

MONTAVILLA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Summary

January 28, 2008

Board Members Present: Erica Thygesen, Chair; David Linn, Vice-Chair; Lisa Laurenceau, Secretary/SEUL Board Delegate; Maria Sworske, Treasurer; Craig Bach, Public Safety Committee Chair.

Erica Thygesen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She said this would be her last meeting as Chair. She also announced that Yvonne Garcia had also resigned as Chair of the Outreach Committee due to changes in availability. There was discussion about having a special election. Lisa said that if David Linn, Vice-Chair, who will take over as Acting Chair, decides to run for Chair, he should at least be voted in by acclamation even if he runs unopposed. There was general agreement with that. The positions open are: Chair, possibly Vice-Chair if David runs for Chair and wins, Outreach Chair and the still vacant Land-Use Committee Chair. David said he would post the vacancies on the list-serv and the date of the special election can be in March. Erica asked Lisa what the by-laws said about notification of special elections. She said that the bylaws require 30 days of notification by announcing at a general meeting, posting an announcement on the list-serv and a written notice on the bulletin board of the Montavilla Community Center. Erica said that we'd have to make sure to announce it all three ways at least 30 days in advance of the date, which means that it had to be done by the date of the February general meeting if the special election is to be held at the general meeting in March.

Due to the resignation of Yvonne, there will be no Outreach Committee meetings until we have a new committee chair. Lisa said that she hoped it wouldn't be too long since the Second Annual Montavilla International Festival is in the planning stages. David suggested that we hold a general planning meeting for that issue and other issues that we can include under "planning." He said that he would have a combined Parks, Planning and Outreach meeting on Wednesday, February 13.

Maria needs some ideas about how to deliver the newsletter better. She said the handing them out door-to-door is not efficient or reliable. Craig suggested partial mailing and partial door-to-door delivery. She also needs ideas on how to get it published more reliably. She said that under consideration was

reducing the number of pages-she asked if there were any ideas on that. There was a discussion on advertising. Maria said she is fine with soliciting for advertising, but not as good at collecting. She said maybe there should be a separate person for that. Craig said the newsletter increases public capacity like nothing else. There was discussion on some people who had started helping with the newsletter and then dropped out. David said he would follow-up with Jennifer to see if she wanted to help in any way since she used to be quite active with the newsletter at one time.

Lisa said that although there wouldn't be a SEUL Board meeting until the first Monday of February, she had found out that SEUL staff member Gary Burger, the staff liaison of the SEUL Land-Use and Transportation Committee and liaison for MNA, resigned suddenly, without notice or explanation. Erica said she had tried to contact him recently with no response, so now she understood why she'd received no reply.

David said that he will send out a list-serv notice about the three Parks committee projects.

Craig said that there is going to be a reorganization and decentralization of the Police Bureau Precincts. There will more precincts and they will be smaller. The PPB shut down a drug house at N.E. 72nd and Holiday. 82nd Ave has seen an increase in the appearance of prostitutes since the City Council voted to do away with the Drug-Free and Prostitution-Free Zones.

Commissioner Randy Leonard has suggested something called the Project 57 list. People with multiple drug arrests being connected to rehab results in dramatic drop in arrests among that population. There is talk of doing the same thing with prostitutes. The prostitutes arrested frequently for prostitution/solicitation would be connected to social services designed to get them out of prostitution, i.e. job training and job placement services, etc. Erica suggested that we ask Commissioner Leonard to an MNA general meeting. Discussion followed. Erica suggested that David e-mail Commissioner Leonard.

Craig suggested asking City Council candidates to come to MNA general meetings.

David wants the city/Red Cross to raise minimum temperature to open the warming shelters when it's cold. Current minimum is 25 degrees. It should be

much higher. It should be in the 40s or maybe even 50 degrees. 25 degrees is too cold. David said it's hard to advocate for social services for the homeless since everything is interconnected. Discussion followed.

Craig suggested a Fix-It Fair for Montavilla. Erica said the Office of Sustainable Development does a certain number each year. David will follow up on a request to them.

Erica said since recycling is changing in July, we should ask OSD to come to an MNA general meeting with an update presentation on recycling.

Avenue of Roses Parade-the date is now set to be on April 18th or 19th. Do we want to do a float? What about an after party? Something connected to the Farmer's Market? Craig said that a lot of residents think that the Farmer's Market is the Neighborhood.

Maria said she has worked out the access to the MNA accounts with the bank and finally has a key to the P.O. Box for the neighborhood. She will check out getting the box changed to the nearest post office or if there are no boxes available, she will get MNA on the waiting list. It is currently at the Post Office at NE 7th and Belmont. This is too inconvenient.

Discussion of agenda for February general meeting-when may residents talk about problems they are having?

We had a discussion of Carolyn Risen's problem with Albina Head Start at the Highland Christian Center. Her house is nearly right against the fence that separates the houses on the street from Highland Christian Center Parking Lot. The Head Start has set up their playground right at that part of the fence and Carolyn needs to sleep in the morning. They let the children play outside in the morning. The children scream too loudly for her and day sleeping residents of a nearby apartment house to sleep. She has been e-mailing and calling Lisa Laurenceau regularly. She seems to have exhausted all other options and would like MNA Board to ask Head Start representatives to a meeting with her and perhaps draft a Good Neighbor Agreement if possible/applicable. David will follow-up on that.

There was a message recently on the list-serv about a Message Therapist's notification of a change of office. The city requires that these notifications go on list-servs.

Community Connect-A report was recently issued on the number and diversity of people in the community. The city wants NAs to comment on the report. They're willing to come to the February general meeting. Also at the meeting will be Sharon White from PDOT. She has visited before about street safety.

Erica said she was sorry not to be able to finish the term. She appreciated everyone on the Board and their hard work and creativity.

David moved for adjournment, Lisa seconded. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Laurenceau