**MNA General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Personal Notes by Yonna Carrol 6:30-8:30pm August 6th, 2017.

Facilitated by Michael Sonnleitner

Introductions of the approximately 14 people in the room (several others arrived after introductions-4?)

Alternate agenda to the one posted on the MNA web-site was introduced conceptually.

1. Discuss the items necessary to include on and build the agenda for the MNA board meeting on Monday August 14th.
2. Discuss what needs to take place to get the board in a stable place prior to the October 9th board elections.

3) Hear from community members present

4) If time allows hear from guest in attendance and listed on the previous agenda

Paper copies of a potential agenda for August 14th meeting was distributed and walked through point by point by facilitator.

Q: What happened to the original posted agenda for this (August 6 meeting)?

Facilitator: Given the formal grievance filed by Jack Sutherland regarding the timely public notice of MNA board meeting agendas, decisions made at the meetings held (within the 45 day grievance period) on May 8th and June 10th of this year could be invalid. If this grievance is upheld, we will need to address many structural items at the next board meeting.

The needed to be in compliance with new 503c non-profit status was mentioned.

Suggestion was made by the facilitator that the board accept the grievance and all members who were appointed at the two meetings in question voluntarily step down. The remaining two board members (M. Sonnleitner and J.Tamayo) would then appoint something like four members to the board. The facilitator’s inclination is to reappoint some of those stepping down as well as some who would be new to the board. There was some discussion about the interest/ability to serve by some board members not present.

There was some discussion by the facilitator and community members about criminal activities board members were involved in prior to their work with MNA.

Facilitator returned to conversation about the potential make up of the board following the August 14th meeting.

There was some discussion about the merits of on-line vs in-person conversation about heated topics.

It was stated that a 2 min public comment time is standard for meetings and will be included on the August 14th agenda.

The need to have the financial books put in-order was brought up by the facilitator and several members expressed quite a bit of concern about the lack of specific expenditures being shared at meetings.

Q: What is the annual budget?

Facilitator and board members: The budget itself is approximately $4,500 annually and the current balance in the checking account is more than that amount.

The need for a community member to run for Treasurer and get to work on inputting all the outstanding receipts was repeated.

Future schedule for community and board meetings was discussed in reference to September meetings prior to elections in October.

Some community members in attendance expressed a preference to have community meetings moved back to Mondays because Sunday is a church and family day. They expressed desire for a pattern of board proposals and then general membership votes in response to what the board does in meetings. Other members in attendance preferred the community meetings be held on Sunday because of work schedules and to give input on the agenda for the following board meeting - rather than in response to actions taken by the board.

Q: What items do the general membership vote on and what items does the board decide.

Facilitator: There are not many if any items that require general membership vote (other than elections of the board).

A community member expressed their desire to have the by-laws torn up and begun again.

Q from a board member: Is an eleven member board too small to represent a neighborhood of this size?

Facilitator and other board member: It is hard to find volunteers and no other NA are larger.

There was discussion from board members about interest in changing by-laws to limit the top-down nature of the MNA.

Q: Is the need to have the MNA membership rolls updated (data entry that needs to be done) going to be on the August 14th agenda?

Facilitator: This could be addressed by an elections committee or under that section of the agenda. If the board makes that decision.

There was a suggestion of restructuring to have regional pockets of representation because of the difference in scheduling preference/ability for meetings and to increase participation. As well as having more people do more tasks of the board.

Facilitator reiterated the need to build the foundation before moving in other directions.

Some community members expressed their strong desire to have a NA to focus on serving the community through small good works and as a resource to help with issues along the lines of streets that need to be paved. Specifically, some expressed the desire to have the MNA not take on big issues, speak on behalf of the neighborhood or have an agenda that is political in nature (one that would keep Trump supporters and others from feeling welcome).

Others expressed the possibility of NAs having the ability to make meaningful changes in the lives of community members.

The conversation then turned back to the homeless sweeps board resolution. There was discussion from board members about the order of the process and how they should have held the forum to discuss before writing the resolution. Some members took issue with specific parts of the resolution. A collective rewrite of the resolution was suggested by a board member.

Facilitator: Political gate keeping is not what I want. One way or another I do want NAs to take on bigger issues. We will need to workshop together and make decisions.

Q: With all the change and turmoil this looks like a board/neighborhood with an identity crisis. Can there be a neighborhood survey that asks What do you want your NA to be/do. What issues matter to you?

Facilitator: We can start by not having any more same day special meetings.

Other board members talked about the history of NA and SE Uplift as rooted in desire to make meaningful change. Examples from other states and countries were mentioned.

One board member suggested an ad hoc committee made up of non-board members to discuss a resolution on the question of what the MNA should do/be and a community member suggested that such a committee might be more successful looking at what it would take to survey the neighborhood with this question.

Guest distributed a handout with numbers of reported hate crimes. A board member pointed out that the group the guest represents is doing this work/will be doing this work independent of the MNA in this neighborhood, across the city and across the country.

There was more discussion from the facilitator about the speed in which decisions are made and the desire to be the least disruptive as possible and take a longer view that is more gradual. The facilitator mentioned the process used one year ago to become a co-sponsor of Portland Tenants United.

A member of the community suggested that the community/board start talking about additional solutions. Specifically a tiny house community such as the one Kenton has started. Board members suggested places the community member could go to get more information about such projects.

The meeting was adjourned after closing comments from the facilitator about the importance of these type of discussions.