

Morningside Neighborhood Association
MINUTES
April 12, 2023 Meeting

Call To Order – Chair Pamela Schmidling at 6:33 PM.

Introductions – 17 persons in attendance, including 12 Board members (quorum)

Minutes – March 8, 2023 – Approved as written. (Kudos to Muriel Meyer for posting this meeting’s agenda on MNA website, as City did not do so this time.)

Police Report – SPD Officer Donner reported on five topics:

- 1) Personal Safety – He warned us to be careful and observant of surroundings when leaving buildings after dark, park in well lit places, walk in groups if possible.
- 2) Staffing and Diversity Goals – SPD currently has 179 officers including 25 females and 154 males. He also gave numbers for ethnicity. There are 20 spots to fill, and recruitment is underway. Goal is to have officer staffing diversity as close as possible in line with citizen profile. (“30 by ‘30”.)
- 3) Violent Crimes – Donner talked briefly about recent conviction of the suspect in a 2021 homicide in Northeast Salem.
- 4) Homeless – He talked about accommodations for officers to be stationed at the new Navigation Center.
- 5) Graffiti, Gangs and Late-night Disturbances – He responded to Board member’s query about recent spate of graffiti showing up throughout our area. He said that police staffing is too low to respond to those incidents, and there is a graffiti removal crew trying to obliterate the markings as soon as possible. He also said that it is similarly difficult for SPD to respond to noisy late-night activity complaints (e g, Basketball playing at 2:30 AM at Clark Creek Park.)

City Council Report – Councilor Trevor Phillips reported: recent city land use planning rule change that does away with parking space minimums for certain developments; planning forward for handling the homeless problems (even with new Navigation Center, there are still about 1,000 homeless in Salem area. He fielded comments from Board about unintended consequences of providing too much more such services in Salem (overloading system by attracting homeless from other areas, and about need to tap State for in-lieu of property taxes to compensate for the load on City of Salem’s budget. City has taken care of the street tree blocking streetlight near 12th Street and Albert (reported to him at last meeting.

Guest Speaker – State Representative Tom Andersen praised MNA for our involvement and actions, and Trevor Phillips for the job he is doing for the neighborhood and the city. He talked

about his experiences in his first term in the Legislature, and of some of the initiatives he has put forth so-far and some in the works. He passed around a sign-up sheet for those who wanted to receive his reports via email. He is currently serving on three committees: (Judiciary; Climate, Environment and Energy; and Early Childhood and Childrens' Services. A new Technical Education program to begin soon at the Airport which will teach aeronautical and drone technology and cited its cost-effectiveness. Other bills in process deal with with Air B&B type rentals in residential areas, and establishment of a streetcar system in Salem. He fielded questions from Alan Meyer regarding action on Measures 110 and 114.

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan Meyer reported he is requesting another speed sign board stationing farther east on Battle Creek to measure speeds before motorists approach the transition to Pringle (may be why speeds recorded there were not significantly above posted limit.)

Land Use – Board is being forwarded all notifications by email (except Janet B.) Recent notifications concern partitioning at Fairview Industrial, property line adjustment at Meyer Family Farm proposed subdivision site, EV charging stations at Fred Meyer. There was some further discussion about Meyer Farm and Goal 5 non-compliance issue. Liz Backer offered to give Board an update on the Meyer Farm matters at a future meeting. There was brief discussion of recent correction of lot description near Bluff and 12th Street.

Parks – Muriel Meyer reported that the 14 acres donated to City which we referred to as “The Woods” has been renamed “Braden Lane Natural Area.” She is applying for a \$4,200 grand from SPF for a Kiosk at Fairview Park. She is also working with City on implementing Phase 1 of the Fairview Historic Plan (what to do with \$2 million set aside for the park development.

C.E.R.T. – Pamela Schmidling said there is nothing new to report.

Liquor Licenses – Pamela Schmidling said there were three new license applications.

Transit – Bob Krebs said there is nothing else to report.

Volunteer Hours – 23 hours including Muriel M. 10, Alan M. 1, Liz B 2, Geoffrey J. 2, Pamela S 6, and Al T 2 hours.

Communications – Liz Backer gave a brief report on Jenny H's inaugural newsletter, votes on the new logo design to occur at Annual Meeting in June. A flyer was distributed procedures on needs for the Annual Meeting. City \$ available for announcing the event to neighbors.

Good of the Order – Board was informed of who is up for election. Motion was made and passed to form a new Rules Committee to update our bylaws for this and other issues. We will need to appoint a new Chair.

Adjournment – Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM.