

Morningside Neighborhood Association

MINUTES

August 10, 2022

(Morningside Park)

Call to Order – 6:38 PM by Chair Pamela Schmidling.

Police Report – No officer present.

Minutes – No minutes for the July meeting (Secretary was absent.)

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

City Council Report – Councilor Trevor Phillips reported:

Budget finalized – Positions added to Police; \$50K allotted for Neighborhood associations for promotions and communications; Other staffing in future; Funded third Micro-shelter site and RV site at old Truitt Brothers cannery for homeless; Funded bus passes for students and other citizens 18 years and younger.

Infrastructure Bond Measure finalized - \$300 Million over 10 years (gave details on apportionment of funds).

City Manager hired (former Deputy Director for City of Olympia, WA.)

Councilor Tom Anderson – resigned to devote more time to run for State Legislature.

Q & A Session ensued – Northeast Salem apartment complex condemnation and City's and other organizations' successful efforts to re-house the tenants; City service gender equity; Volunteer nature of Salem City Mayor and Council; details of the new bus pass program – to take effect 9/8/22. Per request from MNA, Councilor Phillips will ask Mayor-elect Chris Hoy to visit next MNA meeting.

Report - Pamela Schmidling - gave brief report on recent Neighborhood Association Leaders training. Topics included: Police - not answering all calls, trustworthiness training; something about cards and/or pictures; Safe Street Taskforce; Gangs, guns and Cartels; Alternatives to in-person response; Public needs to report any crime or problem they witness or it does not get attention (can be done Online or by phone); Call Center confusion – Fire Department is now managing the Call Center (was Police); Non-sworn Officers to handle minor calls; 77 officers on the street across City in three shifts.

Trevor Phillips - commented on recent National Night Out – cited success and attendance by Police officers. Also, new OLCC office at Candelaria Center on Commercial Street.

Committee Reports

Traffic – Alan Meyer – Thanked Councilor Phillips for his efforts to convey our concern about the exacerbation of traffic problems at Royvonne Ave. and Commercial Street. Speed-check sign on Battle Creek Road near Sunland intersection still “in the works.”

Land Use – Geoffrey James – Reported Council approved site plan for Hillcrest to accommodate behavioral health facility. A property owner applied for a Code variance to accommodate an accessory dwelling at a residence in MNA at a new eight lot subdivision in MNA backing on Kuebler.

Parks – Muriel Meyer pointed out the new picnic tables at Morningside Park’ adding a bench and new Mutt Mitt dispenser are coming soon – all with a grant she secured for MNA.

C.E.R.T. – Pamela Schmidling reported CERT is now Online, and preparations underway to get people trained and certified.

Liquor License Applications – Pamela Schmidling reported no new applications.

Transit – Bob Krebs reported that Salem Transit has put money in its budget for forwarding plans for a streetcar system.

Other – Pamela Schmidling informed visitors to the meeting about the CERT Cache locate at Morningside United Methodist Church on 12th Street, and what CERT volunteers do during emergencies. Geoffrey James reported City is quietly working on ideas for rules to require builders to anchor building framework to the foundations (earthquake reinforcements.)

Volunteer Hours –Past month’s total was 22 hours, including: Alan M. - 4; Muriel M. - 5; Pamela S. -8; Geoffrey J. – 4; and Jennie H. – 1 hour.

Visitor Report – Irma Coleman from City of Salem announced upcoming events including celebration of the 50th anniversary of Salem Civic Center on August 18th and Capitol Jam Community Music Festival on August 27th. She also handed out the updated “Who to Call” sheet for the city.

Good of the Order - Jenny Hiatt announced that she will give an update on the status of the Meyer Farm development issue after meeting adjournment. (Councilor Phillips left the meeting at this time.)

Adjourn – Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30 PM, and the update ensued – ending at approximately 7:48 PM.