

Morningside Neighborhood Association
April 13, 2022 Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order – Chair Pamela Schmidling at 6:35 PM

Introductions – Nine of 13 Board members and three guests present (see attendance sheet.)

Minutes to March 9 Meeting – Approved with one correction to Open Issues – Jenny Hiatt (not Liz Backer) reported litter problems on Hillrose.

Police – SPD Officer Sargent Jason Donner gave status reports on programs the department is involved in, and initiatives it is undertaking:

- 1) Homeless camp clean-up – reporting - coordination between City, County and organizations
- 2) Establishment of Community Engagement Section – Community Action Units
- 3) Transparency Portal on City/SPD Website – to build community trust and provide crime data
- 4) Testing and selection of Police Body Cameras – welcomed by most SPD officers

Addressed Questions and Issues –

- 1) Large commercial truck parking in front of Morningside Park and the danger it presents – particularly to children crossing the street, and vehicle traffic clearance. He would report the problem to his office, and inferred SPD may not have time and resources to immediately address and solve the problem. He suggested a friendly neighbors’ approach – rather than flouting of rules – to truck owner.
- 2) Intersection traffic monitoring cameras – locations, effectiveness and limitations
- 3) Timeframe for implementation of Police body cameras – likely sometime in 2023
- 4) Ride-along with a Cop program resuming soon – must be 18 years or older to participate
- 5) Ongoing after-dark activities and camping at Clark Creek Park – officers will check on that.

City Council – Councilor Trevor Phillips reported Council met three times in past month. Council recognized Call Center serving 20 agencies in area. April proclamations include Child Abuse Awareness, Women’s History and Arbor Day. Council approved funding for Mobile Crisis Response Unit (which will relieve other City programs from diverting their staff to help handle crisis.) Community Sanitation Response Team funded to address homeless camp clean-up needs. Projected \$18 Million annual shortfall will preclude further new FTE’s to city staffing. City now has fewer staff than in 2007 – yet has 30,000 more citizens to serve. Council is considering proposal to make it easier for neighborhoods to get speed bumps installed (Alan Meyer suggested a prioritization process similar to that for pedestrian crossings.) Council will still need to vote on every waiver that is requested of City. Police staffing is as lean as it can possibly be, and barely meeting its core functions. Questions and answer session ensued concerning: Regarding late notification zone change comment deadline, Phillips said City staff doing its best to make things better; will ask staff to come to a future MNA meeting to address our concerns.) Council approved Commercial/Hilfiker improvements. New Ward 8 Councilor approved; recruiting underway for new City Manager. Budget meeting will conflict (again) with MNA Annual meeting.

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan Meyer – In contact with city to address speeding and signage issues on Battle Creek/Pringle – Sunland to Sun Tree section; Derelict traffic and dumping on Old Strong Road – Alan contacted City to get both ends of Old Strong Road closed. Alan drafted and Pam sent letter to City regarding rezoning at 27th and Kuebler. In order to meet deadline, Alan drafted and Pam sent MNA letter to City regarding approved Jackson Heights development impacts on Crowley Ave and Royvonne intersections with Commercial without the normal approval process. (The letter had the same content as a message previously approved and sent by MNA.)

Land Use – Liz Backer (for Geoffrey James) commented on: Jackson Heights' development; more apartments planned near Reed/Battle Creek intersection; another complex in process at 27th and Marietta (note from Aaron Panko.) Discussion ensued about all projects happening at once – seemingly without coordination by City.

Parks – Muriel Meyer – Met with Rob Romanek regarding old and new grant funds for Fairview Park to focus more on dog park development, signage and heritage markers and less on playground; Morningside Park – SPIF grant approved for bench at corner of Ewald and Pringle.

C.E.R.T. – Pamela Schmidling – Still no meetings since COVID shutdown; also, someone is making videos regarding the program; rumors of resumption of training cl

Liquor Licenses – Pamela Schmidling – no new application in Neighborhood.

Transit – Bob Krebs – Working on Streetcar Committee – proposal for 2 mile line from Amtrak/Greyhound station to West Salem; Salem Transit received grant for eight new electric busses to serve Lancaster area – charging stations to be installed there and at Central Plaza for future electric units to serve other parts of city. Late evening service has been suspended due to lack of drivers.

Volunteer Hours: Pamela 16; Muriel 10; Alan 4; Al 3; Sue 1; Total 34 hours.

Announcements and Good of the Order:

Pamela S. – A person will be coming to next meeting to talk about Bike Routes.

Pamela was contacted by Kathleen Harter, candidate for new Congressional District seat – asking to come to next MNA meeting. MNA Board unanimously affirmed Board policy that we not hear from candidates in contested races at our meetings.

MNA will hold May (Annual) meeting without public event at Methodist Church to discuss next year's direction activities; hope to resume traditional event in 2023.

June Meeting - We'll plan to take The Grove up on their offer of their facility for June meeting.

Traffic Issues – Jenny Hiatt suggested MNA request City make a crosswalk on 12th Street at Oakhill, and seek speed reduction from 40 MPH to 35 MPH if possible. Pamela S. added – one also needed at Hillendale and 12th for kids crossing.

Adjourn: Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.