

Morningside Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting 2/14/2024
Morningside United Methodist Church

Minutes

Called to order at 6:32pm

Chair Pamela Schmidling presiding

Board members present: Pamela Schmidling, Nathan Soltz, Mark Olson, Geoffrey James, Jenny Hiatt, Liz Backer, Janet Bubl, Al Tocchini, Kurtis Smith, Sue Reid, Muriel Meyer, Alan Meyer, Bennie Yows

January minutes: correction to traffic report; Alan Meyer moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan Tocchini, minutes approved unanimously

Officer report – Jason Donner

-Community violence response initiative community meetings; Chief Womack report on collecting data on violent crimes, in particular an uptick in shootings, they are concentrated in about a 5-square mile area in the northeast part of the city; (report appended to minutes);

-Next step for initiative is community awareness; meeting coming up with community members, open to the public, towards end of Feb or early March; info will be on Police Department's and City's social media sites

-Mark Olson says there is a gun violence forum at the Elsinore tomorrow night

-Donner: offering opportunities for procedural justice class, attended by officers, but open to members of the public too, hosted twice a year on weekdays 8-5

-Fairview Industrial "car shows" – had uptick at 3930 Fairview Industrial, north of Reed, newer buildings with a lot of security toward backside of the buildings, which is where the Office of Emergency Management leases a building; since it's private property and there's a certain amount of stuff that can happen on private property, one of those things is if they choose to have "car shows" with burnouts and racing around, some is allowed because it's private property, some is not; one night – January 27 – had 5 or 6 calls, none of it is happening on public road that Donner saw, everyone left on the road appropriately; have engaged community action unit since police resources are spread too thin to address it; to address it, have spoken to owners, have gotten a trespass letter of consent allowing them to trespass certain folks there; cannot use probable cause to make traffic violations, have to actually see it happening; working with owners to get deterrents to being on the property e.g. gates or tire popper spikes; there has been lessened activity on the property recently, seems like since beginning of February there have been less calls

-Mark Olson asks if owners are complicit? Donner: no, definitely not, they don't want it either

-Donner: that building is a state office, just leased from private entity, which also complicates things; it's a priority for the PD, but violent crime is a higher priority

-Bennie: are those violence response initiative meetings public meetings? Any way to disseminate in the newspaper?

Donner: yes they are public meetings, don't know if it will be in the newspaper as it's up to the newspaper to pick it up;

Bennie: don't you have connection to the Statesman Journal? Donner: don't know; Bennie: I know the Human Rights Commission has a connection, might be good to get it to them; Donner: says yes, he'll do that, currently the notice goes out to all the people who are signed up for the city newsletter

-Alan Meyer: is that location where the Brothers Automobile Collection is? Donner: yes, and we have a good relationship with them, thought maybe they're sanctioning it, but it doesn't sound like that's what's happening

-Donner: street racing scene is really not a big issue in Salem, especially compared to cities like Portland; the way they're doing it right now isn't nearly as dangerous as some of the things you'll see them doing it on public roads; have to exercise discretion, like if it's a lot of cars and people or if they're really doing something dangerous

-Sue: do you ever talk to them about it? Donner: yes, I enjoy cars, definitely talk to them to establish a rapport; the personalities have changed over the years of the folks who do that though, less willing to talk than they used to be

-Pam: noticed it in Fred Meyer parking lot too, especially after the snow; Donner: especially after whenever we get snow, we get calls of people in parking lots, but also use discretion there, difference between crowd of people that could get hurt and an individual just messing around in an abandoned lot or someone teaching their kids how to drive in snow

-Trevor: is it residents living around there or property owners calling? Donner: it's the residents, they can hear it but can't see it

John Echeverri – project manager, Salem Public Works Department

-Back in early February, sent a large mailing to residents, business owners and property owners about project; just wanted to follow up to see if there are any questions and give another update for those who didn't receive the letter; they're going to try to remedy congestion problem at Hilfiker and Commercial, lot of congestion because there's no turning lanes, going to widen both approaches on Hilfiker to make left turn lanes and bike lanes on both approaches, also going to replace old signal with new signal with updated technology, upgrade intersection ramps to make them ADA compliant and also do stormwater improvements to comply with water quality requirements from city and state; Carter and Company awarded the contract, their office is on Commercial near project site, their removal subcontractor is going to start removing trees on Trader Joes property this week; after that is completed, some of the other construction activity will start, they hope to end by the end of October; everything is sort of iffy now because they need some items like traffic signals and traffic poles that are very scarce now, hoping they can get them delivered on time to finish project on time; during construction, congestion will get worse, anything residents can do to avoid the area is recommended; not going to close any lanes on Commercial, any work that has to be done on Commercial right of way is going to occur at night and that will affect traffic on Hilfiker;

-Alan Meyer: thanks for the update, was informed in detail of this over two years ago, was supposed to be completed in June of 23, then June of 24, now Oct of 24, would be good to do it more quickly; John: this is a federally funded project and that right of way rights took longer than expected, ODOT wouldn't allow advertisement until everything was ready to go

-Mark: How far will widening go? John: there's really no widening on Commercial, it will just happen on Hilfiker, it will be tied back at approximately beginning of second driveway to Trader Joes

-Trevor: in terms of getting new signals, understand that these are going to be modern "smart" signals that are safer for pedestrians, does that include pedestrians lead time signals? John: yes, and everything will be pre-programmed to new safety standards

-Jenny: can I reach out to you for specific timelines for when things will happen for social media and newsletter? John: yes, happy to collaborate, Irma has contact information

-Pam: allegedly light is going in at Ratcliff and Commercial, maybe we could reuse some of the existing signals? John: don't know details, suggests talking to Kevin

City Councilor report: Trevor Phillips

-Meeting on Monday with one public hearing, big thing was acknowledging where we're at with revenue and budgeting, forced to budget within our revenue, voted 6-3 to vacate many vacant positions, about 33 positions, 20 of those were never filled, new positions that were aspirational when thought there might be more revenue, many things that aren't going to happen, there won't be two new park rangers, won't be ability to expand SOS team to 7 days a week, will stay at 4, library has cut back hours; due to structural imbalance of property taxes, will likely have to make cuts next year too,

but this will make it easier for budget committee to have an idea of where we're at and what to do; budget committee is made up of each of the councilors and the mayor, plus one member appointed by each of the councilors and the mayor; have also empaneled revenue task force, 25 members and 2 alternates, looking at options to raise revenue, recognizing we have a huge problem; have 100 fewer staff than Eugene; getting harder to replace folks who leave; doing the best with what we can right now; beyond that, talked about doing a pilot/study with public art, a legalistic issue between what is a sign and what is art; there was another motion to study traffic safety downtown, the reason we had to approve is because we're going to look at decreasing some of the speed limits downtown, looking at "smart" intersections downtown, not just safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, but those are an indicator of overall safety

-Alan Meyer: glad to see there is work to get CILT/PILT payments to use; Trevor: Rep. Andersen has taken up the same bill that Chris Hoy did for the payments, \$5-7 million we're missing out on, chance it makes it through the short session; will start as a pilot program; other communities get some of that already, Eugene does; it helps but won't fix everything

-Alan: looked up EWEB CILT, they get \$825,000 and 6% fixed; Trevor: beyond property taxes, our largest source of revenue is from utilities

-Trevor: Brian Martin (public works director) said that MNA letter has been received regarding traffic on Commercial, Trevor is willing to make a motion if needed, think it is just happening though and no motion is needed; second issue is prohibiting left hand turns from Royvonne onto Commercial, that one is more complicated, will be working with state on moving that forward, need a traffic study

-Pam: are budget meetings always going to be held on Wednesdays that conflict with our meetings? Dr. Irvin Brown, Chair of Budget Committee (guest): next meeting is on Thursday as it is a special meeting, so the two special meetings are on Thursday; Trevor: standard meetings are on Wednesdays

-Pam: don't think it's fair that budget committee meetings are always conflicting with our meetings; Dr. Brown: duly noted; Trevor: think the meetings have already been set for this year

-Pam: got a budget overview at Neighborhood Association Chairs Meeting (appended to minutes)

-Dr. Brown: Bennie made it an issue that if he didn't show up tonight, he'd track him down; echo everything Trevor said, they are hopeful that HB 4072, Rep. Andersen's PILT bill, will pass, will also be interesting to see what the task force recommends

Committee reports

Traffic – Alan Meyer: report done in John's comments

-Bennie: the city is looking at narrowing roads on McGilchrist? Kurtis: they are narrowing lanes because they are adding lanes and sidewalks; Trevor: this process used to be referred to as an "upgrade," about 45% of the cost is stormwater improvement since it floods significantly so often

-Bennie: when on the Human Rights Commission, talked to the city about the issue of the bus stop being on the other side of the tracks from the Social Security Office, no bus shelter either; Trevor: thinks it will be worked out

-Kurtis: joined up with Ben Fryback about safe streets; would like to change the bus stop near the Fred Meyer on Commercial, it's just very dangerous, talked about suggesting to Cherriots that they move the stop up to the other side of Triangle and then add a second one on the other side of Madrona, maybe a floating bus stop like they have in Portland; Ian (VP of Cherriots) was on board with it; it is technically Faye Wright's side of the street; there is going to be flashing pedestrian crossing at Triangle; Janet: that crossing is going to conflict with the new light at Ratcliff

-Alan: don't want to try to initiate something in the FWNA, but we will support something if they want to.

Land Use – Geoff James: Bennie was talking about McGilchrist, if you go east, you get to the airport, Hertz Car Rental is there and the city just purchased the complex to expand the airport buildings, so Hertz has to find a place to go and they're moving to Morningside, they want to build a facility across the fence to the north of Hotel Salem and south of the

Chevron gas station, there are two existing buildings there, Hertz is going to rent a third of that space and they're going to have 13 spaces; that came before the city last Friday, the city administrator approved it, just in the appeal phase now; there's a proposed retail building in Fairview at corner of Lindberg and Strong Rd with about 20 parking spaces, building is maybe 10,000 square feet, just goes before the city so they can look at the parking spaces; a week ago a new project came in on Pheasant St, which is close to Ratcliff, block west of Bluff, right where Ratcliff turns north, it goes south up the hill; halfway down on east side of street is a vacant lot, ¼ acre lot, going to be submitting application for 6 apartments, single family residential zoned lot; not sure if that's legal; not submitted application yet, just giving us a courtesy copy; Janet: this isn't their official notice the board though, right? Pam: it's a proposed two-lot partition at 3200 Pheasant to put three on each lot; Trevor: do we have concerns about that? Liz: know the person who did the application, he owns the house to the south; Janet: don't think there's anything for us to complain about as long as he's following the rules

-Nathan: do they have to come and present to us? Trevor: unsure; Janet: it would be appropriate for them to come, especially since not everyone gets things digitally

-Alan: any update on motion restricting call-ups? Geoff: land use chairs of the city meet by Zoom every month, met with planning administrator last week, got more information about the intent of the city attorney, that letter can still go out next month based on conversation with administrator; Pam: time is limited to much degree already; Trevor: on legislative committee for city council, tired with being involved with land use appeals when state has preempted a lot of their discretion, the council is just not legally allowed to alter a lot of land use issues, appreciate the passion but can't change anything; may even owe court fees to the other side after a call-up even though they can't exercise any discretion; out of 29 examples, they changed 15 or 16 of them where they have no discretion; if they have any discretion, there is still the opportunity for a call-up

-Geoff: 51 years since SB 100, there have been two major developments where city council has been forced to approve them, one in West Salem and one in South Salem; for the Meyer Farm, it was clearly in violation but city said they don't have resources to adopt Land Use Goal 5, so it's not in the planning process; the sooner the city is in compliance with state land use goals, we wouldn't have to have the council approving things that should be denied

-Geoff: West Salem has already done a letter about the rules change, will look at their letter when crafting ours

Parks – Muriel Meyer: received 23-25 SPIF grant, \$2500 for information kiosk at Fairview Park

-Geoff: the woods part of Fairview, Brayden Lane Natural Area, it deserves a better name; Muriel says she gave suggestions but city decided on its own, neighbors are fine with it; Pam suggests we update name when it gets developed

CERT – Pamela Schmidling: nothing

Liquor License Applications – Pamela Schmidling: Bo and Vine Burgers at 3939 Commercial St SE (on Faye Wright side of Commercial)

Transit – Bob Krebs: absent; nothing

Communications – Jenny Hiatt: all social media going well, three newsletters done, hybrid working well,

-Janet: can we link Muriel's website in newsletter? Jenny: yes

-Jenny: OnPoint reached out that their only location in Morningside is in Fred Meyer, they want to do something about financial responsibility and wanted to put that in the newsletter

-Liz: this is just advertising, don't support having it in the newsletter

-Janet: when we do our annual meeting, invite them; SELCO donated to our park fund

-Liz: we could also tell them if they do an event, we can put that in too

-Alan Meyer: would like to move communications report ahead of Liquor License and Hours

-Alan moves that we move communications report up in the agenda to go after Parks and before CERT; seconded; approved unanimously

Hours

Muriel Meyer: 5; Jenny Hiatt: 3; Liz Backer: 1; Geoffrey James: 2; Sue Reid: 2; Pamela Schmidling: 4; Nathan Soltz: 2

Neighborhood Issues and Concerns

-Kurtis: accepted job offer in Portland, will still live in the neighborhood but it's a swing shift so the hours won't work with our meetings, so he is resigning; the board expresses disappointment that he is leaving us

-Jenny: everyone, please send pictures of neighborhood for use on social media and newsletters

-Pam: Irma has informed us that our website costs are increasing from 145.87 to 284.98 per year;

-Jenny: we did get an additional 200 for newsletter and 50 for active social media presence; has the city's policy on NA communication funds (appended to minutes)

Janet moves that we approve the funds to keep our website; seconded; approved unanimously

-Nathan will send Irma all minutes missing on the website

Announcements

-Pam: went to NA Chairs meeting; chief Womack went over crime report; Salem airport has been going 3 months, 56 flights, 13,312 passengers; Marion County Sheriff's Department and the Marion County Board of Commissioners, SKPS and Salem Health are partners in working on fentanyl issues in the city

-Pam: CERT is starting training on Feb 22 through March 28; March 20 at 12 noon at Salem Convention Center is State of the City address by the mayor

-Pam: share thoughts on River Road Park upgrades – news release went out today from City of Salem Park Planning email or call 503-588-6211

-Nathan: update on HB 4072, Rep. Andersen's PILT bill: can track it using OLIS, the Oregon Legislative Information System; if you go to the page, click on "bills" and type in the number, it'll bring up a full history of what's happened with the bill and where it's at; it did have a hearing, though it has not been scheduled for a work session yet, which is where the bill would be voted out of committee

-Sue: we should set a date for the annual meeting/open house in June

Janet Bubl moves that we have the annual meeting on June 12, 2024 at the church; seconded; approved unanimously

-Trevor: has the board voted to support Rep. Andersen's bill?; general discussion about whether that would be beneficial; Nathan says that it would be, it's good for legislators to be able to say that their local organizations want this, though it may be too late to submit testimony at this time, but if it isn't or if another hearing is scheduled, we could send one and sure that Rep. Andersen would appreciate it

Alan Meyer moves we do a letter in support of HB 4072; seconded; approved unanimously

-Nathan will write the letter

-Nathan: update on large trees issue, raised previously about the governor's Housing Production Advisory Council recommending the state preempt city protections on large trees; we sent a letter to Senator Patterson and Rep. Andersen; Sen. Patterson's staff responded saying she shares our values; Nathan shares that he has heard that that proposal is not going anywhere this session

Adjourned at 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Soltz

Board Secretary, Morningside Neighborhood Association

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE



community violence / *defined* /*

Community violence happens between unrelated individuals, who may or may not know each other, generally outside the home. Examples include assaults or fights among groups and shootings in public places, such as schools and on the streets.



background / *understanding the problem* /

For more than a decade, [violence in our community](#) has been steadily rising. Serious assaults, including shootings, are primary contributors. Researchers took an in-depth look at the data to better understand the gun violence occurring in Salem.



the facts & figures / *reference points* /

Data revealed violence increased 42% over the past 15 years, and fatal and non-fatal shootings doubled in the last five years. The [researchers' analysis](#) provided much insight into the who, why, and where. A few key points are from the report are listed below.

High-risk areas: *Where shootings occur*

- Shootings were concentrated within about five square miles in the northeast part of the city.

High-risk individuals: *Who is involved*

- Victims and suspects are primarily between the ages of 18-34
- 87% are male
- 51% of victims and suspects are Hispanic

High-risk individuals: *Juveniles*

- 18% of suspects and 10% of victims were juveniles
- Within the study period, juvenile involvement in gun violence increased

High-risk individuals: *Those experiencing homelessness*

- 15% of incidents involved an unsheltered victim or suspect
- Within the study period, the rate of unsheltered involvement increased
- Half of these incidents resulted from personal disputes

High-risk individuals: *Gang or group affiliation*

- Half of the incidents were fueled by some sort of dispute, many having a gang or group connection
- Active gang or group membership in Salem is relatively small

High-risk individuals: *Those known to the criminal justice system*

- Nearly 70% had a prior criminal history
- More than half were previously incarcerated
- About 60% had been convicted of a felony
- About 60% were previously on probation and 23% were on active probation
- 36% were previously on post prison supervision and 14% were on post prison supervision
- Prior offenses varied

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE



focusing our efforts / now and in the future /

Take an effective approach

- Learn from the success of others. Cities across the country have done similar work and guidance on effective strategies is available. Resources include the [Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\) Gun Violence Resources](#), the [City of Oakland Ceasefire Strategy](#), and the [Council on Criminal Justice \(CJC\)](#).
- In partnership with our community, design a strategy specific to Salem's needs.
- Collaboratively implement the strategy.
- Evaluate the impacts of the strategy by measuring for the intended outcomes, then adapting as needed to reduce community violence.

Community collaboration

- Throughout 2024, engage the community, especially those most affected, to increase awareness of the issue and identify stakeholders and partners.
- Prioritize community input in the development and implementation of the intervention strategy.

Law enforcement collaboration

- Focus on high-risk individuals, deploying law enforcement and community resources to prevent and intervene in the community violence.
- Develop outreach programs to directly engage high-risk individuals, offering alternatives, support, and resources.



key next steps / 2023 and 2024 /

- Understand the problem** - Commissioned a gun violence problem analysis
- Coordinating and focusing our criminal justice resources** - Ongoing
- Raise community awareness** - Launch a series of community engagement efforts in 2024
- Community inventory** - Create an inventory of partners and stakeholders who can lead
- Develop the overall strategy** - Begin development of a community-based strategy for Salem

Annual Budget Process

Reducing costs and services to fit available funding

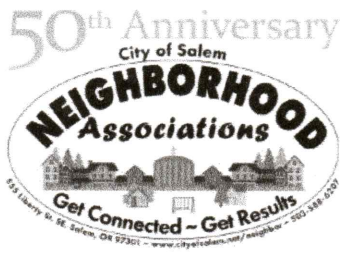
Revenue Task Force

Increasing available revenues to sustain services; potentially add services to meet community needs

Month

Revenue Consulting | Task Force Facilitation | Community Engagement

	December	Define problem statement	Develop charter & roles	Design engagement strategy w polling & communications consultants
Financial forecast; Budget Committee meeting	January	Review data & conduct research	Member selection; initial meeting	
City Council considers adjustments to FY24 budget	February	Identify potential options	1-2 meetings: Education focus	Conduct 8 focus groups
	March	Benchmark & validate options	1-2 meetings: Deliberation	Conduct community surveys
Budget Committee considers FY25 budget	April	Receive input from ELT	1-2 meetings: Deliberation	Conduct 3 town halls
2-3 Budget Committee meetings	May	Provide additional analysis & support Council work sessions	1-2 meetings: Recommendations	Provide data & information for continued public engagement
City Council considers FY25 budget	June		Final meeting & selection of options	
	July		Recommendation to Council & Council deliberations	
	August			



Neighborhood Association Communication Funds

The City of Salem currently provides an annual budget of \$500 to support the communications efforts of each Neighborhood Association (NA). The purpose of the Communication Fund is to help City-recognized NAs in their roles and enhance the City's ability to communicate effectively with the public through their NA. Please see your NA's Tracking Worksheet for details on approved expenses.

Currently there is a cap on the total possible amount an NA Communication Funds can hold. That amount is \$2,500 and the entire \$500 must be "earned" to be available. To help each NA get their entire annual amount the following credits are available.

\$30.00 for NA Chairperson to attend a Quarterly NA Chair Meeting

\$15.00 for other board representation at a Quarterly NA Chair Meeting in lieu of Chair

\$25.00 for one board member attendance at a board member academy night

\$25.00 for a new NA land use chair coffee meeting with the planning administrator

\$25.00 submitting NA completed Annual Review Report before the due date

\$25.00 for NA submitting written comments on a land use case in their neighborhood

\$30.00 for speaking before a City board, commission/other public hearing on a land use case

\$40.00 for speaking before City Council as NA on a land use case

\$50.00 for a fiscal year NA member participation in a City board or commission

\$24.14 per hour credit for City volunteer work (up to \$250.00)

\$ Match for financial contributions and donated goods or services

\$25.00 hosting a Neighborhood Block Party

\$25.00 hosting a National Night Out event in August

\$25.00 hosting a Make a Difference Day event in October

\$200.00 writing and distributing an NA e-newsletter for a fiscal year (one time allowance)

\$5.00 for sharing the City's or Neighborhood Services FB Posts (up to \$25.00)

\$5.00 for handing out Salem Community Alert System brochures (up to \$25.00)

\$50.00 for fiscal year of active on-line social media presence

(Facebook, Nextdoor, blog, website, etc.)