

Morningside Neighborhood Association
MINUTES
October 10, 2018 Meeting
Painter's Hall – Pringle Creek Community

Call to Order – Chair Pamela Schmidling – 6:33 PM

Introductions – 17 people in attendance including Salem Police Officer Joe Scott; 12 Board Members present (quorum.)

Minutes to September Meeting – Chair Pamela S. asked for clarification on who was supposed to do the tasks Board called for at the September meeting. Richard Reid said he had drafted the letter to City Council expressing Board's concern about hearings and public meetings being scheduled on topics such as the proposed water/sewer rate increases before MNA's have a chance to review and make comments if necessary. There was also some confusion as to whether or not Richard R. was also supposed to pass along Boards split-decision to go on record as opposing the proposed plastic bag ban. The minutes were approved with a correction to separate the part about plastic bags from the part about Richard Reid's task.

Police Report – SPD Officer Joe Scott – announced the upcoming "Dress Rehearsal" for Halloween event next week at Civic Center, at which participants will be instructed on safety measures to prevent accidents and injuries, and be given LED flashers to wear while out "Trick-or-Treating."

Officer Scott reported that crime activity has lessened with the cooler fall weather and shorter daylight. He did caution us not to leave our cars running unattended (i.e. warming-up), as a recent car theft occurred with that situation. Officer Scott also warned of the increasing package theft from residents' front porches.

Questions for Officer Scott and comments from attendees: Alan and Muriel Meyer reported recent theft of patio chair cushions – later found at homeless campsite near Fairview housing development (officer responded to his report and left card at campsite – perp vacated area; Josh Kay commended Salem Police for the help they rendered him in recent ID theft problem resolution; Pamela S. asked if the person sleeping overnight in car parked in front of Clark Creek Park is breaking a law; Officer Scott said there is a recent ruling by 9th District Court on sidewalk sleeping and homeless camps in public places – saying that it is legal if no other suitable accommodations are available to the subject campers.

Officer Scott responded to a comment on apparent rash of traffic accidents in the Morningside area. He also fielded questions from attendees concerned about the continued speeding and disregard of stop sign by motorists on Wickshire and Chauncey SE. He said that despite staffing being at near-full right now, there is not enough traffic patrol police to promise more frequent cover of one location. SPD

has gotten approval from City Council to hire 11 more officers, which will barely keep up with increasing population and traffic in the City limits. (New hires will bring staffing to about 203 officers.)

New Apartment Complex in Sustainable Fairview – Richard Berger of Mountain West Investments presented more details on the progress of plans to build a 180 unit facility near the proposed town-center and across new Strong Road from the proposed 25+ acre park. He said it will closely follow the design of the new Fairway at Battle Creek apartment complex. It will also provide thru-access for pedestrians and bicyclists going to and from the park and nearby businesses in the community center. Questions and comments ensued about apartment sizes, parking space and traffic generated by new residents – particularly on Reed Road before the widening and other improvements are done by other developers. Richard B. said that Mountain West’s part of the system development is to complete the New Strong Road tie thru between reed road and Pringle Road. Apartments will be one-to-three bedroom plans – about 800 to 1,250 square feet; Development is NOT for low income housing – rental rates will range from \$1,000 to about \$1,400 per month (today’s rate.) There was additional question and discussion of MWI’s formula for parking space (1.75 spaces per unit) – which many seemed to feel was inadequate with units up to three bedrooms in size. Richard B. said that persons wanting more information about this may contact him at the phone number (503) 584-4593 and/or email address richard@mwinv.com.

(Note: Councilman Brad Nanke left the meeting during this presentation, but was present for the rest of the agenda.)

Committee Reports

Land Use - Costco /Pac Trust Retail Development – No report, as committee chair Geoffrey James not present.

Traffic – Alan Meyer – reported that he was asked to be on a new Street Crossing Safety Committee which will look at what can be done to improve conditions for such in City neighborhoods. So-far there are representatives from two other Neighborhoods on the committee.

Communications – Alan Meyer – also chimed-in for absent Geoffrey James – on his concern that the procedure we had voted to use by which all Board members are provided with copies of communications with City and other Neighborhoods is apparently not being followed. Richard Reid proposed that we come up with a formal system for communications – may need to have Board Secretary involved – to make sure communications (such as his undelivered draft on plastic ban) get to the City in a timely manner. Discussion ensued about what constitutes communications and what is (and can be) the role of email and Website in a formal process. Richard R. moved Communications Committee be formed to address the issue, and volunteered to chair the committee. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. Richard R. said that his action will start with contacting Irma Dowd and other Neighborhoods to get their views on how best to do this. Josh Kay and Al Tocchini agreed to be on the committee. Richard R. said he will contact rest of the committee to set a date for a meeting.

Parks – Muriel Meyer – reported that the chips are finally down on the Hilfiker Park trails; she also reported she is still in process of applying for Salem Park Improvement Fund grant for Clark Creek Park basketball court restoration. Muriel also mentioned that the new net has been installed at the Morningside tennis court (not a metal net.) Pamela S. added that she contacted City Parks to make sure that Clark Creek Park needs are put on the work schedule.

Pringle Creek Watershed – No report

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Brad Nanke reported it is “up and running.” He said they are meeting on the “odd months.” He also reported he participated in a Radio drill in West Salem. He said he will need to do the same in Morningside area to see where Family Band works well and where it “dies out.” For visitors to the meeting, Pamela S. explained what CERT is.

Liquor License Applications – Pamela S. – reported only one, which is for renewal of an establishment where there have not been any problems.

Transit – Bob Krebs – Reported that 12 new busses have arrived, are being readied and drivers trained to put them into service. Buses on Urban and Rural Routes, including “Lift” busses, and Transit signs are getting the same color scheme. Plans are to start Saturday and evening service on the day after Labor Day in 2019. Saturday service will be from 11AM to 9PM (pull-out time?) Sunday service and hours are still in the planning stage. Six new busses will be added to the fleet next spring.

City Council Report – Brad Nanke – reported

- 1) Council recently reviewed the Land Use application for the planned development off of Boone Road;
- 2) Council will be reviewing solid waste collection service rates on November 13th – possibly a public hearing;
- 3) Council will be reviewing the results of the Traffic Congestion Relief Task Force on November 5th;
- 4) Council will review the Five-year (Budget?) Forecast on December 10th (They will also be discussing ways to make budget more policy-directed than it is currently.)

City Council Report cont’d.

Question: Alan Meyer asked if it is too late to submit something to City regarding plastic bag ban. Brad N. said it is not too late, because the proposal was written in the same format as another city, and needed some work to better-apply to Salem; So, Council will continue discussion of the subject at a future meeting.

On the subjects of Solid waste and Recycling - Guest Katya G. from Salem Area Chamber of Commerce she encouraged us to tour the Garten recycling facility to see how recycled items are sorted – what is useable and what is garbage; Brad N. added that plastic bags and glass in the wrong sort can ruin the machinery at the facility. Janet B. asked if there are any other parties taking old egg cartons, since their

prohibition from the recycling barrels; Bob K. said that the Marion-Polk Food Share (Bank?) takes them to transfer eggs from flats to dozen packages for family food boxes. Muriel M. said that State of Texas has its own recycling program.

Brad N. commented in closing that he has saved many years-worth of email messages. Richard Reid said that he will be contacting Brad N. for advice on the Communications Committee's process development project.

Announcements

Pamela S. reported that she attended the Quarterly Neighborhood Leader meeting on September 27th. She said there will be a Neighborhood Chair training session in October (at Parks Department Office.) Pamela S. expressed dismay over a new program that was introduced at the recent meeting: "Our Salem Today – Checking Salem's Vitals" calling for a body of participants including the Mayor of Keizer, as well as our own Geoffrey James and other local figures in planning; concern is that there was not apparent communication (with NA's that this was coming. The brochure passes out at that meeting stated purposes including: Establish Community Vision and Update the Comprehensive Plan. Some discussion ensued (in this MNA meeting) to clarify who started this program. In the course of discussion, it was determined the program originated from Community Resource Development Office. Someone questioned need for Keizer Mayor to be involved; Brad N. indicated the reason may be that Keizer is almost built-out, while Salem still has some space to grow, and Keizer is concerned about losing influence in the development of the area. So-far, Land Use Chairs from Grant, Morningside and NE Salem are participating. Pamela S. suggested it is time to find out if and when meetings of this body will be set up in the neighborhood; also that she is concerned that not all of the neighborhood associations' boards have land use expertise, and will have no input. Richard R. asked Pamela S. if she wants a formal statement to the effect sent to City. Her answer: No, she's just OK at this time just knowing we (MNA Board) agree on this concern.

Good of the Order

Pamela S. said she received some material on "Make a Difference Day" – and that MNA has not participated in that event in the past.

Pamela S. also announced that there were 11 Neighborhood Night Out parties in Morningside - great participation!

Good of the Order - continued

Pamela S. said she passed along the Board's decision not to have a presentation from Friendship Brigade – as that was more applicable to service organizations than NA business.

Janet B. asked if anyone knew how the businesses at the newly-redone corner of 12th and Fairview are going to stay in business without parking access (convenience store in peril?) No answers.

Richard R. asked if we are interested in Neighborhood Partnership Program. Answer (unidentified source of question) was the program is aimed at helping NA's handle specific problems. Goal is to make neighborhoods more self-sufficient in dealing with problems.

Katya G. announced that Salem-Keizer School District will hold a public Open House on October 30th – 6 PM to 8PM at C-Tech facility off Portland road. Main topic will be school boundary review.

Adjourn – There being no further business to discuss, Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM