

Morningside Neighborhood Association
August 8, 2018 Board Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order – Chair Pamela Schmidling at 6:30 PM.

Introductions – 23 persons in attendance introduced themselves – including 12 MNA Board Members, which constituted a quorum for votes on MNA business decisions (sign-in sheet was passed around and copy will be sent to City with the minutes.)

Minutes to August Meeting – were approved by unanimous vote by Board members in attendance.

Police Report – Officer Smith, whom has returned to patrol including our neighborhood, reported SPD has been very busy lately addressing the kinds of issues that arise with warm weather; however, he noted there are markedly-fewer calls concerning animals left in hot cars. He noted more reports of people possibly “casing” neighborhoods and checking door handles for burglary targets. He encouraged people to install and use security cameras, as some are even helping to identify suspects in crimes on neighboring properties. He also encouraged us to keep lights on outside (use of LED’s minimize power consumption.) He said that most burglaries occur in day time – between 10AM and 3PM – when residents are less-likely to be at home. He mentioned the importance of maintaining landscape shrubbery to avoid screening of possible break-in entry points for burglars; also of making sure windows, sliding doors and doors are secure. Finally – he recommended neighbors look out for each other – i.e., if you see neighbor’s garage door left open, notify them, or close it for them. Pamela S. asked him about speed humps, and possibility of getting them installed on Ratcliff Drive in vicinity of Clark Creek Park. A brief discussion ensued about City channel and process.

Parole & Probation Report – Tyler Nelson of Marion County Sheriff Office reported that move to a new facility at 3610 Aumsville Highway will soon take place, where Parole & Probation offices will be housed with Sheriff. He said that most of the staff will be out on patrol during the move. Facility is scheduled to be open to public by the 29th of the month (August?). In the meantime, the office contact phone numbers will remain unchanged. There were no questions from attendees.

Visitors from SGNA were acknowledged by Chair Pamela S. Group was here to present concerns about plan to locate new Costco in their neighborhood. MNA Traffic Committee Chair Alan M. explained MNA’s position not to specifically oppose Costco; but instead to focus on cumulative effects on traffic from larger retail and increasing residential development in the area in and around Kuebler, 27th, Battle Creek and connected streets. MNA’s Richard Reid reported that the City staff report regarding the plans is not out yet; described the process and timelines for review, correction and appeal. Alan M. reported on the results of MNA’s Traffic Committee meeting last month and the proposed written comments about our NA’s concerns to be presented to City Planning. There was more discussion about the process and timeline, also about what facets we and SGNA can agree-on. Alan M. handed out copies of his draft letter for attendees to refer to. MNA’s Planning Committee Chair Geoffrey J. showed the group his map explaining the development and access concerns relative to the adopted neighborhood plan. MNA’s Larry G. commented that the roundabout on Kuebler at 27th “would be a disaster.” Pamela S. cautioned

attendees to be brief in their commentary to expedite the meeting – citing already overly-warm room. Several attendees commented, and MNA' Dan Reid provided data pointing to the under-estimation of traffic increases in the area, i.e. projected increase rate of 1% vs. actual 9%, and accordingly traffic generated by the proposed developments should be 55% more than the published estimate. SGNA representative stated that his NA asserts the Costco is a “regional” – not “community” shopping facility which was the original purpose for the retail zoning. Geoffrey J. reiterated the steps needed to address this – including repeal of the 2006 changes in the City Charter which permitted development of up to one million square foot retail facilities near residential areas (which would require submitting the issue to voters – a long process.) Someone posed the question of “why is such retail development continuing, when many Big-Box store businesses are closing? Why are these big store developments targeting residential areas when they could better-use surplus industrial zoned lands? There was some more brief discussion of residential developments in the area. Pamela S. closed discussion on the matter by suggesting SGNA put their detailed issues before the (Council/Planning boards.)

Traffic Report – Alan Meyer – “That was it!” Nothing else to report at this time.

Land Use – Geoffrey James – Mentioned the residential development which we discussed at the last meeting is going through City review. Someone mentioned the persisting problems delaying opening of the Fred Meyer gas station at Commercial and Madrona (the right turn lane addition currently under construction) – this improvement was funded with SDF's from the original Fairview redevelopment applications. Geoffrey J. also reported that Mountain West is coming back with more detail on their plans for apartment development in Fairview which they had announced at a previous meeting.

Parks – Muriel Meyer announced that the rehab of the multi-use court at Morningside Park has been completed, except for replacement of the chain-link tennis net (with non-metallic net.) Comments were made as to the vulnerability of the replacement to weather and vandalism. Also, Muriel reported that the chips are not down yet (on the Hilfiker Park paths?)

Pringle Creek Watershed – Brad Nanke or other Committee representative not present – no report.

Community Emergency Response Team – Pamela S. reported CERT has a new leader on board – just moved into area, thus has a steep learning curve on the many MNA emergency-related concerns.

Liquor License Applications – Pamela S. reported there were no new applications in our neighborhood the past month.

Salem-Keizer Transit – Bob Krebs reported he had brought to the meeting a lot of free items from Transit that attendees are welcome to take home. He announced new busses with new insignias are being placed into service, and improvements in that service coming that will increase some 30 minute routes to 15 minutes; also replacement of some routes with new ones tying State Street/Hawthorne route with one to South Salem Industrial. There are 12 new busses. New revenue stream from recently passed Transportation bill will begin inflow in time for September 2019 implementation of many system service improvements including evening and weekend service. Someone asked about the kind of fuel

the new busses use, and Bob K. said it will be a compressed natural gas (CNG). He also talked about the reduction in ridership numbers that occurred when the old student pass program was discontinued. However, it will be replaced (in 9/19) with youth (regardless of school or not) and low income person passes. Geoffrey J. asked Bob about status of the South Salem Transit Mall. Bob K. said that Transit is still negotiating with Walmart for acquisition of land needed for the roadside bus bays, etc. Bob also said that there won't be any bus traffic on Reed Road to serve new residential developments until after it is widened. Visitor (Connie Doherty?) asked Bob if bus passes will be provide for the Homeless populace of the city. He said not likely – especially if the person is not already in the public welfare system. Someone asked about bus fare rate. Bob said it is currently \$3.15 for a day-long pass, and \$1.60 per ride. Bus service is still heavily subsidized (about 85% from public funding.) Transit still can't serve many areas of the city/county because it does not have enough money.

City Council Report – No report – Brad Nanke absent.

Other Concerns and Good of the Order - Morningside resident (Cambridge Woods) Sally Bone said that someone painted two white stripes across one of her local streets, but there is no "Stop" sign. Is this appropriate? Apparently-so, as no one knew for sure – but motorists must stop if there is a pedestrian crossing the street – with or without stop sign. Sally B. also said that she and a neighbor had watched the problematic intersection on Wickshire Dr. and saw several motorists ignoring the stop sign there (in spite of recent up-tick in police observations. Someone suggested they call the non-emergency number for Salem Police to report their observations. Regarding continued speeding in the area, someone else suggested placing one of those temporary speed read-out sign carts there to let motorists know they are being observed and they may be unintentionally speeding.

Adjourn – Chair Pamela S. – there being no further business to discuss – for a motion to adjourn the meeting: Motion made by Bob K. and seconded by Richard R.; meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.