

Morningside Neighborhood Association
April 10, 2019 Board Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order – 6:36 P.M. by Chair Pamela Schmidling

Introductions – All present introduced themselves; an attendance “sign-in sheet was passed around; 14 people were present, including 12 MNA Board members (enough for a quorum)

Police Report– No officer present – No report

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan Meyer – reported on recent activity of “Safer Crossings” committee on which he serves. They have developed a methodology for assigning a priority to new pedestrian crossing installations and improvements. CATC is to review the program before it goes to City Council for approval. There were no specific questions on the report; however there were a lot of comments and questions regarding traffic and crossing issues: Scott Schaefer suggested an example is mid-block crosswalks without yellow flashing lights that cross more than one lane of traffic going in any direction (“unsafe and shouldn’t exist.”); there was some discussion of police “stings” at crosswalks to catch drivers not stopping for pedestrians on curbs at corners “with intention to cross.” There was discussion as to whether or not this was a “ticketing” issue, because motorists from outside Salem may not be familiar with the local code. Discussion progressed to the Commercial Street and Ratcliff signal, and ways to put that long-ago-planned and needed signal in front of the Council. Geoffrey James commented that the recent reply email from City manager to the recent letter on the matter is NOT formal acknowledgement. Brad Nanke said he will brief City Manager Steve Powers on that issue when he meets with him in the near future. On another matter: Janet Bubl reported closure of the convenience store at the corner of Fairview and 12th Street which lost parking access with recent road improvements (ownership of the building changed hands shortly before the “improvements” were made, without the buyer’s knowledge of the plan – thus placing the tenant merchant in jeopardy. (Geoffrey James said [by approval of this project] “we may have put this project in violation of City Code.”

Land Use - Geoffrey James said there are no new Land Use cases to report on. He said he sent out a report on the recent “Our Salem” Advisory Committee meeting. It was the second of two fact-finding meetings concerned with updating City’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The committee has not had any part in the actual decisions on the changes – just an advisory and representative “listening” role. The next meeting – again at Westminster Church will be on May 8th at 6:00 P.M. Off-the-subject (but including similar committee work): Alan Meyer asked City Neighborhoods representative Brady Rogers who was present at this meeting – “How do we report our volunteer hours so our NA gets its due \$ credit?” He

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explained the process, and said that it may not be on the City Website, and he will see that it gets posted for Neighborhood Associations reference.

Parks – Muriel Meyer – reported she is still waiting on City for specs and price information for the bench proposed for Morningside Park Tennis & Basketball court. The grant request she is preparing needs approval by April 30. Brad Nanke offered to intervene on this matter “from the top – down” (offer accepted.) Pamela S. commented she is wondering when the approved work on Clark Creek Park will begin. Geoffrey J. commented that on other items City is responding, e.g. Jessica Pries arranging for Fast Signs to make the MNA meeting signs for which expenditure of Communication funds was approved at last meeting.

Pringle Creek Watershed Council – No Report (Brad N. said that North Santiam Watershed Council will help PCWC provide a representative to report to MNA.)

Communications – Richard Reid – said nothing new to report, other than we got a response from City acknowledging receipt of our recent letter (already discussed.)

C.E.R.T. – Brad Nanke reported they worked on “Search and Rescue” last month, and will work on Rescue Operations next month. Someone mentioned the news report earlier today about a 4.7 Magnitude Earthquake off the Oregon Coast. Geoffrey James commented he is concerned about the apparent lack of concern of our citizens about the peril of such event – “We’re just three meals away from mass chaos!”

Liquor Licenses – Pamela S. said there are no new applications to report.

Transit – Bob Krebs – announced “Only 150 days until new bus service roll-out!” Service starts September 7th (day after Labor Day.) Also, beginning June 1, 30-day Youth Fare passes will be available for just \$10. Transit is in the process of hiring 40 new personnel. Saturday service will also begin – enabling people to get to and from jobs they otherwise could not get to without the service. Saturday service will be mostly on a ½ hour service interval from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. Week day service evening hours will go to 11 P.M.

Annual Meeting – Muriel Meyer – confirmed she and Pamela S. have contacted all the City departments we would like to have at the event. She also reported:

- 1) Trader Joes will participate
- 2) An event flyer is now posted at Fred Meyer store
- 3) Roth’s will provide food (store manager will come if possible)

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(To this, Brady Rogers said City will match all of the donations as part of its Neighborhood Association support)

- 4) Janet Bubl is working on acquiring more donations
- 5) Donation letter/flyer has been printed for distribution
- 6) Dutch Brothers has not responded, yet
- 7) Neither has Ace Hardware
- 8) Al T. volunteered to pick up and return the popcorn machine
- 9) A request that MNA Communications Chair Richard Reid draft a “blurb” about the event for publishing in “Holding Court” section of Statesman Journal newspaper

Pamela S. added that she had invited Councilman Tom Andersen to the event; he said he was going to attend this evening’s meeting, but was attending a Blazer’s game.

City Council Report – Brad Nanke – reported:

- 1) The high-water event that was plaguing Corvallis and Albany (and – to a lesser degree - some parts of Salem.) River level was due to crest at 27.5 feet on Friday morning (about 0.5 foot below flood stage. This is disrupting foot traffic from Union Street Bridge into Wallace Marine Park.
- 2) Council will have a working session on Monday – to work on aligning City services with budget sources (he said that “cuts” are in the picture.) One thing – beside potential of deficit spending - driving need for cuts, is maintaining City’s bond rating. Scott S. asked: what is the financial impact of drop in bond rating; and Brad said it means City would have more difficulty in securing bond revenues, and pay higher rates than planned. Brad N. said City is looking at hiring a financial director to help address that issue, and look for other revenue sources.
- 3) Regarding Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- 4) Random discussion progressed to – as example - how system development funds originally earmarked for other improvements were used for improvement of Commercial and Madrona intersection; and that if we want same to fund installation of the sought-after signal at Commercial and Ratcliff, we need to put forth our “wish list” to the City.
- 5) Idea was posed to post explanation of the issue at the Annual Meeting, for concerned attendees to sign a petition to the City on the matter; same for Reed road issue. Someone interjected it would be good to have a map showing the location of the subjects.
- 6) Geoffrey James offered clarification that a letter from the city in response to this is not likely to be a commitment.

Good of the Order –

- 1) Geoffrey J. asked all to take note of three attendees’ vehicles which are not contributing to global warming transporting them to this meeting (Plug-in electric automobiles.)

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- 2) Scott Schaefer – Voiced his objection to the part of the recently-enacted City Code banning single-use plastic carry-out bags which requires merchants to charge customers for paper carry-out bags. Scott S. made the motion that MNA send a letter to City Council to that effect; Larry George (or Richard Reid?) seconded the motion, and discussion ensued. Vote was taken, and the motion passed by majority vote from the quorum (there were three or four “nays” among the 12 votes cast.) Chair Pamela S. asked Scott S. to draft the letter for Board’s approval before sending. Assignment acknowledged by Scott S.
- 3) Chair Pamela Schmidling – in regard to invite to our meetings candidates for public office, asked Board members if there were objections to the practice. A vote was taken on a motion that MNA should continue to not allow political campaigning at Board meetings. (Scott S. suggested exception should be made for non-partisan office candidate when Public can’t get information on them any other way.) A motion was made and seconded for Board to continue our policy of not inviting candidates to campaign at our meetings. Vote was taken and passed with Scott S. voting “Nay.” There was a post-vote suggestion that any exception to the policy should be made only if the issue directly impact our Morningside Neighborhood.

Announcements

Brady Rogers announced:

- 1) Jessica Pries thanks us for our communication and cooperation with her office
- 2) April 25th is the next Neighborhood Association Chairs’ meeting (Pamela added that Richard Reid will attend with her) – Issues to be discussed at the meeting include:
 - Protection of City’s water system (blue algae and USACE proposed project at Detroit Dam
 - Homeless’ food and sundries research
- 3) He has a DVD which explains Roberts’ Rules of Order, which he is willing to loan to MNA Board if we feel we need clarification on meeting process.
- 4) He will soon turn 58, and plans to retire; wants to thank MNA for the fine association and cooperation with his office over the years.

Pamela S. extended invitation to him to attend and be recognized at MNA’s Annual Meeting on May 15th at 6:00 P.M., and added that the meeting is “kid-friendly.”

Adjourn – There being no further business to discuss, Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 7:58 P.M.