

# MONTAVILLA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL MEETING

September 14, 2009, 7:00 pm

Board Members Present: Justin Cutler, Chair; Brian Wong, Co-Vice-Chair; Jennifer Tamayo, Co-Vice-Chair; Lew Scholl, Land-Use Committee Chair; Liz Sullivan, SEUL Livability Committee Delegate; Fritz Hirsch, Public Safety Committee Chair; Carol Sima, Board Member-at-large.

Former Board Member: Lisa Laurenceau, Former Secretary/SEUL Delegate.

Residents: Joanna Beatty, Maria Sworske, Marisa Swenson, Theresa Van Auken, Christy Splitt, Raydene Taylor, Ron Cima, Susan Pocansky, Eva Shesertz, Mark Adams, Justin Darroh, Uz Priilkin.

Guests: Ben Cannon, State *Rep - change approved 10/12/09* Senator; Kristen Wiener. SEUL Staff.

The meeting was called to order by Justin Cutler, MNA Chair. Introductions followed. Justin announced upcoming elections in October. He went over all the positions that are open. They are: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, SEUL Board Delegate, SEUL Livability Committee Delegate, Land-Use Committee Chair, Public Safety Committee Chair, and various at-large positions.

Jennifer Tamayo, Acting Treasurer, had no Treasury report. Friends of Trees have a Tree Planting on Saturday March 6. To volunteer to help plant trees or to get a tree for your own yard or parking strip, call her 503-257-2940. There will be a composting event in May.

Fritz Hirsch, Public Safety Chair; is organizing graffiti clean-ups for Montavilla, hopefully for the first or second week in October. "Sassy's" has sold "Montavilla Station" bar, it will, reopen soon under the same name near Country Cat. There won't be any change in staff. The new owner wants to meet with the Neighborhood Response Team Officer. Fritz and Brian will try to set up the meeting.

Brian Wong, Co-Vice-Chair and Montavilla Foot Patrol Leader; said the Foot Patrol is still operating about 2 times a week. They've noticed an increase in Prostitution on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue of Roses. Lisa Laurenceau asked if there were still Portland Police Bureau Detail Cars out. Brian said there were, but the girls seem to know which cars are the Detail Cars and get off 82<sup>nd</sup> when they see the cars. Brian aid he thinks there are girls from Seattle and Los Angeles, to add to the local girls.

The Kids Carnival was a rousing success on August 22 in Montavilla Park. Brian got a Neighborhood Grant and pulled together Highland Christian Center, City Blessing Church, and Central Bible Church to put it on.

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Brian estimated that 650-800 people who attended, with 100-150 at the Movie in the Park (sponsored by the Foot Patrol afterward. Backpacks with free school supplies were given out and were gone in 40 minutes. Demographic information (taken by asking people to fill out information card at entry) showed that most attendees were lower income families, so the backpacks and school supplies got to the kids who really needed them.

Liz Sullivan, SEUL Livability Committee Delegate; mentioned that Milepost 5 (artists' studio facility and condo development across from Montavilla Park [formerly Baptist Manor Retirement and Nursing Home] held an Arts Event (Art Show/Music etc.) August 14-23 and a Barbeque for artists to give thanks to the community.

Liz said that Montavilla/East Tabor Business Association (METBA) wants to get kids to Trick-or Treat again, at least at area businesses.

Carol Cima, Board Member-at-Large; said that despite MNA's hard fight against the 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Max Stop Pedestrian Barrier is still going in. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) (82nd Avenue is also a state highway) and the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) have supported it from the beginning, and ignored that both the MNA general membership and Board had voted to oppose it. Also a streetcar is going in on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue of Roses, right down the middle. Business owners on 82<sup>nd</sup> are not happy about it since it will create traffic back-ups- 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue cannot be widened any more without loss of business property.

Lew Scholl, Land-Use Committee Chair; said that PCC has put out a Request for Process (RFP) (aka asking for bids) for architectural consultants for the expansion going in on the north side of the campus. Brian Wong, Co-Vice-Chair had asked Lew to look into having trees for the parking strip on Stark Street, since the previous Land-Use Chair had talked about that, but Lew said it appeared that there isn't room for trees.

Lisa Laurenceau, former SEUL Delegate, said she didn't get to the September SEUL Board meeting since the date was changed and she didn't find out until the day after the meeting had already taken place. She will definitely get to the October SEUL Board meeting; it will be her last one since she has moved out of the neighborhood.

Ben Cannon, the State Representative for the district that Montavilla is a part of spoke next. He gave a brief bio of himself; he is married and has a daughter. His day job is as a teacher of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. He said his favorite part of his job as a State Representative is coming to Neighborhood Associations and talking to constituents. He gave an update on the recent budget decisions made by the Legislature. Revenue is down because people are out of work. Even Lottery funds are down. He said the Legislature needs to fund schools, and other essential services, more people need assistance financially, housing, heat, etc. The legislature used some reserve funds, raised taxes on corporations, and households with income above \$250,000/year.

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It will go to the ballot in January. If voters say no, the Legislature will have to cut \$750,000,000.00 from the budget. The legislature has increased the number of people that can be covered on the Oregon Health Plan, mostly children, starting in January. People can check the website [oregonhealthykids.org](http://oregonhealthykids.org). They voted into law a bill requiring Low Carbon fuel to reduce carbon monoxide emissions. They also voted in Online voter registration, not online voting, just registrations. He then answered questions. Someone asked about the 8nd Avenue MAX Stop Pedestrian Barrier, he said he can't help. He called ODOT, but they weren't willing to back down, he called Mayor Sam Adams, but he's got his own personal controversy to take care of and can't take on anything more. Rep. Cannon said if he was on the appropriations committee for ODOT maybe he'd have more influence, but since he isn't, he doesn't. Rep. Cannon said MNA has made a name for itself with its activism on the fence and Prostitution. Montavilla is labeled as conservative and church-going; can there be zoning for adult businesses? Rep Cannon said the Oregon Constitution forbids discrimination based on type of business.

Lew Schoill said the Cascade College (Private Christian) has been rented to churches for a year. The owner of the property is willing to come to MNA general meeting in November and talk at length and answer questions. Thatcher's Brewfest on August 22 raised \$1400 for MNA.

Justin said the elections would be at the next general meeting, October 12, 2009. Question asked about progress on the Vestal Greening Project. Justin said that there was a Depaving Day held and all remaining asphalt was removed. Grassy area was already in.

One resident, Susan Pocansky, 85<sup>th</sup> and Yamhill, said she would be holding a Block Party, on October 17. She spoke of pre-school, local exchange trading, interlocking issues of oppression. Website: [mountainvalleycommunity.com](http://mountainvalleycommunity.com). She will try to match people with yards they don't know what to do with people on waiting lists for community gardens.

Kristen Wiener, SEUL staff, said she would be here for the elections in October. She also said that applications are available for the Neighborhood Grants Program. The applications are also available online. She is the Neighborhood Grants Program Manager. She announced a Photo Contest "What Montavilla Means to You." There are also Networking Nights for various Neighborhood Board Positions. Call Kristen at Southeast Uplift for information; 503-232-0010.

Justin adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.