

2024 Candidate Pamphlet

Kathleen A. Cornett

Retired Foundation Executive

What's your connection to Mt. Tabor Park and/or the Friends of Mt Tabor Park?

I have lived close to the park for 36 years and walked there almost daily; it has made a big difference in my life. In the 1990s I was part of a group that brought concerts to the park and I am on the current concert committee. I have been a member of Friends for many years and serve on the board of directors.

Why do you want to serve on the Friends of Mt Tabor Park board?

As a current board member and secretary I am well aware of the important roles that volunteers play in our beloved park. Friends is an effective board and organization, particularly considering our all volunteer status. I enjoy being part of the group and bringing my expertise in nonprofit fundraising and management to the table.

What experiences and strengths would you bring to board service?

My roles in the nonprofit world before my retirement included Executive Director of Oregon Food Bank and VP for Programs for Oregon Community Foundation. I currently serve on the Oregon Facilities board and the Joseph E. Weston Foundation board. I love to garden, read and to remember my days of downhill skiing!

Bing Wong

Retired

What's your connection to Mt. Tabor Park and/or the Friends of Mt Tabor Park?

Long time member and board member. In my present house since 1993 and value the park for its habitat for birds which is one of Portland's hotspots for migrants. I am a long-time Weed Warrior Crew Leader participating at most of the last Saturday Work Parties and additional work parties, and independent projects. I have volunteered for the Foot Patrol helping install posts for trail markers and tree identification.

Why do you want to serve on the Friends of Mt Tabor Park board?

I was first recruited for my interest in birds and habitat. I was appointed to the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Preservation Committee which is near the end of the budget allocation with more work to be done. I am also a board member for Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association since 1997 and I give FMTP reports to their monthly meetings.

What experiences and strengths would you bring to board service?

I am a community activist participating in many organizations both political and public service. I am a face on the board that represents diversity, the AAPI community. I am a member of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge participation at their second Saturday work parties. I have many contacts with elected office holders as I volunteer for candidates and attend local elected office holders' coffees and town halls. I am a retired member of AFSCME and serve on their boards. I have gone to the state capitol to talk to legislators, lobbying for causes important to working and retired Oregonians. I retired from a career as a medical laboratory scientist specializing in clinical and forensic toxicology at OHSU and Kaiser Permanente.

Vince Mahan

Lead Software QA Engineer

What's your connection to Mt. Tabor Park and/or the Friends of Mt Tabor Park?

My connection to Mt. Tabor Park is profoundly personal and a fundamental part of my daily life. As a proud resident of the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood, I have the privilege of visiting the park daily. Whether walking my dogs, enjoying precious moments with my family, or running on its trails, my daily interactions with the park have fostered a profound appreciation for this invaluable community asset.

Why do you want to serve on the Friends of Mt Tabor Park board?

My desire to serve on the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park board stems from a deep-seated appreciation for the park and its significance to our community. Having experienced firsthand the countless benefits the park offers to individuals and families alike, I am motivated to give back to this beautiful community asset that has enriched my life in many ways. My eagerness to contribute to its stewardship is driven by my understanding of the park's crucial role in our community's well-being. As a father of two small children who share my love of the park, I am committed to ensuring its continued vitality for them and future generations.

What experiences and strengths would you bring to board service?

I have held leadership positions in various sectors, including software companies, non-profits, political campaigns, public policy, and public affairs. My diverse background has equipped me with a strong and diverse skill set that would greatly benefit the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park. My experiences in strategic planning, community engagement, and organizational leadership, in particular, would support the mission and activities of the organization effectively. Furthermore, I am ready to commit time and

financial resources to board responsibilities. I am enthusiastic about participating in meetings, committee work, and fundraising efforts. As a board member, I will bring a blend of professional experience and personal dedication to the park and our neighborhood.

Richard Nunno

Retired environmental policy consultant, focus on transportation and infrastructure

What's your connection to Mt. Tabor Park and/or the Friends of Mt Tabor Park?

I live about two miles from Mt. Tabor and use the park regularly.

Why do you want to serve on the Friends of Mt Tabor Park board?

I would like to work on preserving the park.

What experiences and strengths would you bring to board service?

I have experience working on environmental protection causes with the Sierra Club, the Union of Concerned Scientists, Citizens Climate Lobby, BARK, Oregon Wild, and several organizations in Washington, DC. I also served on the board of the DC Chapter of the Sierra Club for 5 years and prepared their monthly newsletter for several years.

Lily Sobolik

Senior Policy Advisor

What's your connection to Mt. Tabor Park and/or the Friends of Mt Tabor Park?

Mt. Tabor has been my 'backyard' for nearly 5 years and it is such a special place to be out in nature in the middle of the city. I love connecting with the Portland community there whether it be at the playground with my toddler, hiking, or at community events. I stepped in to complete someone else's board term about a year and a half ago and took over the membership work.

Why do you want to serve on the Friends of Mt Tabor Park board?

I would love to serve a whole term on the FMTP board and continue working with all the dedicated volunteers who are working to make the Park safe and welcoming for everyone. After maintaining the membership work over the last year and a half, I would love the opportunity to start working to grow our membership in collaboration with longtime volunteers. Some ideas for growing membership include tabling at local events like farmer's markets and garden centers, developing handout materials for membership

that highlight the work of FMTP, and talking about membership at our regular events like the nature walk series and weed warrior events.

What experiences and strengths would you bring to board service?

As the interim membership coordinator for the last year and a half, I think I'm well positioned to understand what is working well and where we could improve. I've made connections with board members and volunteers who will be very important to help make a membership campaign successful. In previous professional experiences I've been an outreach coordinator where I helped build momentum and engage volunteers for a new nonprofit. I would love to put those skills to use to grow FMTP's membership.

Alyssa Chen

Forest Service Employee

What's your connection to Mt. Tabor Park and/or the Friends of Mt Tabor Park?

Over the past two years of living in Portland, Mt. Tabor Park has been my anchor. I'm a frequent visitor and I feel so lucky to be within walking distance of the meandering forest trails and magnificent sunset views. Walking around is my go-to way of experiencing the park, though I also enjoy ripsticking, biking, and picnicking up there. I love the park and am deeply grateful to its caretakers, so it's a goal of mine to play a more active role in protecting this wonderful place and become more involved with Friends of Mt. Tabor Park.

Why do you want to serve on the Friends of Mt Tabor Park board?

I want to deepen my ties to the community by serving as an ambassador for the park. Simply put, I want to give back to the place that has brought me so much enjoyment and solace. I believe that building community outdoors has the power to foster a sense of belonging that drives lasting dedication to stewardship. I hope to apply the Board's collective influence to ensure that communities excluded from the white-dominant narrative of environmental stewardship are authentically seen, valued, and connected to the outdoors. I am eager to delve into behind-the-scenes nonprofit management, have a voice in decision-making, and grow my leadership skills.

What experiences and strengths would you bring to board service?

What I'd bring to FMTP Board service: project management skills, strategies for culturally relevant communications and community engagement, understanding of DEI principles including barriers to outdoor recreation, weed-pulling enthusiasm, fresh perspective and ideas, and my fun whimsical personality :)

More about me: My first real job was serving on an AmeriCorps conservation crew the summer after high school, where I spent several months roaming around state parks with a chainsaw, and reflecting on what it meant to be the only non-white member on my eight-person team in rural North Carolina. I set out in college to unpack the exclusive foundations of conservation and the lack of diversity in outdoor recreation. Prior to graduating with a B.A. in Geography from UNC Chapel Hill, I held various internships focused on hands-on natural areas restoration as well as developing equity initiatives for white-led environmental organizations, steering me into a professional career in promoting inclusive outdoor stewardship.

I have worked for the Pacific Northwestern Region of the U.S. Forest Service for the past three years. Currently, I serve as an Urban & Community Forestry Program Specialist, where I help administer grants that provide critical investments in urban and community forestry across Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. These experiences have honed my skills in building collaborative relationships with diverse external partners and breaking down bureaucratic silos in order to empower communities that are historically marginalized and under-invested. I am confident that my commitment to equity, community engagement, and environmental stewardship will make a meaningful impact on FMTP's service to the community.

Catherine (Cathy) Kudlick

Retired

What's your connection to Mt. Tabor Park and/or the Friends of Mt Tabor Park?

Since my wife and I bought a house in South Tabor two years ago, we run or walk in the park several times a week, which fills us with joy. I took part in the October Tabor Fun Run, we've attended concerts and gone on guided walks. We are paying members of the Friends of Mt Tabor.

Why do you want to serve on the Friends of Mt Tabor Park board?

As someone with a lifelong vision impairment and love of nature, I was inspired by your call to bring greater diversity to the park--in my case through creative thinking around accessibility to welcome all people with disabilities. Rather than approach access from compliance, I hope to bring a creative, community-building mindset where access brings something for everyone (universal design), where it is built in rather than bolted on. This kind of accessibility is best approached organically and systemically, that is from the level of the board rather than as an individual volunteer.

What experiences and strengths would you bring to board service?

My career before retirement centered around creating and running a pathbreaking disability cultural center on a college campus; my role as director taught me about fundraising (especially donor development and stewardship). In that capacity I ran an international film festival and worked with artists, historians, and community members to build an accessible interactive exhibit that continues to tour the US a decade later. While not park- or even nature-related, this experience brings many skills to supporting a beloved public space like Mt. Tabor--from securing financial support to coming up with public programming. One additional piece of background/experience: I currently serve as secretary of the South Tabor Neighborhood Association.