

MONTAVILLA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MNA Board Meeting Summary

May 28, 2007

Participants: Erica Thygesen, Chair; Lisa Laurenceau, SEUL Board Delegate/MNA Secretary; Craig Bach, Public Safety Committee Chair; Stephen Sequeira, Land-Use and Transportation Committee Delegate; Yvonne Garcia, Outreach Committee Chair; Maria Sworske, Treasurer; Roger Warren, Member of Parks Committee and Sustainability Committee.

Erica Thygesen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm. The agenda was accepted and approved unanimously.

Erica asked that everyone state their goals for the coming year. Erica had the goals of successful tree planting, increasing recycling in our neighborhood, have a big event and having speakers at our general meetings; asking the general membership about ideas for speakers to ask to come.

Yvonne Garcia, Outreach Chair, wants to focus on having a big outreach event, do fundraising, and to increase MNA name and recognition.

Roger wants do increase livability in the neighborhood.

Craig Bach, Public Safety Chair, expressed the same thing and also said he was disappointed that nobody had signed up for neighborhood watch. He mentioned a meeting that he has coming up with Crime Prevention Coordinator, Katherine Anderson. He doesn't feel that much would be accomplished by having a Public Safety Forum in the near future, since there have been a few such events in the area lately. Lisa mentioned that we shouldn't have one in the near future, but that the October general meeting would be a good time since October is Public Safety Month. She suggested we could ask Katherine Anderson; the Commander of the Southeast Precinct, Derrick Foxworth; (as past commanders have come in the past) and including Brendan McGuire, MNA's Neighborhood Response Team Officer, as well. Erica noted it for later consideration.

Maria Sworske, Treasurer, wants more support for local Business Associations, mainly Glisan Street Business Association which is unrepresented. She said more would be accomplished without overlap and redundancy if METBA would merge with Glisan

Street, not yet formed, but METBA is not willing to do that. Alema (METBA representative), said she doesn't have time to deal with both. Craig suggested that there may be somebody else who could be the Business Association Liaison. Maria asked for ideas about an easier way to get the newsletter out since house-to house hand delivery leaves some areas without newsletters. Lisa suggested mailing to parts of the neighborhood that don't get delivered to. Erica said something like that could be considered.

Stephen Sequeira, SEUL Land-Use and Transportation Committee Liaison, wants to increase communication between SEUL LUTC and MNA. He admitted that $\frac{3}{4}$ of what the last meeting was about wasn't relevant to MNA. He said he took the time to walk around the area and meet some to the business owners in the area and chatted with them. He said it was a good way to connect with individual businesses/owners.

Discussion centered on renters and homeless. Lisa mentioned that recent statistics indicate that renters generally stay longer than homeowners and that she, herself, has lived in the same apartment for 20 years. Erica said that Lisa should be able to speak to what we need to do to get more renters involved in MNA. Lisa said that the biggest hurdle is that misconception that MNA is only for homeowners. She said we should welcome any homeless who spend most of their time in Montavilla, since they are members as well. The rule is "anyone who lives, works, or owns property in the neighborhood" is a member and has a vote at a Neighborhood Association general meeting. It doesn't say that anyone who lives in the neighborhood has to be living in a building. She related the story of when she was at a SEUL Diversity and Representation Committee (she is a member of that committee) event she met a homeless man who "lived" in Kerns. He wanted to be involved in the community, but was under the impression that he was ineligible because of being homeless. She assured him that he was indeed a member of Kerns Neighborhood Association and had voting rights according to the rules.

Lisa Laurenceau, SEUL Board of Directors Delegate, and MNA Secretary said she wants to concentrate on increasing the communication between Southeast Uplift (both the organization and the Board) and MNA and also take care of her responsibilities as MNA secretary.

Erica said she was taking notes on goals and wants to organize that conversation.

She said we should begin to think and talk about strategic planning and a mission statement for Montavilla. Lisa mentioned that there is an existing mission statement and that she will attempt to locate it. Erica talked about having a 2-hour board meeting for strategic planning and revising the mission statement (if needed). She wants to get some neighborhood resident involvement, but feels it should be mostly MNA Board generated. Scheduling is to be determined later.

Sharon White will be at the MNA general meeting in July, speaking on pedestrian safety. Dan Saltzman, City Commissioner, will come to the June meeting. Stephen asked about any website, etc., that has all events in the city listed. There is no central location, just a few main ones. Erica asked for ideas about speakers for general meetings.

Yvonne announced that the next Outreach Committee meeting will be Monday, June 4, at the Community Center, possibly outside. The Outreach Committee needs help planning the outreach event.

Stephen announced the 82nd Avenue of Roses Streetscape meeting from 6pm –8pm on Tuesday, June 5 at the Community Center. Powell Streetscape is coming up if anyone lives out that way. Erica said to remember the fundraiser at Burgerville on June 18. 10% of the proceeds from 6pm-8pm benefit MNA.

Craig said that the prostitutes are out in force in spite of stings by the Portland Police Bureau. Katherine Anderson, Crime Prevention Coordinator, will be holding a meeting about businesses that allow this kind of activity, about possible Good Neighbor Agreements with these businesses. The GNA would show up on Liquor License Renewals, etc. Letter from MNA Board to businesses that sell things that can be turned into drug paraphernalia (i.e. roses in plastic tubes with water in it to keep it fresh, tube can be turned into crack pipe, etc.) needs to be composed and approved.

Rosemont Bluff Natural Area: MNA gave this small area as a gift to Center Neighborhood. There will be a plaque put up there about the gift.

Erica and Yvonne will be hosting a Master Recyclers table at the concerts at Mt. Tabor Park.

Erica will schedule a meeting for the Sustainability Committee because there has been interest, to see who comes, to see if a Chair for the committee can be found from among the attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Laurenceau
MNA Secretary