

Morningside Neighborhood Association

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 10, 2018

Pringle Creek Community Hall

Meeting Called to Order – 6:39PM, by Chair Pamela Schmidling.

Introductions – Those present introduced themselves. There were 11 persons present at beginning of the meeting including Cpl. Smith of Salem Police Department, and visitors Dorothy Leonard and Denyc Boles. Attendance includes 8 board members which is enough for a quorum. An attendance sheet was circulated by Chair Schmidling for attendees to sign.

Minutes – Minutes for November meeting and December meeting were both approved by unanimous vote.

Neighborhood Services – Chair Pamela Schmidling said she still has not heard back from Neighborhood Services Coordinator office concerning agenda and minutes postings. Problem may be work load placed on one new part-time person which was previously done by two-to-four including a supervisor. Geoffrey James commented he doesn't expect the situation to change. Brad Nanke said that the subject will be discussed in an upcoming City Council work session on Strategic Plan; along with new fire station and PERS expense impacts. Question posed from Board: "What is point of having a Neighborhood Services program, if it is not serving the neighborhoods?"

Police Report – Corporal Smith began with a report on the new police facility – thanking the public for voting in support. He and his fellow officers are looking forward to having more room to operate in "Right now, the existing facility is literally busting at the seams." They don't have room for the new officer recruits who are now in various stages of training. He announced that in February there will be a Website to go to for information on the project and its progress, it is [www.cityofsalem.net/police-station](http://www.cityofsalem.net/police-station). He expects information will also be available on social media such as Nextdoor and Facebook. Demolition (of the old DeLon/Lithia facility) will begin next month and completed in March this year. They expect to move in to the new facility by September 2020.

Cpl. Smith said he came back to service "On Patrol" last May – after a few years on special undercover assignment on street crime – a program that proved successful (cited the 1512 Madrona Court SE cases.) He said that property crimes are still a big issue in the City – including care break-ins and burglaries; our neighborhood has had some issues.

He said there are some ways we could help prevent the problems from growing:

- 1) Lock your cars; lock your cars; lock your cars; and remove valuables – thieves are opportunists, and will usually avoid making noise by breaking-in;
- 2) Keep outside lights on in front and back of residence or business;

- 3) Consider installing security cameras or a device such as “Ring” doorbell; beside providing us with outdoor surveillance, they help police identify the perp;
- 4) Report all suspicious persons and crimes to the police, so they can analyze enforcement needs. Right now, their ability to concentrate on certain neighborhoods is limited by staffing (they do have a special project car devoted to this.)

Cpl. Smith said that right now there are 22 or 23 officers in training. They now need 16 weeks of academy plus 12 to 15 weeks of field training and evaluation before they can “solo” on patrol. Assignments for duties such as crime and enforcement analysis may not be filled until April or even July.

On other matters, Smith said he tries to check the parks and parking lots twice per night. His goal is to make contact with persons he sees there after normal hours – not much else he can do to discourage the presence. He did say that location of signs with park rules closer to the entrances and parking lots could help discourage after-hours use/trespass; perhaps we should try to get Parks to make the necessary adjustments to rules sign location.

Salem Read Program – Dorothy Leonard of Salem Library Association – announced a new program at the Library which involves getting people together to read certain books and meet regularly to discuss them. This program is modeled after one started 20 years ago in Seattle, which proved to be an effective way to bring together people of all walks, and bring-about more understanding of each-others’ viewpoints, etc. She said there are “Read” programs now in Portland, Lake Oswego and Bend. This year, Salem Read is focusing on the book “Outcasts United” and it is felt it would resonate well here because of current divisiveness problem. The book also has a “junior” version, so there can be participation in the discussion by all age groups. The program receives support from other local organizations such as Assistance League. Dorothy handed out the most recent publication/newsletter for the program.

#### Committee Reports –

- 1) Traffic – Alan M. not present, so no formal report. It was noted by one of Board that the new traffic lights at 12<sup>th</sup> and McGilchrist are now operating.
- 2) Land Use - Geoffrey James said there have been no new applications in our Neighborhood, but a lot around the City. He mentioned that construction is underway on the new Fred Meyer gas station on Madrona – near Commercial; also, the Madrona residential subdivision is underway. Otherwise, it has been quiet in Morningside.
- 3) Parks – Muriel M. not present so no formal report. Pamela S. said that she and Muriel have been working with Toni Whittler on a grant to resurface the Morningside Park tennis/basketball court. Pam needs to sign the grant application.
- 4) Pringle Creek Watershed – PCWC representative Chap Milbank has been ill recently and unable to attend the meetings and give report. Brad Nanke said that he will be resuming participation

(as a panel member) on the North Santiam Watershed Council – of which Pringle Creek is a part. A note sheet was passed around for Board members to sign and add well-wishes to Chap M.

- 5) Liquor Licenses – Pamela S. – said there have been no new applications in our Neighborhood this past month.
  
- 6) Transit – Bob Krebs – reviewed a report he gave to the Board last month concerning:
  - a. Salem-Grand Ronde service being taken over by Tillamook Transit (service is sponsored by Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.)
  - b. Replacement of West Salem Connector service with regular service on routes within five minutes walking from regular connector patrons
  - c. Passage of SB 2017 (Transportation Bill) by last Legislature – Tax kicking in on July 1, 2018 – no funds available for distribution until January 2019. Moneys will be used for services such as –
    1. Reinstate Student, Child and Low Income Citizen Bus Passes – sell annual pass for \$10; Rides free for newborns-to-5 year-old – still require kids under 10 to be accompanied by adult; Low Income Bus Pass same as Student Bus pass, but Student pass will be available beginning in September 2018 with subsidy from Salem Transit;
    2. Start Saturday Service in January 2019 – followed in priority by Evening, Sunday and Holiday services;
    3. Extended Coverage – Routes 16 and 18?
    4. South Transit Station – Negotiating with Walmart to buy site
    5. Citizens' (Transit) Advisory Committee – now recruiting. If interested, Bob can recommend you.

City Council Report – Brad Nanke – Announced there is an opening for Planning Commissioner – needed to fill remainder of term for commissioner who resigned; there is currently a “quorum issue” with the Commission. Geoffrey James added that same is problem for committees for Traffic/Bridges and SDC’s.

Announcements – None

Good of the Order – Visitor Denyc Boles – announced she is seeking and being considered for appointment by Oregon Legislature committee for replacement of our current Representative who is resigning before her term expires. She said that she will try to bring more money to Salem and District communities – e.g. Turner needs increased law enforcement patrol; something needs to be done to require State to make contributions to City and County to compensate for property tax exemption of so many State facilities in the district. She said she feels she has a good relationship with representatives from “both sides of the aisle” and understands it will take a community effort to resolve the issues at-hand. We all may look at the world from different vantage points, but we can still have the same goals.

Adjourn – There being no further business, Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 7:39PM.