

# **MONTAVILLA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## **BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

**AUGUST 27, 2007**

Participants: Erica Thygesen, Chair; Lisa Laurenceau, Secretary/SEUL Delegate; Maria Sworske, Treasurer; Yvonne Garcia, Outreach Chair; Stephen Sequeira, SEUL LUTC Delegate; Craig Bach, Public Safety Chair; Roger Warren, Parks Committee Member.

Excused: David Linn, Vice Chair/Parks Chair; Michelle Scott, Sustainability Chair.

Erica called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Yvonne moved to approve the Agenda, Stephen seconded. Agenda was approved unanimously. The summary of the General Meeting on 8-13-2007 was reviewed some corrections were suggested. Craig moved to refer the summary to the general membership with the corrections. Maria seconded. Approved unanimously.

Erica opened the discussion about the International Festival by asking Yvonne for an update. The confirmed date for the festival is September 15; from 11am to 3pm. Yvonne said the planning committee is waiting for posters to be printed. Craig said Natalie (intern assigned by SEUL to MNA for International Festival Coordination) said they'd be delivered to SEUL, and they will be picked up and distributed. Food was mentioned. Lots of food vendors scheduled. Now they're looking for volunteers for 2-hour shifts. Lisa said she didn't want to sign up for a shift, but would be on hand to help out if someone doesn't show up or if extra volunteers are needed. Board members are requested to be there.

Stephen said he was unable to be there due to having to work night shift both Friday night and Saturday. Banners are being made. Yvonne asked for ideas for decorations. Board members began brainstorming discussion. Some ideas: International flags, travel posters etc. Questions about signs directing people to entrance, there will be sandwich boards directing to entrances, and for publicity on SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Discussion about a thank-you for Natalie-such as a plaque.

Motion:

Shall MNA honor Natalie with a plaque at the end of Montavilla International Festival?

Yvonne moved and Stephen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Stephen asked for descriptions of volunteer opportunities, he has people he can give them out to.

Erica thanked the Board members, who came to the Strategic Planning Board meeting, for coming out to participate. Erica and Afifa will put the resulting material together and will distribute it to everyone.

The planning for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue of Roses Parade 2008 is already going on. Date is not solid yet. They are planning on April 28, but that is dependent on the Rose Festival Ambassadors (formerly called Princesses) being elected by High Schools and in place so that they can participate. The plan, this year, is for the parade to take place in Montavilla and MNA will sponsor the parade and the after party.

Erica is doing work with Friends of Trees, helping with planning for Spring planting, getting trees for planting, organizing volunteers etc., as well as coordinating the clean-up, but will have time to help with parade and party planning. She wants Board members to consider having

an MNA float. MNA didn't have a float for the first parade. Board will definitely want to publicize after-party.

Friends of Trees planting is scheduled for March 8, 2008. Erica and Jennifer are coordinating. Friends of Trees now have a website for ordering trees [friendsoftrees.org](http://friendsoftrees.org). It's on a first come, first served basis. Last year there was some preference given to some neighborhoods and Montavilla lost out on getting any of the best trees. Discussion followed.

Committee updates:

Maria (Treasurer) doesn't have updated information today. She didn't get the statement, yet. She'll have it for the general meeting.

Yvonne (Newsletter Committee) said the newsletter is going to the printer on Wednesday and volunteers will start distribution next week. (Outreach) The Burgerville Partnership Night will be in November (no firm date yet). She'd like to do something with Academy Theatre. She'll work on that after the International Festival. Discussion followed of other businesses that might want to partner with MNA.

Stephen (SEUL LUTC) said the Land-Use and Transportation Committee had an Activist come to speak on Measure 49. The committee hasn't yet taken a position on it. They were against Measure 37 (knowing it would cost the state too much money). But no one is sure if Measure 49 takes the right approach in trying to rein in Measure 37( It passed in 2004, requires state to waive tough environmental laws so owner can build/use/sell the land they own or pay them to leave it alone if usage/building/selling would violate environmental laws).Discussion of election in November. Craig suggested that MNA provide literature/speakers on both sides and let people decide for themselves. Some discussion and suggestions on how to do that. Stephen will work on that.

Madison South (a neighborhood north of Montavilla) was brought up. We were visited by representatives of that Neighborhood Association asking for support for their fight against a big box planning to locate across from Madison High School on an old land-fill site. Not only is building on an old land-fill site not a great idea, but the Madison South Neighborhood Association feels it would change the character of the neighborhood for the worst. There was a question on whether the Board or General Membership ever voted to formally support their efforts. Answer is neither did. Madison South has held some rallies since then. People can stay abreast of the situation and see what they're planning and maybe even get involved by going to the website: [savemadisonsouth.org](http://savemadisonsouth.org).

Craig (Public Safety) said the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) will be meeting soon to finalize presenting their case to aides a city council meeting. The committee members will meet with mayor later. Neighborhood Response Team Officer: a new one has been named. There is no information on exactly who, yet. We still need to compose a letter to be sent convenience stores, Mom and Pop stores etc., about the availability of drug paraphernalia in seemingly innocent things sold in those small stores. We need to present the letter at a general meeting and vote on it. This is something we've talked about for over a year, it needs to be done. Craig says he recently visited some of these stores and took pictures of the items in question. We also need to send a letter of support for the renewal of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Prostitution-Free Zone.

Roger (Parks Committee Member) said that a Parks and Rec Staff Member will be asked to come to a general meeting to speak about community gardens and we will update residents on our own and how to join in to care for it (fresh vegetables from Montavilla's Community Garden are given to local food banks/pantries

Lisa (SEUL Board Delegate) has no new information since the SEUL Board Meeting is at the beginning of the month. She will have any new information at the general meeting. She reminded the MNA Board of Joyce Walls soon leaving Southeast Uplift after 14 years at Southeast Uplift as Fiscal and Operations Manager. Joyce has been invaluable to the organization and she couldn't be completely replaced with even three people. She will leave a hole at the coalition office and will be missed.

Michelle (Sustainability) wasn't able to make it to the meeting, but she is getting information out.

Announcements: Erica says she will, have a recycling column in the Newsletter for people to write in and ask questions about recycling, since she is a master recycler. She says she will entitle it "Ask Erica."

Stephen moved to adjourn and Craig seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Laurenceau  
MNA Secretary