

Morningside Neighborhood Association

MINUTES

March 8, 2023

Call to Order – 6:31 PM, by Chair Pamela Schmidling

Introductions – 15 persons present, including 10 Board members (11 after later arrival of Board member Nathan Soltz) Quorum present.

Minutes – for February 8th meeting approved as written.

Police Report - Officer Jason Donner briefed Board on SP department’s “Approach to Policing.” He also reported positive reception and results of the body camera deployment. He fielded questions and comments regarding traffic speed sign deployment and media which provides information on police activities and warnings.

City Council Report – Councilor Trevor Phillips briefed Board on Council’s goals reset. He announced Councilor Staples was re-elected as Council Chair. He talked about longterm budget concerns – with current reserves, City is good for next 2-1/2 years, but will enter a severe deficit afterwards. He reported on the status of homeless services, and the staffing and funding challenges it faces. He reported talking with City Manager’s office about Staff response (lack of) to MNA queries and submissions; then heard from Board members about numerous incidents of such problems continuing to occur. Apparently, this is happening throughout the city. Board admonished Councilor to delve deeper into the situation. Yard signs advertising Neighborhood associations were distributed, and Board members unanimously expressed concerns that the signs were not specific to the neighborhoods, for which they were intended to promote involvement. There was also expressed by Board concern that the Spanish versions falsely encouraged non-English-speaking citizens to participate when the NA’s do not (all) have the facilities to provide and accommodate them. Councilor Phillips said that there is a lot of funds left in the \$50K he secured for Neighborhood Association Communications, that could correct the situation and provide funds for mailing out announcement of the upcoming annual MNA Open House meeting. Councilor announced the mayor’s “State of the City” address is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22 at 11:30 AM at the Convention Center. He announced that the Council and Urban Renewal agendas will be published a day earlier than in the past. He also reported on some movement in another NA for establishing NA Board membership term limits, which met negative response from MNA Board. Finally: April 17th through 21st has been proclaimed “Volunteer Appreciation Week.”

Councilor Phillips recused himself from the remainder of the meeting due to possible conflict with Council policy, if hears guest speaker’s presentation on a development at Fairview.

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Guest Speaker – Dr. Elizabeth Harmon MD, presented her plans to open Salem Women’s Wellness Center in the former Fairview Training Center’s Laundry Building. The center will focus on healthier living and prevention of common health issues for women. It will address its mission on various fronts, and include family-based activities to enrich and support the Sustainable Fairview development mission. She and her husband Jeff Harmon presented a conceptual drawing of what the facility will look like when renovation of the 1946 structure is completed. Board expressed support of this plan. Dr. Harmon fielded questions about how this Center’s services could mesh with Medicare Advantage benefits that include gym membership.

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan Meyer reported on results of the speed monitoring on Battle Creek/Pringle, and the City’s conclusion that speeds are not abnormal for the zone. He is looking to have more monitoring done at different portion of the route. There was brief discussion about MNA concerns and City’s position on Royvonne/Commercial.

Land Use – Liz Backer reporting for Geoffrey James – reported on a partition request in the Fairview Industrial area, and on a line adjustment request by prospective developer of the Meyer Farm property. (No details due to the ongoing legal proceedings.)

Parks – Muriel Meyer – nothing further to report.

CERT – Pamela Schmidling – no activity since last month, no replacement yet for past City head for the program, SFD continues their emergency training for interested public.

Liquor Licenses – Pamela Schmidling – nothing new to report.

Transit – Bob Krebs – nothing new to report.

Communications – Jenni Hiatt not present but notified Board of delays in Newsletter and Website work due to family emergencies.

Volunteer Hours – 32 hours in past month, including Muriel Meyer – 7, Liz Backer – 1, eight MNA members on tour of new Police HQ – 16, and Pamela Schmidling – 8 hours.

Annual Meeting – Sue Reid will check on availability of Morningside United Methodist Church facilities on June 14th. Committee– So far, Muriel M., Pamela S., Sue R. and Nathan S.

MNA Board Membership – Kurtis Smith was nominated and unanimously elected to the MNA Board. Pamela Schmidling said we need to have Irma Coleman update our membership roster/contact list to include our new members.

Adjournment – Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM