

Montavilla

neighborhood association

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

Present: Yvonne Garcia, Mike Somerscales, Craig Bach, Susan Shafner, Jennifer Tamayo, Cindy and Chris Chambers, Sybil McKenzie, Maria Sworske, Sara Peters, Eric Hanson, Maxine Deardorff, Erica Thygesen, Sarah Selden, Victor Flaming, David Linn, Jennifer Tamayo, Megan McCoy, Kim White

Board Members Absent: Lisa Laurenceau, Sandra McDaniel, Roger Warren

Minutes: Erica Thygesen

7:08pm: Meeting called to order by Jennifer Tamayo. The agenda was passed out and reviewed by all. Sarah Selden made a motion to approve the agenda. Erica Thygesen seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda was passed unanimously.

7:11pm: Introduction of community members.

7:17pm: No Portland Police Officers were present this evening to provide an update for the community.

7:17pm: Sarah Peters and Eric Hanson from Clark Elementary SUN Program were our enthusiastic guest speakers for the evening. Sarah is the Site Manager, and Eric is the Community Resource Developer for the SUN Program, which has been in operation at Clark Elementary since September 2006. The SUN Program stands for Schools Uniting Neighborhoods, and they have been in existence in Portland since 1999. Currently there are 56 schools in Portland that operate as SUN schools, several of which exist in and around Montavilla, including Bridger, Binnesmead, and Madison schools. The goal of the SUN Program, as the name suggests, is to serve as a community hub, to support, engage, and increase academic performance for youth, and to bring neighbors together in that effort. Students are provided with homework before school between the hours of 8:00am and 8:45am, and after school the program runs from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. After school, students are provided with snacks, homework assistance, and a variety of recreational and educational activities that are designed to enrich the lives of students. Additionally, there is a summer program that will run from June 18, 2007 until July 18, 2007 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Anyone who has a skill or interest, and who would like to volunteer is encouraged to contact Sarah and Eric. Don't worry: a thorough background check is conducted on everyone who wants to become a volunteer.

7:29pm: Everyone take a break.

7:39pm: David Linn provided an update on the Montavilla East Tabor Business Association's (METBA) plans to establish a Sunday morning farmer's market on 76th and Stark. They are continuing to hold regular planning meeting and are looking for volunteers. Keep an eye out for information to be posted on the MNA listserv regarding upcoming volunteer meetings.

7:43pm: Jennifer Tamayo discussed the annual Montavilla Neighborhood Cleanup, which is scheduled for May 19, 2007. We are currently working to recruit volunteers for the event. A question arose about whether or not water heaters would be collected at the cleanup, and whether they would be saved as scrap metal. The Cleanup Committee will have to research that question, and will get that information out as the date gets closer. At this point, anyone interested in volunteering should contact Jennifer Tamayo.

7:48pm: Jennifer Tamayo requested that everyone in attendance take time to review the minutes from the February general meeting. Victor Flaming made a motion that the minutes from the February 12, 2007 general meeting be approved. Megan McCoy seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

7:52pm: Jennifer Tamayo announced that the Outreach Committee Chair position has been vacated. We are in need of someone to serve for the rest of the term, which would run from now until the middle of May, when position elections occur for the coming year. Jennifer describe the role of the position, which includes working with various outreach subcommittees, including the newsletter and website, which have had lots of active involvement, and with other committees that need more development, including fundraising, outreach within the neighborhood and the larger community at public events, and a welcoming committee at neighborhood association meetings. Jennifer also explained that the Outreach Committee Chair would be responsible for attending Montavilla Neighborhood Association general meetings and board meetings, as well as outreach committee meetings. Jennifer asked if anyone from the group was interested in volunteering for the position of Outreach Committee Chair.

Yvonne Garcia stated that she would like to volunteer for the position of Outreach Committee Chair. Yvonne stated that she has been a resident of Montavilla for almost two years, and has been coming to Montavilla Neighborhood Association general meetings for about nine months. She stated that her interest in the position was to help support the work that has already begun with regards to the newsletter and website, and to expand efforts to do outreach to community events, to do fundraising and connecting with neighborhood businesses, to establishing a welcoming committee for general meetings, and working to increase the participation of members of underrepresented groups with the MNA.

There was no one else how volunteered to oppose Yvonne Garcia for the position of Outreach Committee Chair, so it was decided to vote by a show of hands, rather than by secret ballots. 16 people voted to elect Yvonne to the position of Outreach Committee Chair, 0 people voted to oppose her election, and 0 people abstained. It was decided unanimously that Yvonne Garcia will serve as Outreach Committee Chair for the Montavilla Neighborhood Association for the remainder of this term, namely from now until May 2007. Congratulations Yvonne, and welcome to the board.

7:59pm: Committee updates are as follows.

Alema McCrea from METBA was not present tonight, so there was no additional update other than that provided by David Linn earlier in the meeting with regards to the developing farmers' market. Jennifer Tamayo did remind folks that METBA is working on a website, and they currently have a listserv on Google.

David Linn announced that there is a Community Forum on Infill that ill be happening this coming Saturday March 17, 2007 from 9:00am – 12:00pm at 1900 SW 4th. Several representatives from the Montavilla Neighborhood Association are planning to attend this event. If anyone has specific issues that they would like to see addressed, but cannot attend the event, please pass your questions or concerns on to Sarah Selden, and she will take those issues to the forum.

Maria Sworske reported that she attended part of the METBA walkabout with Sam Adams that occurred on March 9, 2007. Sam Adams came to discuss some of the issues, concerns, and hopes of local business owners. Common topics in the discussion included pedestrian safety, traffic calming, and issues related to business licensing. It sounds like the event was a success.

Maria Sworske provided the treasure's update. We currently have \$1879.89 in our checking account. There was no update on the savings account, other than that it held the same amount as was announced at our last board meeting. Maria reported that she is continuing to get some good feedback from advertisers

in the newsletter. Advertisers are starting to get more feedback from customers that are reading the newsletter.

Erica Thygesen reported on the upcoming Plastics Recycling Roundup that will occur on May 19, 2007, the same day as the Montavilla Neighborhood Association Cleanup. A location in southeast Portland has not yet been secured for the Plastics Roundup, but information will be shared at this meeting, on the listserv, and in the next Neighborhood Association newsletter. For additional information about plastics recycling, people can check out the website www.masterrecycler.org.

Sarah Selden reported that she will be taking neighborhood concerns and questions to the Community Forum on Infill this Saturday March 17, 2007. She also reported that the MNA Land Use Committee received a notice about property at 8306 SE Taylor Court. The owners are proposing to put up attached housing in what is now a parking lot. Letters should be going out from the City to neighbors very soon, and the Land Use Committee will work with any neighbors that may have concerns about the proposal.

Megan McCoy provided an update from the most recent Southeast Uplift Land Use and Transportation Committee (SEUL LUTC) meeting. At that meeting, the upcoming construction of the I-205 light rail was discussed. Construction will likely begin in early summer 2007, and it will not be completed until 2009. There is some good information about the transportation changes at Tri – Met's website www.trimet.org.

Jennifer Tamayo explained the role that Southeast Uplift and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement play in the activities of the Montavilla Neighborhood Association, so that first time visitors would have some understanding of these two organizations.

Victor Flaming reported on the CPTED committee (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design). The focus of today's meeting was on the reduction of crime at the 82nd Avenue Max Station, which has the reputation in town, with regards to criminal activity. It was reported at the CPTED meeting that there have been some IT issues that have prevented the new cameras that were installed this fall from being as useful as they could be. It was also noted that Wednesdays are statistically the worst days for criminal activity at the Max Station. Several people discussed car break ins, and it was noted that both the Burgerville on 82nd and Glisan and the Montavilla Community Center have been experiencing car prowls recently.

Jennifer Tamayo reported on the success of last weekend's Friends of Trees planting that occurred in Montavilla, Mt. Tabor, South Tabor, and Center neighborhoods. 99 trees were planted within the four neighborhoods on March 10, 2007. Many Montavilla neighbors came out to volunteer to help with the planting or purchased trees for their yards. Friends of Trees has been instrumental in helping to increase the urban canopy in Portland. In fact, they have been so successful at it, that Portland is the only major city in the United States that has more trees today than twenty years ago. Good work. The event was a success for our neighborhood, and we are already starting to plan for next year's tree planting. Outreach about the event will start to happen in June or July 2007, and anyone who is interested in either purchasing a tree or volunteering to help with the planting should contact Jennifer Tamayo.

Jennell Andrews announced that this summer will be the Parks 100 year celebration, and there will be an event on June 21, 2007 at the Montavilla Community Center and neighborhood park. Jennell also reported that they are still looking for volunteer judges for the Portland Idol competition that will occur on March 24, 2007 at the Montavilla Community Center.

8:48pm: David Linn moved that tonight's meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Megan McCoy, and then passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.