

MINUTES

Montavilla Neighborhood Association Board

@ Montavilla United Methodist Church, 232 SE 80th Avenue, Portland, OR. **DATE:** Monday, 4/10/2017.

MNA BUSINESS MEETING:

Board Members Present: Benjamin Kerensa (Chair), Elaine Hakala (Treasurer), Jane Lawson, Jonnie Shaver, Jennifer Tamayo, & Michael Sonleitner (Vice Chair, taking minutes).

Absent with Regrets: Justine Scannell (Secretary); (NOTE: with 7/11 Board positions filled at the start of the meeting – and 6 Board members present – **a quorum of 4 was easily satisfied**).

Others present: Eve Nilenders (who would be confirmed as a Board member), & Tina Gronzo.

@ 6:30pm the MNA Business Meeting was called to order, Chair Benjamin Kerensa presiding.

Same Day Agenda Modifications: 1) add to the agenda a letter to Multnomah University: proposed by Michael, seconded by Jennifer – unanimously approved; 2) add to the agenda consideration of sponsorship for the “Imagine Montavilla” event: proposed by Jennifer, seconded by Jane – unanimously approved; and 3) Approve Agenda with additions, while changing the Board Appointments item to earlier consideration on the agenda: moved by Jonnie, seconded by Jennifer – unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda: unanimously approved (after discussion) including Minutes of the MNA Emergency Board Meeting of 3/19/2017 and our Treasurer’s Finance Report of 3/31/2017 that shows a balance of \$2,704.04 in the MNA savings account & \$3,663.51 in the MNA checking account.

NOTE: Minutes relating to regular Board & General Meetings for November & December of 2016, as well as for January & March of 2017 have yet to be received in a form that may be subject to approval.

Board Appointments: Benjamin Kerensa briefly discussed three people who have expressed interest in being appointed to an MNA Board position (Ben Tertin, Darin Lund, and Andrew Taylor Wilkins) – but who are not in attendance at this meeting. Ben Tertin is does not reside in Montavilla and would need special Board approval (as had been given to Justine Scannell) to be considered for appointment. Darin Lund is interested in serving, but could not come this evening. Andrew Taylor Wilkins has some desire to serve as Public Safety Chair but has not attended any Board Meeting since expressing his interest in January. Since these three were not present to be interviewed by the Board at this meeting, no action was taken regarding their interest in serving.

Eve Nilender was present and responded to all questions put to her by Board members. Her background includes substantial expertise and experience regarding Land Use & Transportation and, if appointed, she agreed to serve on the Board until the MNA Board elections set for October -- at which time she would consider running for a full two year term. After considerable discussion, including opportunity for Eve to ask questions of the Board, a motion was made by Jane Lawson and seconded by Jennifer Tamayo:

Res. 17-4-10a: MNA Board Appointment (unanimous hand-count): **To approve Eve Nilender to serve as an MNA Board Member and Chair of the MNA Land Use & Transportation Committee, effective immediately and continuing to the October 2017 elections.**

Cleanup Update & Volunteer Opportunities: As point-person for the annual MNA Spring Clean-Up fundraiser, Michael noted how he had just re-confirmed (with some difficulty) Arrow Sanitary (associated with Waste Connections Inc.) to provide 4 large (40 yard) containers for use at our May 6th event. The total bill for delivering & picking up the containers, as well as fuel costs & tipping fees will be \$1,992.00 – which will be paid soon by MNA to show good faith – with the money to be reimbursed via SEUL within two weeks after May 6th. Michael announced his advertising plan, which will make use of the MNA facebook page & website, the distribution of about 700 half-page flyers & posting of 50 full-page color posters, the selective placing of

announcements in church bulletins, and email communications to households associated with the Creative Science School, Bridger Elementary & Vestal Elementary (making use of the “Peace Jar” option). He noted how Board members & others could sign up to volunteer to help with any of these advertising functions as well as for a shift volunteering on the day of the event (May 6th) at the Montavilla Baptist Church parking lot on the corner of SE 92nd Ave. and Hawthorne. In particular, he would especially like participation in the 82nd Ave. of Roses Parade set for the Saturday before May 6th (i.e. April 29th) that would include handing flyers out to members of the public lining the parade route. Some Board members did sign up to help in various ways – and no Board vote or other action was needed.

Letter to Multnomah University: Composed by Benjamin Kerensa in response to a neighbor’s complaint, Mr. Cummings (VP for Public Relations) asked to have the University comply with provisions of its previously agreed to Mitigation Plan which includes providing public notice in relation to any development plans that affect neighbors. Eve Nilenders (our new Land Use & Transportation Chair), suggested a slight modification of wording for the letter, and agreed to join Benjamin in signing it. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Michael and seconded by Jonnie:

Res. 17-4-10b: MNA Letter to Multnomah University (unanimous hand-count): **To approve of the Benjamin Kerensa letter to Mr. Cummings urging compliance with the impact Mitigation Plan, attaching a copy of a relevant letter dated March 7, 2012.**

“Imagine Montavilla” Forum: Michael Sonnleitner noted how he had attended meetings (informally representing MNA Land Use & Transportation interests) that included two other former MNA Board Chairs (Stephen Rice, now President of METBA & Brian Wong, now Chair of the 82nd Ave. improvement Coalition). These three met several times with Tim Smith (a Principal of Urban Design & Planning at SERA Architects and a former Portland Planning Commissioner) – to discuss organizing a Forum in which Tim Smith would facilitate a discussion to “Imagine Montavilla” using a Civic Ecology framework he has created. With MNA Chair Kerensa’s knowledge, Michael arranged with Montavilla United Methodist Church approval to host the April 17th event free of charge, under the auspices of it being an MNA Forum (for which MNA Board approval is not necessary). A poster advertising the event was produced announcing the event as “sponsored” by the MNA and METBA (using their logos) without Board approval. Michael apologized for this oversight on his part, and asked for belated MNA Board approval of this event. Following a discussion which confirmed that this event would not obligate the MNA to future support (financially or otherwise) of anything that might evolve out of this event, a motion was made by Jane and seconded by Jennifer:

Res. 17-4-10c: “Imagine Montavilla” Forum (6-0 affirmative vote with Jonnie abstaining). **To formally sponsor this event scheduled for 7-8:30 pm on Monday, April 17th and to help advertise it via the MNA Facebook page and website.**

@ 7:30pm the MNA Board Business Meeting was adjourned.

MNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Attending: Seven MNA Board members including Benjamin Kerensa (Chair), Elaine Hakala (Treasurer), Jane Lawson, Jonnie Shaver, Jennifer Tamayo, Eve Nilender, & Michael Sonnleitner (Vice Chair, taking minutes), as well as eleven others including Washeed Brown (the invited guest speaker).

@ 7:45 The MNA General Membership Meeting was convened and facilitated by Benjamin Kerensa.

Introductions & Board Member Updates: Following Introductions by all present, Board Updates included several by Michael Sonnleitner regarding 1) the “Imagine Montavilla” event set for April 17th, 2) MNA participation in the **82nd Ave. of Roses Parade** on April 29th, and 3) the MNA “**Spring Clean-Up**” on May 6th; with Benjamin Kerensa noting how 4) the MNA Board had applied for **501c3 Tax Status** which would have substantial positive impacts and 5) the MNA Board had approved a “**Vision Statement**” at its Special MNA Meeting on March 19th; Jennifer Tamayo 6) regarding issues addressed and actions taken at the **SEUL Board Meeting** on April 3rd; and Jonnie Shaver 7) announcing a future meeting of the MNA **Housing & Homelessness Committee** for April (originally for the 24th and then postponed to the 30th).

Social Time (15 minutes): Those present actively participated in discussions and refreshments were appreciated.

Presentation: Washeed Brown, a founding member of the Village Coalition in the Spring of 2016, noted how the Village Coalition now includes active participation from Right 2 Dream 2, Hazelnut Grove, Portland Youthbuilders, City Repair, the Rebuilding Center, and other community groups. Now housed with the Q Center at the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods Office (located at NE 7th Ave. & Alberta), the Village Coalition has acquired 501c3 Tax Status, allowing for both financial and in-kind donations to be tax-deductible as they work to build solutions to both affordable housing and the Portland area houseless issues. Their successes to date include organizing a display of 14 “Tiny House” designs – which have inspired the Kenton Neighborhood Association in North Portland to endorse approval of a site to build tiny houses to shelter formerly houseless people there – at a cost of about \$28,000 per structure. The Village Coalition has also received a grant from SEUL to speak to neighborhood associations (like ours), encouraging consideration for similar initiatives to be explored in southeast Portland.

Washeed noted how there is an estimated 80,000 shortage in housing units in the Portland area, with at least 6,000 persons currently lacking shelter on any given day. This reality, as well as Village Coalition efforts to address it (at least in part), encouraged a lively discussion among those attending this MNA General Membership Meeting.

Meeting Feedback: positive.

@ 8:45 Meeting ended.