

Morningside Neighborhood Association
MINUTES
June 8, 2022 Meeting

Call to Order – 6:33 PM by Chair Pamela Schmidling.

Introductions – Thirteen present, including three visitors. Ten board members comprised quorum.

Police Report – No officer present.

Guest Speaker – None (State Representative Deb Patterson did not show as scheduled.)

Election of Board Officers – In addition to all current officers being re-nominated, Alan Meyer was nominated to fill Vice Chair position for 2022-23 year.

Board Vacancies – There still being three board positions unfilled, nominations were called for, and visitor Morningside resident Nathan Soltz accepted nomination to the board and was elected by unanimous vote.

City Council Report – Councilor Trevor Phillips reported:

Budget – Good for FY 2022-23, but deficit expected in 23-24 – bigger in 2024.

Police Funding – Now fewer General Funded police positions than in 2007; Phillips pushing for six more FTE's to address concerns of Public (see end of Council Report.)

Homeless – Funding approved for third managed homeless camp – focus on RV and car; siting approved for central camp (across from downtown Safeway); There was discussion of funding from State surplus; otherwise “status quo” budget.

Bond – Phillips reviewed details of items targeted for funding with proposed \$3 Million infrastructure bond; described “buckets” for Streets & Sidewalks; Seismic Upgrade to Civic Center and upgrade for Peace Plaza; Fire apparatus; Bike lanes; Dog Park at Fairview; ODOT involvement in certain proposed street upgrades – possible pedestrian bridge over Highway 22,

City Manager Candidates – Three finalists being interviewed – public to have input.

State Heritage Tree – Phillips will help coordinate nomination by City for Heritage tree at Fairview Park.

Transportation Analysis – coordination with Comprehensive Plan update process and pedestrian and traffic safety concerns.

Discussions and Questions – ensued about various issues including above topics, and historic lack of Council response to issues raised by MNA.

MNA Endorsement – Councilor Phillips asked if MNA would be willing to send letter to City endorsing his Police Funding proposal. A motion was made and unanimously passed to do so. Chair Pamela will draft letter for Board approval.

Committee Reports

Traffic – Alan Meyer – Concerning Jackson Heights residential development making worse the already bad traffic safety situation at Royvonne and Commercial, asked if it would do any good for us to appear and testify on subject at Council Meeting. Councilor Phillips said he would facilitate contact with proper City staff. A discussion ensued about other dangerous spots including Pringle – Battle Creek and Hillrose intersection.

Land Use – Geoffrey James reported on status of 1) Proposal for shopping center east of Costco gas station; 2) Our Salem (comp plan update) on Council Agenda; 3) Apartment Complex on 27th includes extension of Marietta in agreement with MNA Plan; 4) Jackson Heights subdivision was approved despite Neighborhood Associations' concerns about traffic impacts.

Parks – Muriel Meyer reported Fairview Park Trail has been completed with added parallel gravel surface for bicycling, and a new bench; New Morningside Park picnic tables are on "back order."

C.E.R.T. – Pamela Schmidling reported they will have a training session soon.

Liquor License Applications – Pamela Schmidling reported no new applications.

Transit – No report. Bob Krebs said he would have something to report next month.

Volunteer Hours – Pamela Schmidling will be talking with Irma Dowd about concerns the cap on volunteer hours credit precluding recognition of all hours of work and engagement by MNA in the process of fulfilling Board and Committee functions and fielding neighbors' questions and concerns. Past month's total was 23 hours, including Muriel M. 4; Sue R. - 1; Pamela S. - 16; and Al T. - 2 hours.

Visitor Report –

Todd Tallan and John Joskina (sp.) from Salem Morningstar Church informed the board about the church's plans to develop part of their large property at the corner of 27th St. and Kuebler Blvd. (They had been attempting without success to contact us to get on the MNA meeting agenda.) MNA had gone on record as opposing further retail development due to cumulative congestion concerns.

Since MNA's notice of opposition, they explored options that would better address MNA concerns. They presented a conceptual plan for a combination of multiple use-zone businesses. The plan would involve construction of four buildings including two residential and business structures meeting MU-1 Zone, two drive-thru food service structures compliant with MU-III Zone. It also included a new driveway for the church and for future access to adjacent RA Zone property to the west.

Board's initial concern was in the MU-1 Zone, where the concept called for a retail development. Tallan and Joskina explained that they are seeking ideas for alternatives that would serve the public while operational resources for the church. They were interested in a suggestion made by Muriel Meyer that this may be a good site for an aquatic center to serve South Salem. The Board invited them to come back and to keep MNA informed of their plan progress.

Next Meeting – July meeting will be at Morningside Church.

Adjourn – Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.