcome of the study in terms of damage and what needs to be repaired is unknown right now. Tom Skiles noted that the original request from the Water Bureau was for \$750,00, and asked how that got whittled down. Goldann replied that she never got a budget request from the Water Bureau and that the mayor makes the ultimate decision about budget allocations. She does not yet know the timeline for the repair project and said she will get that info to MTNA.

Kathleen Wax asked what the "opportunities for future use" are that are mentioned in the third party study. Goldann said that relies on the outcome of the study. Kathleen urged Goldann to be

aware of the land use appeal and City Council resolution.

John Laursen asked if she and Commissioner Mapps had read his 18-page report, which is important because the city is out of compliance with the 2015 resolution. Goldann said she had not read the report until John re-sent it, and that Mapps has not seen it and probably doesn't have the time to. She will talk to him about it. John asked if Mapps considers the binding resolution from 2015 to be binding and how the Water Bureau will be brought into compliance. Goldann said that the Water Bureau response is that the 2015 resolution was a project of former commissioners Amanda Fritz and Nick Fish and doesn't know where it stands now in terms of priorities. She doesn't know what's legal in terms of compliance and said the resolution could be retracted or amended by the present City Council. John stated that it had the binding force of law and finds this to be disturbing: is a promise made by City Council only good until they leave office? Paul Leistner added that the City Council can change the resolution, but the Water Bureau cannot. Kathleen Wax added that the important point is whether the Water Bureau thinks it can change or amend the binding resolution, which is still legally in effect, and that Mapps must hold the Water Bureau to those promises.

John Laursen said that the interpretive program in the park no longer includes MTNA and would like the Water Bureau to get back into compliance, and would like the mayor to respond. Goldann said she had no previous understanding of the interpretive project.

Midge Pierce asked if there is any money for the repairs, and Goldann replied that there is some surplus money that might be used for completion of the repair project. Midge asked if Goldann can come back and report to MTNA. John asked if they would come back for the August meeting, and she agreed to that. Goldann thanked MTNA for staying passionate and engaged and committed, which helps in terms of the funding process and setting of priorities; and Midge noted that MTNA is not acting out of passion but in response to the status of a legally binding City Council resolution.

Tom Skiles noted that the 2015 resolution says that the city will ensure that the reservoirs are kept full except for "unforeseen circumstances" and said that if the current situation is an unforeseen circumstance, it would mean the Water Bureau is in compliance.

Yvette noted that Mapps has bimonthly town halls where MTNA can bring concerns, with registration available on the City Council website.

Southeast Uplift Report

Paul Leistner welcomed tonight's participation by Nancy Chapin, who is the board secretary for SEUL and is on the executive committee. He reported that the last SEUL board meeting reviewed plans for city funding. They also reviewed a proposed code of conduct and a conflict resolution policy. Paul added cyberbullying to that and encouraged people to not say false things and attack each other. SEUL is trying to get a handle on conflict because of a conflict situation with the Richmond NA and their representative, Alan Field. A mediation is now under way. Paul urged everyone to sign up for the SEUL Hey Neighbor newsletter, and says he sees both hopeful and concerning signs from SEUL. Nancy Chapin added that she hopes SEUL can become a great support to NAs and the community.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Report

Bing Wong reported that the Friends will be recruiting a liaison to the park's off leash dog area. Parks reported a serious erosion problem due to the use and possibility of slide into Warner Pacific University.

Concert in the Park will feature music by Grupo Masato (danceable music combining cumbia with Afro-Peruvian sounds) sponsored by FMTP on July 14 at 6:30 pm.

FMTP members potluck picnic will be on the evening of Sept. 12.

For jazz fans, Montavilla Jazz Festival wants to commission a work by a local artist about the park and have it played there in 2023.

Soapbox Derby

Jeff Burns reported that the Soapbox Derby will be held on August 20 from 10 to 4, with setup on August 19. They will also prepare the track a couple of weeks before. There will be food carts and a beer garden. Aaron noted that this is the 22nd year of the Derby and that they love the park and make sure to clean up and obey the rules. Bing asked about participant safety, and Jeff said they warn people of dangers and put up signs near poison oak to warn them.

Other Events

Nancy Chapin mentioned the Juneteenth and Pride Month celebrations and the Father's Day celebration at the Dairy Hill ice cream store.