

Montavilla

neighborhood association

**Montavilla Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2006**

Present: Jennifer Tamayo, Alta Gaylord, Sandra McDaniel, Yvonne Garcia, Josh Cook, Sarah Selden, Erica Thygesen, Megan McCoy, Maxine Deardorff, Maria Sworske, Belladona, Roger Warren, Jennell Andrews, Les and Mabchelle, Victor Flaming, Craig Bach, Lisa Laurenceau, David Linn

Minutes: Erica Thygesen

7:04pm: Meeting called to order by Jennifer Tamayo. The agenda was reviewed. Lisa Laurenceau made a motion to approve the agenda. Sandra McDaniel seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the agenda for today's meeting.

7:06pm: Jennifer Tamayo passed out the minutes from the last general meeting for review.

7:10pm: Introduction of community members. There were several new faces in the room and several regular participants. Les and Mabchelle announced that they are considering moving into the neighborhood and wanted to come learn about issues facing the community. Belladona is a realtor and resident of the neighborhood who was attending her first meeting here. Josh Cook also attended his first meeting and is interested in helping out with the newsletter and other events. Maxine Deardorff from Burgerville came to promote our next community outreach event. Familiar faces included Jennell Andrews, the director of the Montavilla Community Center, Yvonne Garcia, an active neighbor who is interested in environmental issues and other topics, and Alta Gaylord, who likes to refer to herself as an "interested bystander," and who is probably the longest standing member of the association. There were also many board members in attendance tonight.

7:12pm: Committee updates are as follows.

Victor Flaming reported that CPTED has been actively working with the East Precinct, ODOT, PDOT, ONI, and Tri-Met to continue to address crime concerns and increase safety at the 82nd Ave Max stop. Tomorrow, November 14, 2006, Victor and Craig Bach will give a presentation on the issues that exist along with suggestions for addressing them to representatives of Tri-Met and other stakeholders at the East Precinct.

Victor also highlighted the Max station cleanup that occurred on October 14, 2006. David Linn, Jennifer Tamayo, Megan McCoy, Craig, and Victor worked very hard on a cold Saturday morning to improve the area at the Max stop.

Finally, Victor invited neighbors to check out the MNA list serve on yahoo groups for up to date information on a variety of different topics.

Craig reported that he and Victor had attended a workshop today that was aimed at improving the relationship between the Portland Police Bureau and neighborhood groups. Some progress was made, but the conversation between interested parties will be ongoing.

Jennifer made several announcements. First, tomorrow night, November 14, 2006 is the Burgerville/Montavilla Neighborhood Association partnership night. Everyone should come on down to Burgerville for dinner, as a portion of the proceeds from the night go to support the Neighborhood Association.

Volunteers are also needed, and a sign up sheet was passed around. This is the second fundraiser that the MNA has held this year; the first was the Neighborhood Clean Up in the spring.

Jennifer also reported that on Thursday November 16, 2006 the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) is sponsoring a Southeast Public Safety Forum at Vestal Elementary School in the auditorium from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Jennifer reported that MNA had sponsored its own safety forum in October. It was put on in large part by our own Craig Bach and Victor Flaming. Jennifer also passed out two handouts on safety issues.

Next, Jennifer provided an update on the Friends of Trees partnership, as Erica Cutler, who is coordinating the Friends of Trees planting in March 2007, was not present tonight. It is still not too late for neighbors to sign up to get a tree planted in their yard or parking strip. The deadline to sign up for a tree is December 1, 2006, and the tree planting date is scheduled for March 10, 2006. Volunteers are also needed for the planting date even if not interested in a tree.

Finally, Jennifer announced that the fall newsletter is out and available. Volunteers are needed to help insure that the newsletter gets delivered to all neighborhood residents. Maria also reminded folks to let the businesses that advertise in the newsletter know that those ads have been seen, as it helps to insure that the businesses will continue to see that advertising as effective.

Sarah reported that there are several staffing changes occurring at Southeast Uplift (SEUL). They have a new Americorp staff person who is currently working to put together a neighborhood forum that will focus on issues of outreach. Also, Steve Hoyt, who is a longtime staff, is leaving, so there may be some restructuring of staff positions. Sarah will keep us updated on any changes that impact the MNA.

The big issue that was discussed at the last SEUL board meeting, according to Sarah, was the proposed sale of land from Mt. Tabor Park to Warner Pacific College. SEUL was very concerned about the lack of a public process to include neighbors and other stakeholders in the discussion of the proposed sale, and she wrote a letter to Commissioner Saltzman, who is head of the Parks Department, expressing their concern that neighbors be included in the process from here on out.

In terms of MNA's own land use and transportation committee, Sarah reported that the MNA wrote a letter to the city expressing concern over the proposed plan to subdivide the lot at 81st and Holladay into multifamily units. Areas of concern are increased density and the impact of increased street parking in the area. Also, Commissioner Adams requested a meeting with the MNA board chair, the land use committee chair, and a representative from the business association to discuss the issue of the Baptist Manor plan.

Finally, Sarah gave an overview of the neighborhood tour that occurred in October. She is preparing a larger, more formal presentation for a future general meeting that will highlight the issues that arose from the tour. In the meantime, the tour successfully included a variety of community stakeholders, including representatives from the Mayor's office, the planning bureau, business associations, Portland Community College and others, who looked at issues of transportation, infill and density, changes that will occur with the proposed light rail, and capitalizing on the presence of Portland Community College in the neighborhood. We will all look forward to Sarah's future presentation on the topic.

Sandra reported that Multnomah Bible College has sent out invitations to neighbors for their annual birthday celebration, which is scheduled for December 1, 2006.

7:31pm: Sandra made a motion that the Montavilla Neighborhood Association write a letter of support to the 82nd Avenue of the Roses committee stating that the Montavilla Neighborhood Association will act as a sponsor for the 82nd Avenue of the Roses parade that is scheduled for April 28, 2007.

Roger Warren seconded the motion.

Members discussed the implications of the letter, and what support and sponsorship of the event would entail. Victor requested that the minutes reflect that the 82nd Avenue of the Roses would like MNA sponsorship for liability and insurance purposes. Community members had a number of questions that couldn't be answered during today's discussion.

Jennifer Tamayo made a motion to table this discussion until the next board meeting so that more information can be gathered and presented to the board.

Roger Warren seconded the motion.

The motion to table this discussion until the next board meeting was passed unanimously.

7:45pm: Don Jacobson, the Chair of the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association's Environmental Committee came to speak to the group about some of the activities that the EC focuses on, as the MNA begins to consider establishing our own environmental committee. Don reported that the EC has been in existence for about a year and a half and is currently made up of three board members and five general members. They have focused on a variety of issues over the course of their existence, and have partnered with the Naturescape program to provide workshops on naturescaping, decreasing pesticide use, shrinking lawn sizes, and increasing the use of native plants in yards. Additionally, the committee worked to establish a yard and garden certification project that would focus on these issues; however, the certification is on hold at this time.

The primary focus of the EC over the last several months has been this issue of the potential sale of the maintenance yard at Mt. Tabor Park. The EC is very concerned about the sale, but they are particularly upset about the lack of a public process in parks and environmental issues within the city of Portland, and they have made that a campaign of the EC to work with the city to establish a public process.

Don also mentioned that the committee does not meet regularly, but primarily relies on a list serve and an annual fun event for communication and planning.

8:10pm: Sandra reported that Sullivan's Gulch is looking for letters of support for their proposed trail. Sarah reported that the MNA has already sent in letters of support for their proposal. Sandra and Sarah agreed to clarify the issue after the meeting.

8:11pm: Roger Warren moved that we approve the minutes from last month's general meeting.

Victor Flaming seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved.

8:12pm: Megan asked the question, what is the parking lot? The parking lot is a place where neighbor concerns or issues will be logged in order to ensure that they get discussed and considered. We will start using it more actively in future meetings.

8:14pm: Jennifer announced that the new Montavilla website will likely go live by December. The address for the new site will be www.montavilla.info and it will replace the old neighborhood link web site that we have been using.

8:15pm: Jennifer Tamayo moved that the meeting be adjourned.

David Linn seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned.