

# Montavilla

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*neighborhood association*

Montavilla Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2007

Present: Jennifer Tamayo, Sarah Selden, Erica Thygesen, Maria Sworske, Roger Warren, David Linn, Craig Bach, Afifa Ahmed Shafi, Megan McCoy  
Absent: Sandra McDaniel, Lisa Laurenceau, Victor Flaming

Minutes: Erica Thygesen  
Audio Recording: Victor Flaming

6:34pm: Meeting called to order by Jennifer Tamayo.

Roger Warren moved that we approve the agenda for the meeting.

Megan McCoy seconded the motion.

Erica Thygesen reported that there would be no minutes for review at this meeting. The suggestion was made that Erica email the minutes to board members prior to the meeting for review. With that, the motion to approve the agenda for the meeting was passed unanimously.

6:41pm Afifa Ahmed Shafi had several reports.

1. She reported that Southeast Uplift has undergone some changes. They experienced a decrease in funding and lost several staff. Currently they have two staff who will be dedicating to working with neighborhood associations, whereas in the past they had four. Kristin Wiener will be working to assist neighborhood associations to organize around trends and common issues. Afifa will be focusing more on communications and cultural competencies. Also SEUL will be open for walk in hours on Monday afternoons from 4:00-6:00pm.
2. Congratulations. The MNA received a grant in the amount of \$2,759.00 to be used as part of a Montavilla Community Outreach Fair. Good work to everyone who was involved in that: Afifa, Craig Bach, Jennifer Tamayo, and Victor Flaming.
3. Afifa also reported that it looks as though the mayor's Community Connect Project has temporarily stalled. The project has experienced some turn over in staffing, and the remaining staff are currently seeking more leadership from the mayor before identifying next steps. More information will likely be available in the future.
4. Afifa also followed up with regards to the visioning/ strategic planning conversation that began in September 2006 at the MNA board meeting. Several hopes that board members have is to get a sense of what the neighborhood association should see as priorities, how to shape our direction, how to talk about who we are and what we do, how to attract more people to our meetings as we have a better sense of our mission. Erica Thygesen expressed interest in working with Afifa to help to develop some next steps for the board. Sarah Selden reported that she would get a copy of the Montavilla Neighborhood Association planning document.

7:00pm Sarah Selden provided several updates to the board.

1. Sarah reported that there were a sizable number of neighbors who turned out for the 10-Minute Conversations with Mayor Potter, an event which occurred on January 20, 2006. Some of the issues that were raised were safety and cleanliness around the Max stations, infill issues – preserving livability while increasing density, pedestrian safety among major arterial streets, sidewalk instillation, and crime in general. Sarah will put an article about the talks in the upcoming newsletter.

2. Sarah also reported that she is still working to pin down a time for an open house for the Baptist Manor development. The open house will likely occur sometime during the month of February. She will post information to the listserv and by email as soon as it is available.
3. She reported about an issue that had been raised on the listserv about a pole that had fallen from one property to another on SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Hawthorne Street. David and Victoria Gantz wrote a letter to Jack Benjamin asking that he take responsibility for the fallen pole. They have not yet received a response from Mr. Benjamin. They are also not yet requesting additional assistance from the neighborhood association, but plan to keep us abreast of the situation.
4. She also reported about a proposed subdivision of property at 76<sup>th</sup> and SE Taylor. The land-use committee will be exploring the issue at their next meeting.

7:21pm: Craig Bach had several reports as well.

1. First, he reported that conversations are occurring between Mayor Potter and PDOT about a recent shooting at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Max Station. He also reported that the ongoing issue of prostitution has been flaring up on parts of 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. There are several businesses on the street that may be allowing illegal activity to flourish in their parking lots and place of business, and it is something that should be paid attention to more proactively.
2. Craig also provided some information about the Save Madison South campaign. Both the Madison South and Roseway Neighborhoods are working to oppose a development that is proposed across from Madison High School. Members of the Save Madison South campaign committee have been invited to the February general meeting of the Montavilla Neighborhood Association to discuss the situation in more detail.

7:31pm: Roger Warren provided some updates on ideas for the Environmental Committee. He discussed the concept of carbon offsets, where someone can purchase offsets from a business that works to collect carbon and other green house gases and to recapture them for use as energy sources. Roger is also working to set up some homestudy courses through the Northwest Earth Institute. More information to come on that topic. Finally, Roger is working to connect up with the Sunnyside Neighborhood Sustainability committee for inspiration.

7:48pm: Erica Thygesen reminded board members about the upcoming neighborhood Fix-It-Fair that is scheduled for January 27, 2007 from 8:30 – 2:00 pm at Madison High School. This will be the first Fix-It-Fair at this location, and everyone is hoping for a good turn out.

7:52pm: David Linn reported that a new African Community Center will be opening on 85<sup>th</sup> and Stark. He also expressed his interest in being the liaison to the Mabelville Garden.

7:55pm: Megan McCoy reported that she had no update from SEUL's LUTC tonight.

7:55pm: Maria Sworske reported that we have already generated \$725.00 in advertising revenues from the upcoming newsletter. \$495.00 of it is currently in hand, and more should be coming in shortly. Great work Maria.

8:01pm: Jennifer Tamayo had several updates and action items.

1. Jennifer discussed the old Montavilla Neighborhood banners that can be seen (barely) on SE Stark Street. Jennifer received notice that we are required to renew the \$275.00 annual insurance fee on the banners if we are to keep them up. The banners are currently difficult to see, and carry the old MNA logo.

Sarah Selden made the motion that we take down the banners unless it will cost more than \$275.00 to have them removed, and that we don't currently renew our insurance on the banners.

Megan McCoy seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Jennifer reported that the METBA annual fee has been raised to \$40.00 from \$35.00. Craig Bach and Maria Sworske have both stated that they are able to attend METBA meetings.
3. METBA is requesting volunteer and financial support for the neighborhood farmer's market. They would like to see a minimum of \$300.00 in sponsorship from the MNA. This will be considered at a later point.
4. We will continue to need volunteers for the Friends of Trees planting on March 10, 2007.

8:21 pm: Jennifer Tamayo moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Erica Thygesen seconded the motion.

The motion was passed by unanimous decision.

Meeting was adjourned.