

# MONTAVILLA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY

**August 13, 2007**

Participants: Board Members-Erica Thygesen, Chair; Maria Sworske, Treasurer; Lisa Laurenceau, Secretary/SEUL Board Delegate; Stephen Sequiera, SEUL LUTC Delegate; Craig Bach, Public Safety Committee Chair; Yvonne Garcia, Outreach Committee Chair; Michelle Scott, Sustainability Committee Chair.

Guests: Rodney Bender, Growing Gardens; Tracy Scott, Central Bible Church; Mike Delman, Candidate for Multnomah County Commissioner.

Neighborhood Residents: Cheryl Himan, David Miller, Raydene Taylor, Alta Gaylord, Jennifer Tamayo, Roger Warren, Natalie Ullman, Mike and Kathy Sommersdale, Luby Wind, Mark Bravden, Lou Ann Lindberg, Mary Nazanuma, Michael Flagg, Janelle Andrews.

Erica Thygesen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. The agenda was reviewed. Yvonne Garcia moved and Roger Warren seconded, for the agenda to be approved. It was approved unanimously. Introductions followed.

Rodney Bender of Growing Gardens showed a video and spoke about how they give people everything they need (or teach them what they need to make from scratch) to grow organic gardens of their own. They also set them up with mentors, who are master gardeners, to help them grow their gardens. They work with the mentors for at least a year, sometimes longer. They help a lot of low income families and can even help people who live in apartments. They also encourage urban chickens. Portland has been named the #1 urban city for chickens in the U.S. He passed around a donation envelope. They have been in exis-

tence for 11 years. 2008 is completely filled up however; people can sign up for help in 2009. Questions and answers followed. He talked about volunteer opportunities and the workshops that growing gardens hold for home gardeners.

Tracy Scott, Central Bible Church, passed out fliers about the church's Montavilla Community Fair in the parking lot of the church from Noon until 3pm on Saturday August 25. They are having a free BBQ lunch. There are confirmed exhibitors who will have tables. Free activities for kids and a school clothing exchange for families with school age children. One local barber will give free back-to-school haircuts for kids. She also spoke of the child care center. They will be giving classes to families involved. Some classes will be Beginning Budget, Basic Mechanics, Parenting, etc.

Natalie, MNA intern spoke about the Montavilla International Festival. It will be held on September 15 at PCC Southeast Center from 11am- 3pm. There will be International Music, International Food, Dancers, etc.

Natalie said that MNA should honor Errol Carlson of Taylor Court Grocery for his nearly annual Taylor Court Block Party at the International Festival

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Motion:

Shall Montavilla Neighborhood Association honor Errol Carlson of Taylor Court Grocery at the International Festival?

Vote passes with 3 abstentions.

Michael Delman is a resident of Laurelhurst Neighborhood and is running for Multnomah County Commissioner. The Seat is currently held by Lisa Naito, who doesn't even live in the district anymore. He says the Wapato Jail needs to be opened, and many other things in the county need attention. He is promising to make sure that he votes for what is good for the people of Multnomah County.

Erica said volunteers are needed for the International Festival; she also encouraged everyone to visit the Farmer's Market.

Lisa Laurenceau, the Southeast Uplift Board Delegate said that Joyce Walls is leaving SEUL after 14 years as Fiscal and Operations Manager. She is leaving to pursue her longtime dream to attend Nursing School and then to work as a Hospice Nurse. There will be a going away party soon and she will post the information on the listserv, or anybody can call her at 503-254-6138. She also calls everyone's attention to the copies of an AARP article about the 5 Best Places to Live (in the U.S.). Portland is one of them! Next to the article on Portland is a handy checklist of what makes a city livable and what makes it easy for people to "age in place" (i.e. not have to move when getting older and going through changes in ability).

Yvonne Garcia, Outreach Chair and Newsletter committee member, asked for more volunteers for Newsletter distribution. One resident praised the Newsletter, saying it was really good.

Craig Bach, Public Safety Chair, passed around a flier about not leaving keys in the car (often with the motor running as well) to "run in the store just for a minute." Car thefts are up all over Portland. Brendan McGuire, MNA's Neighborhood Response Team Officer, is being promoted and we will soon be getting a new Neighborhood Response Officer. No word on who it is, yet. (New since the general meeting:

Montavilla NRT is Stephen Mirau. E-mail address: [smirau@portlandpolice.com](mailto:smirau@portlandpolice.com)). Southeast Precinct will finally be getting a Crime Reduction Unit. East Precinct has had one for some time, now. Crime Reduction Units have specially trained officers that target specific crimes or areas in Montavilla and in some cases will team with other CRUs in other areas in Portland. It could be drugs, prostitution, car theft (which has spiked recently). It depends on the crime statistics which have been reported, so that's why it's so important that neighborhood residents and business owners report all crime even if it seems insignificant (it may not be).

Erica reported that the symphony in the park at Mt Tabor in July was a big success.

Stephen Sequiera, SEUL Land-Use and Transportation Committee Delegate, spoke of the huge impact on the community of Montavilla Park and Community Center. He said he stopped by one afternoon when it was full of children and their parents.

Maria Sworske, Treasurer, reported that the checking account balance is \$2,322.89 and the savings account balance is @2,339.17.

Michelle Scott, Sustainability Committee Chair, encouraged everyone to use compact fluorescent bulbs to save energy and to raise their lawnmower wheels to save water and because it's good for the lawn.

Stephen Sequiera, LUTC Delegate, said a Community Activist spoke in favor of Measure 49; a measure that will rein in Measure 37 which many think has gone too far and has cost the state too much money. Mike Delman spoke in favor of Measure 49 and gave a brief explanation. More information can be found on the website: [www.Yeson49.com](http://www.Yeson49.com).

Erica announced the open committee chair position: Land-Use and

Transportation and also Member-at-Large positions are open. She explained the responsibilities of each position. She reminded people of the Block Party hosted by Josh Shirley on August 25, near NE 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Halsey Street. She directed everyone's attention to copies of the summary of the last general meeting. After several corrections that need to be made and noted by the secretary. Stephen Sequeira moved to approve and Roger Warren seconded. Approval of the summary, with the corrections, was unanimous.

One resident reported that the owner of a house located at NE 79th Avenue and Holiday Street died recently and the house was resold several times quickly. The current owners said they're turning the house into a halfway house for ex-convicts. They began renovations without permits. They're trying to make room for as many residents as possible into the house. They need a conditional use permit, which requires a hearing.

Josh Shirley moved to adjourn, Michael Flagg seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Laurenceau  
MNA Secretary

