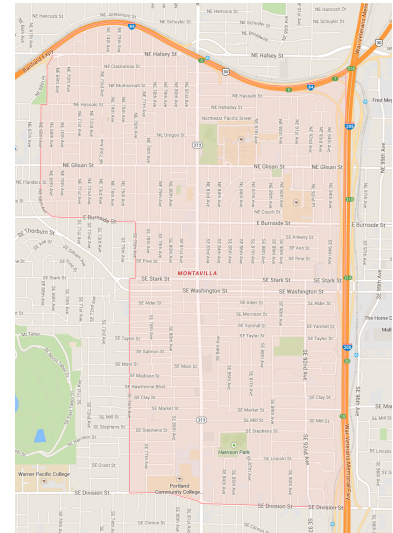




Mission of the Montavilla Neighborhood Association:

To consider and act on issues that affect the livability and quality of the neighborhood; To provide an open process by which all members may involve themselves in the affairs of the neighborhood; To take positions in matters of civic interest, and promote those positions in communications; To inform residents of events or plans affecting the neighborhood; To establish and maintain open lines of communication with other organizations, such as district coalitions, other neighborhood associations, and city, county, region, and state government agencies.



The boundaries of the MNA are:

- Southern Boundary: S.E. Division Street (North Side)
- Eastern Boundary: Interstate 205 (West Side of I-205/ Veterans Freeway)
- Northern Boundary: Interstate 84 (South Side of I-84/ Banfield Freeway)
- Western Boundary: S.E. 76 Avenue (East Side from Division to Burnside & N.E. 68 Avenue (East Side from Burnside to I-84/Banfield Freeway))

Montavilla News

Message From Your MNA Board Chair

By David Linn

Hello Montavilla!!!

The new MNA Board was elected Oct. 8th and we have all been hard at work building up the capacity of the Association and looking forward to many exciting things going forward. We have already formed committees on: Public Safety; Communications & Outreach; Land-Use and Transportation; Housing & Homelessness; and Parks. Look further in this newsletter to see updates from each of the Chairs. We also have short bios of our new Board. We are excited to get to work.

I took this volunteer position knowing full well the controversy and acrimony that has enveloped the community in recent years. We have seen political and economic forces affect our neighborhood in many positive and negative ways, all at a time of rapid changes across the entire region.

I was in attendance at the July meeting of the MNA that was packed with concerned people. We heard the concerns that many have around the seemingly growing number of our homeless neighbors. They had very understandable concerns about feeling un-safe at times and expressed frustration about the conditions that many spaces have come to. The hygiene issues, the garbage, and the needles.

I also saw many of our neighbors acknowledge the humanity and plight that our fellow people find themselves in. Many were concerned about the dire lack of resources that are far below the need. We heard experts describe the positive effect any efforts to help can have, no matter how small. Many of our neighbors had personal stories of redemption and recovery.

We have come together time and time again to support activities that address the symptoms, and it may appear like we can only make a dent in the problem. These issues are much larger than our community but we cannot ignore them. It may be hard to have these conversations but we need to have them. These

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Meet your Newly Elected Board

David Linn, Chair

"Except for a few years and several different locations around East Portland, I have always called Montavilla home. I am a lifelong student of history, politics, and government. I first joined the MNA in 2005 while there was an effort to create a volunteer library. My interests are in building the sense of community through outreach and community events. I live with my wife and 9 year old son. In my free time I enjoy gardening, reading, cooking, and playing basketball."

Olivia Alsept Ellis, SEUL Delegate

Since her appointment on the MNA board, Olivia Alsept Ellis has really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about her fellow board members, neighbors, SE Uplift and the incredible potential of developing community resiliency through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. She hopes to deepen her connections within the neighborhood in order to make more projects possible. One such issue she would like to highlight by Springtime is the need for public toilets. She is researching opportunities to address sanitation complaints raised by neighbors – not to mention, building infrastructure that can help houseless humans access a toilet without relying on or having to pay local businesses. This is a human right. There is more work to be done on this project before it is presented to the board & membership, so if you would like to contribute or have location suggestions, please feel free to contact her at olivia@montavillapdx.org.

Within both MNA and SE Uplift, Olivia has followed-up on her campaign promise to bring her professional writing and academic English skills to the table, focusing on communication based projects like joining a subcommittee to evaluate and rewrite SE Uplift's Mission Statement. She also hopes to tackle coordination of neighborhood activity and communication via the Communication and Outreach subcommittee within the MNA. Consider joining this or another subcommittee in order to expand the possibilities of neighborhood democracy and make what's possible happen right here in Montavilla.

Amanda Rhoads, Vice-Chair

I'm from Cleveland, Ohio – Rust Belt proud! – but I'm happy to be raising my kids right here in Montavilla, where I have lived since 2006. I've got a background in renewable energy, nonprofit management, food systems and urban agriculture, and started my own ice cream business during the recession. I sold the business in 2014 and am back to being a city planner at the City of Portland. I earned my Neighborhood Emergency Team certification in 2016 and am looking forward to talking resiliency and emergency management with MNA members. I am bringing my experience with the Zoning Code to serve our community, and might even make us some ice cream next summer!

Antigonous Jarret—Member At-Large

Antigonous Jarrett is a Ministerial Friend and a homemaker living in Montavilla. He strongly supports established community-led organizations in Montavilla. He's passionate about children's programs, neighborhood gatherings, MNA outreach, public accessibility, houselessness / evictions, and food assistance.

Not Featured (Look for more in the next newsletter):

Brair Rose Schreiber—Secretary

Johnnie Shaver—Treasurer

Jonathan Ogden—Member At-Large

John Rotter—Member At-Large

Micah Fletcher —Member At-Large

Brad Donohue—Member At-Large

Division Transit Project

by Amanda Rhoads, Land Use and Transportation Chair

The region's first bus rapid transit line is coming to the south edge of Montavilla! The Division Transit Project, slated to start operations in 2021, will span a 14-mile route from downtown Portland, across the Tillicum Crossing, through SE and East Portland, and to the Gresham Central Transit Center.

The project will provide improvements over current bus lines serving the area, including longer, articulated buses that hold 60% more passengers; multiple-door boarding for more frequent stops; larger bus stations with rain protection; and transit signal priority, meaning buses won't be stuck waiting at red lights. Together, these improvements will reduce travel times up to 20 percent.

The promise of bus rapid transit, or BRT, is in providing services and amenities similar to light rail, but without the steep costs and longer construction times of that mass transit option. The trade-off is that fewer stops are offered than

(Continued on page 3)

MNA Committees Calling for Volunteers

Land Use and Transportation

The Land Use and Transportation Committee fulfills a crucial role for the neighborhood: understanding City processes that affect our development and the transportation system, and making recommendations to the MNA board for responding to proposals and weighing in on projects. We also have numerous interests beyond our primary mission –helping generate a new vision for the neighborhood; collecting oral histories; getting art murals on buildings in Montavilla; and emergency preparedness – and we welcome everyone to join us. We meet monthly and are just gearing up, so it's a great time to get involved! You can contact chair Amanda Rhoads at amanda@montavillapdx.org or write the whole committee at land-use@montavillapdx.org.

Communications & Outreach

The Communications & Outreach Committee is the voice of the Association.

We need volunteers for the MNA Newsletter, website, social media. We need editors, writers, photographers, and distributors.

The committee with foster outreach and connections to local business and non-profit organizations in the community.

Event planning is a big role as there are festivals and fairs all year-round.

We want every member to feel engaged with what is going on in their community

We need volunteers for all of these roles because every extra person helps share the load.

Chairs: briarrose@montavillapdx.org
david@montavillapdx.org

SE Uplift (SEUL) is a District Coalition and Neighborhood resource that covers Montavilla as well as other southeast neighborhoods. Olivia Alsept-Ellis is the MNA appointed board member to SEUL – a board which is comprised of neighborhood association delegates, interested neighbors and other community organizations that work in the SE area. SEUL can be a resource for neighbors interested in the grassroots development of community resiliency. A small grants program's deadline is fast approaching – January 8th at 4pm. Grants can range from \$300-\$4000. Does your work deserve uplifting? Find out more information on seuplift.org or e-mail the MNA delegate olivia@montavillapdx.org – 2018 is the year for Montavilla!

(Continued from page 2)

on a typical bus line, which will result in longer walks for some transit users. On this proposed line, up to 40 “enhanced stations” are proposed in locations where documented rider demand is greatest.

The design phase has hit its 30% milestone, with construction scheduled to begin in 2019. Learn more at trimet.org/division/.

Public Safety

John.rotter@montavillapdx.org

Parks

Jonathan@montavillapdx.org

Housing & Homelessness

jonnie@montavillapdx.org

SEUL Committees

Olivia@montavillapdx.org

Accessibility Committee (Proposed for Dec. 11th Meeting)

- Identify accessibility shortcomings by soliciting public commentary
- Advocate for public accommodations on behalf of neighborhood residents
- Compile accessibility resources and make them available on our website

Once formed, community members can communicate together to identify accessibility shortcomings. Elderly and disabled residents' voices will be amplified. This committee will influence the way our community maintains our space, making it easier for our community to come together. It will provide an immeasurable benefit for everyone.

MNA Committees

Committees are how the work of the association out in the community is organized. They advise the Board on events in those areas and potential for community involvement.

Committees can be formed by the Board simply because people have an interest in an issue and volunteering to work on it. Committees meet to discuss issues in more depth than is available at monthly member meetings. It allows people of common goals to come together and meet.

Committee work is interdependent and interrelated, as is so much of our world. A person does not have to choose to volunteer for just one committee. The public safety committee may need an event coordinator; the Parks committee might want a neighborhood watch volunteer.

We need your help in whatever ways you can give. If you can only volunteer one day a year, then that is one day we will happily accept your help.

Montavilla

Neighborhood

Association

Meetings are typically held every 2nd Monday of each month.

At

Montavilla United Methodist Church

232 SE 80th Ave,
Portland, OR 97215



www.Montavillapdx.org

Chair's Message (Continued from Page 1)

conversations need to be respectful of each other and recognize the complexity of the problem. We need to have the courage to balance these complex issues and not retreat into extreme positions that may be easy and gratifying, but do little to help in reality.

Many people are already doing whatever they can to help. We have an amazing collection of selfless volunteers already at work in Montavilla. Our elected officials must dedicate more resources to the issues we are all seeing everyday but we cannot wait for them to act. We need Montavilla to come together for the better of all. We need to ask what we can do to halt any individual's decent further down the spectrum of homelessness and the trauma it entails. It is the least we can do.

I am committed in doing what I can. I hope to see all of you join us.

Thank you Montavilla.
David Linn, Chair

December 11th, 2017 Montavilla Neighborhood Association General Membership & Board Meeting 6:30pm—8:45pm

Guest speakers:
Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson



Wendy Serrano from the Division Transit Project

