

Questions:

Maureen Wright
3/31/05

1. Time Certain.

- Please be considerate of voters who must be absent from their paid jobs or arrange childcare to show support for Montavilla Library.
- Time certain means that citizens who want to participate in a democratic process know what the schedule is definitely going to be. That prevents unscrupulous elected officials from acting in bad faith.

2. Schedule equal time for Montavilla Library Supporters

- Schedule 45 minutes for Montavilla Library Getting to Yes to explain the benefits to Multnomah County Tax Payers to Save Montavilla Library.
- Montavilla Library supporters have spent a small fortune and almost one year to define how a successful Montavilla Volunteer Library will work.
- The public deserves the right to know valuable information on the public record about Montavilla Library and how Multnomah County can create its first volunteer-operated library.
- Montavilla Library Supporters produced over 700 pages of documents and facts to support the transfer of Montavilla Library for the first volunteer operated library in Multnomah County.
- The County representative had told Montavilla Library supporters repeatedly in front of witnesses that Montavilla Library was going to be transferred back to the original donors.
- **Balance & fairness require equal time** for Montavilla Library Supporters to make their case compared to the proposal to sell Montavilla Library.

Most importantly, Montavilla Library belongs to Montavilla neighborhood—not the County.

Montavilla Library
1st Volunteer-Run Library in Multnomah County
Urgent Call to Action for April 14, 2005

When the voters support the common public good, Multnomah County Commissioners can act responsibly. Montavilla Library's vote is scheduled for April 14th may be their proof.

Multnomah County told Montavilla Library supporters in December 2004 that the agreement to transfer back Montavilla Library was in the works. The 1934 deed restriction that created Montavilla Library as a library in perpetuity (forever) was to be honored and the first volunteer-operated library in Multnomah County was to be created.

Only instead of delivery upon the promised recommendation, the County blindsided Montavilla Library supporters. At the absolute last-minute, the County phoned to say that Montavilla Library was again slated to be put up for sale as surplus County property. The Library supporters received the County's notice postmarked Wednesday, March 9th with the content's back-dated February 8, 2005 (a month earlier). Those contents contradicted the County's agreement.

Since May 2004, there has not been a single word of opposition to the proposal to transfer Montavilla Library property back to the community that negotiated a 1934 deed restriction that the historic site remains a library in perpetuity (forever). Supposedly, Multnomah County was going to keep its bargain with the children of the Great Depression and the Kiwanis Club, and other donors, that the neighborhood Montavilla Library was their legacy for the 21 Century.

Despite the groundswell of support, the County Commissioners have resisted a common sense solution to an urgent need for a library and the generous offer from Montavilla Library supporters to bear the operating and maintenance costs of the Library.

In good faith, Montavilla Library supporters at every step reach and exceed Multnomah County's requirements to re-open Montavilla Library. Yet the County creates new "benchmarks" and "deadlines" continuously.¹

¹ "Benchmarks" and "deadlines" were delivered by Commissioner Lisa Naito, at the Open Public Meeting June 2004 Montavilla Neighborhood Association Meeting, in her Letter to Montavilla neighbors from Board of Multnomah County Commissioners, Lisa Naito, District 3 Commissioner, July 12, 2004, in her oral statements at the 10/11/2004 Open Public Meeting held at Montavilla Library as a "Speak Out, and in companion supporting written documents. On October 11, 2004, the County Board of Commissioners delivered revised set of written requirements for the transfer of Montavilla Library to volunteers to operate a volunteer library. The first portion was completed Election Day, November 2, 2004. That requirement included

Pure facts need to replace misinformation, than Montavilla Library re-opening is a certainty. For example, Commissioner Serena Cruz incorrect stated that Montavilla Library had "never been a County Branch Library."² According to the County's own records, public testimony from patrons and employees, Montavilla Library was a County Branch Library for approximately 50 continuous years.³ Commissioner Cruz's error went unchallenged by her fellow County Commissioners.

When a witness raised her hand to correct false information placed on the record by an elected official and when a different witness asked the Chair and Commissioners "Have you read the [Montavilla Library] Business Plan...or even glanced at it?" Chair Diane Linn forbade their questions from being addressed or the opportunity to correct false information entered into the public record by a County official.⁴

Independent experts and taxpayers agree that Montavilla Library makes perfect business and financial sense as a benefit for the taxpayers of Oregon. Montavilla Library's Board of Director's and supporters have the necessary savvy for a successful start-up volunteer-operated library. The US Small Business Administration (SBA) Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is a non-profit, all volunteer organization, whose mission is to help small businesses thrive. SCORE provided advice and a technical review of Montavilla Library's 2004 "Business Plan & Public Involvement" document. The document included a needs assessment, a 10 year Plan, and more than 100 pages of facts. SCORE reviewers strengthened the vision and Plan for Montavilla Library.

A visible presence by Multnomah County taxpayers, residents, businesses and children may persuade Multnomah County. Whenever intense public scrutiny occurs, the County elected officials say that they favor Montavilla Library, the first volunteer-operated library in Multnomah County. The Oregon Public Meetings Law and accountability of elected officials have protected Montavilla Library since May 2004. Supporters urge all Oregonians to join the fight for open and fair democratic representation, good faith agreements between citizens with Multnomah County Commissioners.

Testify in person or in writing. Call, fax and email your elected County representative. The Public Hearing is Thursday, April 14th (time to be arranged) at Multnomah County Board of

expenses to incorporate and become a 501 c 3 to receive Montavilla Library property. The second portion was a revised "Discussion Draft submitted Friday, December 3, 2004.

² Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, March 17, 2005, Video-taped at 35.42 minutes.

³ See **1934-35 Report of the Librarian, Seventy-Second Annual Report** where Montavilla Branch Library's opening is reported upon by the County Library System. City of Portland Ordinance No 153050 Calendar No 974, April 2, 1982 and Ordinance 64551, Filed December 20, 1934.

⁴ Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, March 17, 2005, See questions from Elizabeth Cramer and raised hand by Maureen Wright followed by Diane Linn's comments.³⁰

Commissioners Regular Board Meeting, 501 SE Hawthorne. Call 503-233-4040 to check on-the exact time.

For more information on Montavilla Library, attend Montavilla Neighborhood Association's Meeting, 8219 NE Glisan Street, 7:00 pm the second Monday, April 11 and May 9. Visit www.montavillalibrary.org. Call 503-233-9383 or 503-257-3346. Email 4_info@montavillalibrary.org.

Maureen Wright
Project Manager, Montavilla Library Getting to Yes

Sidebar

Go to <http://montavillalibrary.org> to get:

- A petition to sign
- The professional structural and civil engineering "Feasibility Study" that proves the suitability of the site for Montavilla Volunteer Library.
- Public Involvement and Business Plan, link from the **Plan** to A 10-Year Business Plan

To see for yourself, how the County view March 17, 2005 Public Comment and Staff Report on the Disposition of Montavilla Library, and Public Comment at <http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/cc/pastmeetings.shtml>. See also May 20, 2004. See also May 20, 2004 "Public Comment" to know their original statements.

Email Montavilla Library supporters at 4 info@montavillalibrary.org. Call 503-233-9383 or 503-257-3346. Announcements & messages: 503-233-4040.