

Morningside Neighborhood Association
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2018
Pringle Creek Community Hall

Meeting Called to Order – 6:45PM, by Chair Pamela Schmidling. (Meeting had been rescheduled to this date because of conflicts on February 14; meeting CTO delayed 15 minutes due to other group using the community hall.)

Introductions – Those present introduced themselves. There were 13 persons present at beginning of the meeting including Cpl. Smith of Salem Police Department, and visitors Pat Norman of Salem Parks Foundation, Anthony Hinkle, City of Salem, Jerry Mumper and Jane Aiken. Attendance includes 7 board members which is enough for a quorum. An attendance sheet was circulated by Chair Schmidling for attendees to sign.

Minutes – “Minutes” for January meeting was approved by unanimous vote.

Police Report – Corporal Smith began with a talk about the limitations SPD has in dealing with homeless and other unauthorized persons on private property. The property owner must declare they are victim of trespass and request the police remove the alleged violator from property. It also helps if the property is posted with No Trespassing signs. Otherwise, the officer cannot physically force from the property, the person otherwise behaving in a civil manor. He then addressed what some present perceived as an uptick of incidences of crime in the neighborhood – saying the types and frequency are about the same as they were when he began duty on SPD in 2006-7 – and it is just that more incidents are being called to public attention these days via social media such as Next Door, Face Book, Twitter, etc. Further he stated there is no proof that crime report frequency varies with seasons. As far as Police response to crime reports, Smith said that the reports with higher numbers of victims and value of property affected naturally get the first attention. People may have better hope of recovering stolen items by monitoring websites such as Offer-up and Craig’s List; also having security camera monitoring systems such as “Ring Doorbell.” There was some discussion of what to do if someone wants to camp on your property and you want them to leave.

Code Compliance Report – Anthony Hinkle – Happy to report that we are now down to only one derelict property in our neighborhood. The one at 1185 Morningside has been fixed and case closed; there is one on Ashwood Ave. in the process of being cleaned-up. Hinkle asked if there are any “numbers” (statistics) we would like to see from him in future reports. Someone asked about the status of the construction contractor’s vehicles parked on Diane Drive; Hinkle said he was just notified and will check on it. Bernie Yows asked about when City will begin addressing weed control. Hinkle said season begins “June-ish” and goes through “October-ish.” Visitor Susan Mead asked if it was legal to pluck weeds from sidewalks, and Hinkle said he was not aware of any code addressing this. However, blackberry and

other thorny brush thickets may pose safety hazards and attract homeless campers and other nefarious use.

Parks Foundation Report – Pat Norman, Salem Parks Foundation announced the grant application process is open, and invited MNA to submit grant applications. Someone asked if we can submit grant requests for parks for which we have received grants in the recent past. Pat said as far as she was aware, there was no rule against such application; however, previously-unfunded parks may have higher priority for grants. Geoffrey James asks whether or not the “Undeveloped” status of a park property would hinder its chances of getting a grant – as the grants usually address park deferred maintenance. She felt that minimally-developed park properties (such as Hilfiker) would still qualify for grants for certain appropriate improvements

Visitor’s Report – Jane Aiken – announced that she is running again for Municipal Court Judge seat which she currently occupies, but will have an opponent this time. She was visiting to make herself known to the neighborhood and answer any questions we may have for her. The MNA board’s policy was to not be a stage for political contests – but we would accept informational presentations by candidates if all contestants are afforded the chance to be here. Aiken said that her position is non-partisan. Approval was given for tentative placement of such presentation(s) at our April meeting – which is a few weeks before the election.

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan Meyer – said there are to talk about, and deferred to Board members Bennie Yows and Geoffrey James:

New Major Shopping Center proposed – likely new Costco – on south side of Kuebler between Boone Road and Kuebler could have major impact on traffic; but even greater impact on pedestrians trying to cross Kuebler. Geoffrey James said that consideration should be given to building pedestrian overpass – possibly funded by the retail developers. *Geoffrey said that because he has to work elsewhere with Civil Engineers (Westech) who did the proposed site plan on it, and is working along with the firm on a retail/apartment development in West Salem, he cannot be too vocal in criticizing their design at Kuebler. Alan agreed to draft a letter expressing our concerns about these issues for the board to review and submit.*

Speed Bumps on Albert Drive – Bennie Yows announced that the City committee who reviews such requests had approved up to four speed bumps on Albert from the vicinity of Natural Foods market – eastward to Mandy Avenue. Bennie said that his group thought that three would suffice, and that he and his closest neighbors offered to pay for one that would be placed between 12th Street and Mandy to make sure it gets installed. Normally, the City requires residents to pay for the materials and installation, and City picks up the tab for administration; however Yows understood that the City offered to pay for the installations as funds were available. There was some contention to that detail by Chair Schmidling and a brief discussion ensued. No motions made to consider.

Land Use – Geoffrey James –

Sidewalk on 25th Street - The city is asking for input to SESNA's request to consider completing a sidewalk on the east side of 25th Street from the end of the recent improvement at Madrona all the way to existing sidewalks at Mission. Discussion ensued and it was decided MNA would neither support nor oppose such improvement.

Parks – Muriel Meyer –

Grant Application has been made for Morningside Park ball court resurfacing.

Fairview Woods - Someone asked if there has been any request for announcement of plans for the 14 acres of old Fairview property where Pringle turns to Battle Creek (the woods), as there has been some survey activity there recently. Someone said the plan is to develop it for larger home sites which would preserve as many trees as possible.

Hilfiker Park – The third public meeting for this is scheduled for February 28th at 7PM here in Pringle Community Hall

Pringle Creek Watershed Committee – No report

Liquor Permit Applications – Pamela Schmidling - None to Report

Transit – Bob Krebs – There will be a delay in full funding of the bus service improvements made possible by the 2017 Transportation Bill. However, some improvements will be made before the funds are actually received. Route adjustments and overlapping will increase some route bus frequencies to 15 minutes. Still, weekend and night service may not begin until September 2019. Other improvements include extending Regional services to locations such as Monmouth, Santiam Canyon, Woodburn and even Wilsonville. Details of routes and services are available on Salem Transit's Website. Several public meetings are scheduled including one at South Salem Seniors Center on February 21, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM. Bob said he will be out of town and unable to attend the March MNA meeting.

Someone asked Bob about the level of security provided on busses, routes and stations. There are unarmed security officers who can address most situations and notify police if needed. Similar to the no-fly list, they can ban problem persons from using the system. He said he doesn't think there is any higher occurrence of crime on transit lines than anywhere else.

City Council Report – Brad Nanke not present, so no report given.

Discussions –

Attendance – Geoffrey James suggested it may be time to do some recruiting of new Board Members. By-laws specify Board member to be replaced if they miss more than three meetings. We have a couple members who are experiencing medical/health issues. Alan Meyer said that we still have some other members that are not attending – maybe it is time to “ask the question.” Janet Bubl agreed – saying we also have three open spaces to fill, and should fill them first before replacing low attendance board members. Geoffrey James mentioned that the meetings for the Hilfiker Park plan are always packed, as are usually others discussing specific issues, i.e. homeless, theft, etc. West Salem NA has up to 300 in attendance at its meetings. To the question of what do we need to do to encourage more attendance: Sue Mead suggested using the Nextdoor Website; Janet B. suggested that we weren’t getting adequate coverage on City’s Website – she couldn’t find a directory to our Board of Directors on it. There was more discussion about how many organizations are experiencing attendance problems, and maybe it is due to change in demographics (younger citizens not apt to engage in long-term volunteer activities.) There was a brief comment about what the function of MNA Board is in the City: perhaps a quasi-advisory board rather than an action-board? Discussion ended with suggestion we draft a courtesy letter (letter of concern) to send to non-attending members.

Other Issues – Good of the Order –

Geoffrey J. – announced that the Neighborhood Land Use Chairs are meeting once per month, and attendance is on the upswing. He encourages all NA’s to send representatives. He said it helps to have specific issues or topics to stimulate attendance and participation – such as the bridges issue for West Salem. Someone said maybe we should adopt a pet issue such as Commercial Street crossings, and need for pedestrian islands.

Adjourn – there being no further issues to discuss, Chair Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.