

Morningside Neighborhood Association

July 11, 2018 Board Meeting

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order** – Chair Pamela Schmidling – 6:33 PM – With comment to thank Scott Schaefer for taking over in her absence to chair the June meeting

**Introductions** – All in attendance introduced themselves (see separate attendance sign-in sheet) and a quorum was present for acting on Board decisions

**Police** – Officer/SPD representative was not yet present – report postponed until their arrival

**Minutes** – to June meeting – a few corrections/clarifications: Scott S. was nominated “for Chair” position – which he declined; In the police report, the officer actually issued six citations during his watch on Wickshire Ave. SE in response to comments made to him at previous month’s Board meeting

**Special Presentation** – City Parks Director Rob Romanek - New park planned at corner of Reed Road and Battle Creek Road. This is part of a 68 acre single-family housing development. Romanek passed around material including map of the subdivision. Code requires at least 6.5 acres; this one will be about 7 acres in size. The development will include making some improvements to frontage on Reed and Battle Creek Roads. Decision has not yet been made on the class of park it will be. Class may determine inclusion of sidewalks and fence in the park design. There were some comments from attendees about the need for traffic signal at the intersection – with planned developments in Fairview, the retail developments occurring in the Kuebler Blvd area; also for pedestrian access to the park from the neighborhood south of Battle Creek Road. Geoffrey J. said the proposed development is “good news” as it appears consistent with the (Morningside) Neighborhood Plan. Pamela S. asked Romanek to be sure a MNA representative is invited to the Parks board meetings when this and similar issues are discussed.

**Committee Reports** –

Traffic – Alan Meyer – being that the biggest current traffic issue is connected to the proposed Costco store location – deferred to Planning Committee chair Geoffrey James. G. J. referred to the SGNA Meeting held at South Salem Senior Center – a packed house – indicating community concern about the planned retail developments, and their cumulative impacts on livability of our neighborhoods. He said the evaluations of the plans will be underway over the next three or four week and there is still opportunity for Neighborhood Associations’ input. He said that three actions must be taken to prevent developments that impact quality of life:

- 1) Provide input to City's review of site plans for the development (not sure we would have any success with this action alone);
- 2) Join with SGNA in reviewing any new "big box" store plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> quadrant of the Kuebler/27<sup>th</sup> Intersection (recent BB store proposal was withdrawn by developer);
- 3) Work to repeal the changes made about 15 years ago in the City's Comprehensive Plan policy (Section 35 in the City Charter) that allowed large retail developments near residential development. Someone asked if we could address this with the traffic part of our Neighborhood plan (one that includes a \$4 Million pedestrian bridge over Kuebler.

(BREAK in Committee Reports – to allow for Police Report)

**Police Report** – SPD Officer Jethro Walker – first apologized for being late – as he was on a call. Officer Walker said that he is new to the South Salem area – has worked in the other parts of the city for several years – will be down here for "a while." He asked if there were any topics of concern that he could address for us.

Geoffrey J. asked about SPD's procedures for addressing illegal fireworks (lots of complaints on social media (Nextdoor Morningside). Officer Walker WAS working over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday, and did address such activity as he encountered it. He said that setting off illegal fireworks is a Class B Misdemeanor, and could result in Jail time for the suspect. However, the PD is hard-pressed with addressing other criminal activities and limited in "back seat" space as well as jail capacity. He said that it is up to the officer's discretion as to what kind of action is taken. Beside arrest, he can issue citations to court, and written or verbal warnings. He said that he uses a less-aggressive "verbal approach" and usually gets the perpetrators to quit the activity (at least in this area.) Few of responses by police to noise nuisance reports (from fireworks) get passed on to Compliance officers, because nuisance complaints require documentation, which officers may not always have time, nor which plaintiffs the ability/facility to write.

On other matters: Officer Walker said (in reference to earlier mention of a proposed roundabout in the Kuebler development) "I like roundabouts – the two lane kind – not the single lane kind." Chair Pamela S. asked the officer about the definition of C.E.R.T., and he eventually figured it out.

(Back to Committee Reports – Planning)

Geoffrey J. asked Chair Pamela S. if we can set a date for interested MNA Board members to discuss traffic, round-about and pedestrian crossing in our Neighborhood Plan as it relates to the Kuebler retail and the Fairview, Reed/Battle Creek Road

residential developments. Dan Reid asked if we would take a position on the developments as SGNA did on the Costco matter. More discussion and commentary ensued, including citing of the situation on Mission Street – particularly the old Capitol Chevrolet, Toyota and Subaru sales site at 25<sup>th</sup>. Dan said that in the future, we need to be more-timely in discussion of such matters regarding Morningside Neighborhood. Pam ended the discussion with saying “yes” to a meeting for discussion of the matters.

**Parks** – Muriel Meyer – Hilfiker Park – Not much response to call for help on spreading the bark chips on the trails. Someone mentioned to have Volunteer Coordinator Tibby Larson handle the recruitment of help. Muriel M. said there is an opportunity for a grant through Salem Parks Improvement Fund. SPIF letter of intent form is due before October 31, 2018. The letter of intent is a brief explanation of NA approved project. Suggestion was to apply for more improvements and repairs for Clark Creek Park. (Pamela S. interjected that we still have \$2K left from the Parks Foundation Grant that can be devoted to Clark Creek. Motion made and seconded on that use of funds, and motion passed unanimously. Pamela S. will sign the letter(s) drafted by Muriel in this regard.

**Pringle Creek Watershed Council** – no report (MNA – PCWC Representative Ken Hedsel tragically passed away over the past month.)

**C.E.R.T.** – Pamela Schmidling – announced there will be a joint meeting with West Salem C.E.R.T. group on Saturday, July 14. She mentioned that C.E.R.T. helped manning the water stations throughout the city during the recent water pollution advisory.

**Transit** – Bob Krebs – Salem Transit is busy replacing the bus stop signs and renovating the “pads” at bus stops. He talked about advertising on buses: No tax dollars are spent to have an advertising agent do the coordination. Transit hired a new agency for this. So far, there is \$21K committed from advertisers for the first ¼ of the fiscal year. The difference already is that we are getting more local and less national ads. At the current pace, there should be about \$84K per year in advertising income to Transit; Bob K. was quick to point out that this still would fund only one bus route per year. Geoffrey J. suggested another approach to getting advertising income – because ads on busses goes against City beautification goals (signage limitations.) Bob K. said that Transit is legally limited in what it can advertise because of the government funding restrictions. Bob reported that, as funds begin to flow-in from the new transportation bill and employment tax, Transit is set to get new busses with new logos. Tax went into effect on July 1. They expect to have new services in effect by September 2019 (Evening and weekend service.) Statewide employment tax funds are collected and distributed by

Oregon Department of Revenue. Tax collected in Marion and Polk Counties goes to Cherriots. (There will also be service enhancements for disabled and low income citizens.)

**City Council** – Brad Nanke not present (on a project.) He asked Pamela S. to report for him: “The water is now fine”; There will be a special City Council meeting on the State Street Project; the proposal to ban single-use plastic bags will be discussed at the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Other Business**

Pamela S. repeated mention of the upcoming joint CERT meeting;

Alan M. reported that – thanks to intervention by Brad N. – the developer of Fairview Addition has added protection around a large Oak tree – possibly enough to eliminate one home site;

Pamela S. said that City Manager Steve Powers officially announced the end of the water advisory; also, at a training session for Neighborhood Association Chairs, there was not enough time for them to discuss neighborhood issues. There will be more training coming up in near future. August 7 is “National Neighborhood Night Out”; September 16 is “National Neighborhood Day”; October 27 is “Make a Difference Day.” Pamela asked the group: If we could get the Pringle Community/Painters Hall on September 16, could we have a neighborhood ice cream party? Thought was to do it early-enough not to conflict with “back to school” adjustments and supper time. Someone suggested “Pot Luck”; Larry George said he was against pot luck idea. There was more discussion of how we could get the word out the neighborhood about this event. School District policy forbids posting of information on such events on school properties. Pamela will check on availability of the facility before any further plans are made.

### **Good of the Order**

Next Meeting is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>. We normally take one month off during the summer; but there may be items for Board to discuss pending the planned Committee on Traffic (and Planning). Pamela S. said – plan on meeting – unless there is nothing we need to vote on.

**Adjourn** – Chair Pamela S. adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.