

# Montavilla

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*neighborhood association*

**Montavilla Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2007**

Present: Kelly McCarthy, Amie Champagne, Lisa Laurenceau, Roger Warren, Adam Samish, Janet Martin, Fritz Hirsch, Dawn Tryon, Sandra McDaniel, Jennell Andrews, Ruth Handler, Frank Walsh, Maxine Deardorff, Yvonne Garcia, Jennifer Tamayo, Maria Sworske, Alta Gaylord, Craig Bach, Max Horn, Andrew ?, Erica Thygesen, Brian Gaquin, Megan McCoy, David Linn, Victor Flaming

Board Members Absent: Sarah Selden

Minutes: Erica Thygesen

7:05pm: Meeting called to order by Jennifer Tamayo. The agenda was passed out and reviewed by all. Several small changes were made to the agenda. The minutes from January's general meeting were not available today for approval, and will instead be reviewed at the February board meeting. Officer Brendan McGuire is not present today; Officer Terry Colbert is instead present in place of Office McGuire. David Linn made a motion to approve the agenda with the above changes. Erica Thygesen seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda with the above changes was approved unanimously.

7:08pm: Introduction of community members.

7:11pm: Committee updates are as follows.

Officer Terry Colbert reported that there are some prostitution stings coming up. He reported that there is not much in the way of auto theft occurring in the neighborhood right now, which is good, as the auto theft police unit was recently cut. He also addressed the topic that had been raised in terms of speeding. He reported that there is often a connection between speeding in the areas around the car lots. His advice to residents is that "the squeaky wheel gets the grease," and that it is important to call the police to report speeding. He also recommended calling the police for any suspicious activity in the neighborhood, as that is the way that the police often catch people who may have warrants.

Alema McCrea from the Montavilla East Tabor Business Association reported that they have had good attendance at the meetings to start a neighborhood farmers market. The next meeting about the farmers market will happen on February 20, 2007 at MBank at 9:00 am. Alema also reported that the Country Cat Dinner House, a restaurant run by the former Sou Chef from Wildwood Restaurant, will be opening in the old Dickson Drugs space on 80<sup>th</sup> and Stark sometime this spring or early summer. It will serve organically grown, seasonal "northwest soul food."

There was no report from the Vice Chair.

There was no treasurer's report.

Erica Thygesen reported that the Fix-It-Fair that occurred on January 27, 2007 at Madison High School was a resounding success. Around 700 people attended the event, so hopefully more of them will be scheduled in this area in the future. Also, the Plastics Roundup that occurred on February 3, 2007 was also a success. More than 13,000 tons of plastic were diverted from landfills and recaptured for recycling.

Roger Warren gave an update on some issues that will be addressed by the sustainability committee. Roger reported that he had attended a workshop at the Fix-It-Fair about composting. Roger brought in a sample of his composted dirt for all to admire, envy, covet, and feel inspired to create for ourselves. Roger also talked about an upcoming naturescaping workshop that he will be attending, and will be encouraging other members in the neighborhood to attend as well. Naturescaping is an approach to garden design that uses native plants as a means of creating a healthy, pesticide-free environment, and it can save money, time, energy, and water usage for local gardeners. Be on the look out on the listserv and the newsletter for the date, time, and location of the upcoming naturescaping workshop.

Roger also provided an update from the Parks Committee. There are a series of events that are scheduled to occur at Mt. Tabor Park every Thursday in July 2007. These events reach about 800-1000 people each year. Roger made a request that the MNA provide some financial assistance to sponsor some of these events. Victor Flaming suggested that we postpone this discussion until our next board meeting, when we have an updated financial report by the treasurer.

Megan McCoy had no SEUL LUTC report.

Lisa Laurenceau discussed the role of Neighborhood Emergency Response Team members, and encouraged interested community members to sign up for the next training. Members of the team receive training on topics about how to respond to emergencies, and how to help neighbors respond to emergencies. There are several team members in Montavilla, but we have a large and diverse neighborhood, and can only be made safer if more people get involved. People who are non-English speakers are also encouraged to apply, as there are translators available for the trainings. For information about the next training, please call (503) 823-4375. To pre-register for the next training, please call (503) 823-1260.

Sandra McDaniel reported on the 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue of the Roses parade. The parade committee's application to have the parade run down 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue was rejected by the State of Oregon's Department of Transportation (because 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is considered a state highway, ODOT has jurisdiction over it). The committee is still committed to having a parade occur on April 27, 2007 as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rose Festival. The committee has been looking into a new route, and it appears as though the parade may run through the Montavilla Neighborhood. The next meeting of the planning committee will occur on February 20, 2007 at 5:30 pm at the Bank of the West. All are welcome.

Victor Flaming reported that the MNA Land Use Committee has scheduled a time with the developers of the former Baptist Manor property to have a neighborhood open house to view the property and the proposed plans, and to have a time to address some concerns and feedback. Victor also reported about a topic that arose at the most recent LUTC meeting about a proposal to sub-divide a property at 76<sup>th</sup> and Alder. A number of residents turned out at the last meeting in order to provide comment on the proposal.

Jennifer Tamayo put out a call for volunteers for several upcoming neighborhood association – sponsored events. The MNA is looking for people to help with newsletter distribution, as the next issue is ready for delivery. Also, March 10, 2007 is the date of the Friends of Trees tree planting in the Montavilla neighborhood, and more volunteers are needed to help with that event. Finally, the MNA annual neighborhood cleanup is scheduled for May 19, 2007. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping out with that event.

8:00pm: Our guest speakers for the evening are Frank Walsh, Dawn Tryon, and Ruth Handler from the Save Madison South Committee. The committee is made up of concerned neighbors from the Madison South neighborhood and the Roseway neighborhood. The committee was founded over concern about a proposed development that may occur on the city of the old landfill and former driving range at 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Siskiyou. The lot is currently zoned for 60,000 sq. ft. of retail, but a petition was submitted

to rezone that site in order to develop 240,000 sq. ft. of retail space. The Save Madison South committee is very concerned about this proposed change for several reasons. The first is that changing from 60,000 to 240,000 sq. ft. of retail would bring a significant increase of traffic into the neighborhood on a daily basis, and that would create extra congestion and decrease livability in the area surrounding the space. The second concern is that the developer who has submitted the proposal has a close relationship with Wal-Mart, who is the suspected tenants for the development, although both Wal-Mart and the developer have denied that that is the plan at this point. The committee even has a website at [www.savemadisonsouth.com](http://www.savemadisonsouth.com), and they will be holding a rally on February 17, 2007 in the park next to Madison High School, in order to show their opposition to this proposal. The Save Madison South committee highlighted the fact that they are not at all opposed to development of the site or to businesses in general, but that they would like to see sensible development in the area that supports neighborhood livability.

8:28pm: Max Horne announced that he will be involved in the opening of a new program within the Montavilla neighborhood. CODA, a non-profit agency with a long history of providing social services to people in Portland, has recently received funding to open a program on 80<sup>th</sup> and Burnside that is designed to be a transitional housing program for people who are exiting the care of the Oregon State Hospital. The program will be designed to house between seven and ten residents at any one time. It will have twenty four hour a day staffing, and none of the residents will be sex offenders. The goal of the program is to help to provide support for people with mental illness to re-engage in the greater community. Program staff plans to continue to come to neighborhood association meetings to address concerns and to be a good partner in the community. Residents will also be welcome at any and all neighborhood association meetings.

8:35pm: Jennell Andrews announced that the Montavilla Community Center received a grant to provide program for youth age 13 – 17 on the first and third Friday and Saturday of every month from 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm. This program is designed to engage young people in developmentally appropriate and interesting activities as an alternative to high risk activities that they might be engaged in during those hours. The community center is looking for folks who may be interested in helping out with some of those activities; it is a great way to volunteer in your community. Jennell also requested that if any one notices any unsavory activities occurring during or close to those times, then folks please contact the community center.

8:36pm: Jennifer Tamayo announced that the position of Chair of the Outreach Committee for MNA is currently open. We will hold elections for this position at our next general meeting on March 12, 2007.

8:38pm: Megan McCoy moved that tonight's meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded, and then passed unanimously.