

MONTAVILLA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

JUNE 25, 2007

Participants: Erica Thygesen, Chair; David Linn, Vice President/Parks Chair; Maria Sworske, Treasurer; Lisa Laurenceau, SEUL Board Delegate/MNA Secretary; Yvonne Garcia, Outreach Chair; Stephen Sequiera, SEUL LUTC Delegate; Craig Bach, Public Safety Chair.

Erica called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Yvonne moved to approve the agenda, Stephan seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Erica handed out her organization of the goals stated by all participants of the previous Board meeting in May. She said the common theme was livability of the neighborhood. She stated that throughout the year we'll refer to the goals stated to see how we're doing, if we're meeting our goals and how we can use the goals to increase participation, increase volunteers. If someone asks what MNA is about we can state our goals: i.e. Did we do well with the clean-up? Did we break even on newsletter advertising? Do we have a sense of pride in our neighborhood? We have accomplished things, but we don't have them documented.

Josh Shirley, a neighborhood resident who asked for a financial contribution to the block party he has every year for/on National Night Out, for a promise that he will have it to benefit MNA, told Erica he would do his party on his own since we didn't give him the money immediately and we asked for time for the Board to consider it. David told him we'd work through it and set forth a motion for the next general meeting. David also asked SEUL about liability/insurance for block parties. It is required for us to sponsor it, and SEUL provides insurance for free. Liability is on the host, not on us. Alcohol, which he says he will serve (not sell, although he expects to make money on that, we're not sure how that works), is allowed. Approval is based upon past performance. But block parties have been held for many years without problems. There was one claim, but it was not upheld. Discussion about profit, since it's supposed to be a benefit. Erica asked how we make decisions about it if it's possible to raise funds for MNA? It may have benefits other than financial. David said Josh just wants to break

even-all profits go to MNA. Alcohol will be served for donations. Maria, as a resident and as a landlord, sees a block party with alcohol as a nuisance. Loud music played at block parties near her house are bad enough. Should we lend MNA's name to it? Complaining about the noise to authorities just it will affect the neighborhood. Some residents will like it and some won't. We'll be making decisions about things and we'll have to vote our consciences. We will have further discussions on noise, alcohol, a valid way to notify neighbors, etc. Yvonne asked how MNA's name would appear, on posters, flyers? MNA's name will appear as sponsors. Craig said he's already seen on a website that Josh was already claiming our sponsorship. Lisa said that it's just wrong to claim sponsorship before we've made a decision. Erica asked if we can support it in terms of volunteers? We could put it out to the general membership to see if people are willing to help. David suggested that we could have the noise control number and put it on flyers for all the neighbors, pass out brochures on alcohol addiction, etc. David said that we need to remember the purpose of the block party is to bring neighbors together and have neighbors get know each other, etc. Lisa said that the noise control ordinance doesn't go into effect until 10:00pm and doesn't effect some types of noise. Craig confirmed it. Stephen said we need to look at benefits and drawbacks of block parties, it doesn't just effect the area around the block party, it's inclusive. David says it would be negative if we refused, the NA is supposed to support block parties. Yvonne said that not every event will appeal to everyone, but it brings more people out. Erica said we were reluctant, at first, to support 82nd Avenue Of Roses Parade. Lisa said but it wasn't an individual it was a Business Association. David said we weren't so worried about the Thatcher's Brewfest because they're a business and so it's more professional, but that doesn't mean we turn down individuals. Erica said we would need to think about some guidelines, setting down some rules for events we would sponsor. David suggested that the Outreach Committee should take a look at it, perhaps form a a sub-committee to put together the guidelines. Then they could bring it to the Board, and if the Board approves them, then we could take them to the general membership and perhaps add them to the bylaws. Stephen said he appreciated David doing the research at SEUL. David listed the concerns he would discuss with Josh: noise, alcohol, announcing sponsorship of MNA before we made a decision, etc. Erica said maybe these guidelines are part of a larger discussion, how do we handle conflict? Parking was a major theme last year, for example. We need to have an agreement about how we resolve conflict. Yvonne suggested one of

them would be to let someone finish their statement before stating your views. Maria suggested we could have a moderator for some discussions. Erica said it was something to think about for discussions when she had strong opinions. Stephen suggested we keep personal attacks out of our views. Erica shared the Wikipedia definition of conflict. She said strong feelings and passion aren't negative and don't need to be shut down. Erica said that if we, as a Board, always agreed about everything, we wouldn't be representing our neighborhood well. Maria stated we'd be a clic. Erica said we'll discuss guidelines later.

Erica said that Afifa Ahmed-Shafi, SEUL staff liaison, will come and help us with some strategic planning during our July Board meeting, July 23 from 7:00pm-9:00pm at Montavilla Community Center.

Erica handed out a sheet with upcoming speaker topics.

"Seed and Produce" exchange is coming up for our August general meeting.

David said he'd put some thought to a Park Committee meeting.

Yvonne announced the Outreach Committee meeting on the first Monday of the month. Lisa asked if the day could be changed since she would like to be involved, but she has to be at the SEUL Board meeting on the first Monday. There was some discussion about the best day to meet. Yvonne said for now, she wants it to remain unchanged. Input from those unable to attend could be by listserv.

Burgerville Fundraiser for MNA brought in \$70 in cookie sales, Alta Gaylord manned the cookie table. Food sales brought in possibly about \$170. Some Board members came and volunteered. There was discussion about donations-we don't have a tax I.D. number or non-profit number. We don't have to-we are covered under SEUL's 501C3, so any donations to MNA are tax deductible.

There was some discussion between a couple of longtime residents about the first use of the original Multnomah Bible College buildings. The original use was as a School for the Blind in 1952. They made brooms and went door-to-door in the neighborhood selling them.

Natalie is an intern for us this year, and she is working with the Roseway theater for the International Festival.

Land-Use Committee needs a chair. Erica is promoting a chair for LU since she's getting the notices and doesn't have the time to do it.

Stephen-SEUL LUTC-Transportation-There's a plan to improve the Sellwood Bridge. Powell Streetscape is still going on, though it's outside of Montavilla boundaries. Measure 37 will be taken up by the Legislature. LUTC would like input on what position to take. Craig attended the Transportation Stakeholders meeting held by City Commissioner Sam Adams. There are a lot of ideas on where to get the money, including raising cigarette and alcohol taxes. Lisa said that Oregon's taxes on these are among the lowest in the nation due to a strong tobacco and alcohol lobby in Salem.

Craig will be going to a City Public Safety Forum to plan for the next ten years. Southeast Precinct Open House is coming up. Two Heroin users were arrested less than a block away from a daycare. The PPB is doing a lot of drug and prostitution stings. A lot of police officers will be retiring soon and PPB is heavily recruiting.

National Night Out is August 7. It is held the first Tuesday of August.

SEUL is having an ice cream social on Monday, July 2. Everyone is welcome, but they are especially inviting Neighborhood Board members so that they can meet other Board members from around the Southeast. There was a request from Maria-could SEUL have a dairy-free alternative for those allergic to dairy? Lisa will ask SEUL staff.

Lisa moved for adjournment and Yvonne seconded the motion was carried. Erica adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Laurenceau
MNA Secretary

