

**Morningside Neighborhood Association**  
**September 11, 2019 Board Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

**Call to Order** – 6:31 P.M. by Chair Pamela Schmidling

**Introductions** – All present introduced themselves; an attendance “sign-in” sheet was passed around; 20 people were present, including 10 MNA Board members (enough for a quorum.)

**Approval of Minutes** – July 10 meeting minutes were approved as written. Alan Meyer mentioned a special meeting of MNA board members held on July 16 at Roth’s Vista Market patio room to formulate our input to City Planning regarding the Fairview Woods residential development proposal. He said the resulting letter (which was circulated to the board before signature by Chair Pamela and sending) should suffice as minutes to that meeting. There were no objections.

**Guest Report #1** – Natalie Janney and Brandie Dalten – Multi:/Tech Engineering – presented plans for Coburn Crest Estates - the new residential development to take place at northeast corner of Battle Creek Road and Reed Road SE. Development will include 212 single family units, plus three storm-water run-off retention basins and a 7 acre open-space park with minimal infrastructure. Lot sizes will range from about 4,000 to 8,000 square feet. Development will also widen Reed Road along the entire frontage (including sidewalks.) This area was previously planned the site of Eagle’s Nest Estates of which MNA was informed several years ago.

Discussions ensued on topics such as tree preservation, bus service accommodation, cross walks and traffic signals. Most of those are topics currently being addressed by the developer in their plans being reviewed by City. The current owner of the land affirmed that what few “heritage” trees there are on the subject property will be preserved as required by City (over the years he had to continually clear the land to maintain its Farm Deferral status.) The most significant stands of trees in the vicinity are on the adjacent Hillcrest property. No zone changes are needed for the proposed development. Janney and Dalten said they would provide MNA with a map of the development (via Chair Pamela Schmidling.)

**Guest Report #2** – Tom Andersen (City Council) – said he could not expound on two items of interest to MNA (Fairview Woods and Costco) as they are currently under local and State review. He said the big challenge right now is finding enough revenue to fund City programs – There will be a public meeting later this month to discuss a proposed payroll tax (\$8 per month for individuals employed, and \$38.50 per month for small businesses existing within the City) – also to discuss new “Sit and Lie” rules to address homeless populations’ occupying and obstructing sidewalks in the city.

Discussion ensued regarding the payroll tax – noting that it will also apply to employees who live outside the city (will impact many persons (i.e. State and other Government employees) who will have no vote on the matter.

### **Committee Reports** –

**Traffic** – Alan Meyer – gave an update on status of new crossing on Commercial Street near Royvonne Ave SE. He said he suggested to City to prohibit left turns in the vicinity (Royvonne and shopping center) but City won't do that. The crossing signal light won't get turned on until late September as City is waiting for parts to complete the installation. Alan M. also mentioned the plan to add a crosswalk on Pringle at Copper Glen (memo on the subject circulated.)

**Land Use** - Geoffrey James – reported there are some land use issues on which we are awaiting official notification from City in order for MNA to issue opinion. A meeting is scheduled for October to discuss the Comprehensive Plan – we should attend – topic is “Visioning” how we'd like to see the City in year 2035. Meeting will be at Pringle Hall (the one near downtown) at 6PM on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Janet B. expressed concern about partitioning of property along Madrona – specifically the additional traffic and difficult access and egress to the development. Other issues related to the development are the small sizes and odd shapes of the proposed lots, and the less-than-minimum spacing between structures.

Regarding Fairview Woods development – City ratified the proposal we reviewed last month.

**Parks** – Muriel Meyer – reported we are still waiting on City for progress on several items for which MNA has secured grants (City has not been responding to her inquiries on these):

- Bench for Morningside Park ball court
- Clark Creek park improvements

Muriel M. added that she had not experienced such lack of communication in her many years of involvement with Parks - preparing and shepherding grant applications. There was some comment and discussion of City's recent consolidation of program functions (cost-cutting) is not hiring for positions being vacated by retirements, promotions, etc. (i.e. Parks is now part of Public Works office responsibility.) Brad N. said he will be meeting with City Manager soon and will mention the communication problem.

**Communications** – Richard Reid expressed his concern that the City's money problem is killing communications. He pointed out that Goal 1 in Comprehensive Plan is about communication. He encouraged all of us to get involved in the upcoming planning events and exercises. We are not getting responses from City - as promised - within 48 hours.

**Pringle Creek Watershed Council** – Pamela Schmidling – PCWC is no-longer active.

**C.E.R.T.** – Brad N. said CERT is supposed to meet next week. Brad cited the importance of CERT in light of the “9-11” event and its impacts. Pamela S. suggested MNA have a CERT Open House. We need to get more neighbors involved in the program and informed about emergency preparedness, etc. Ideal location for the event would be at the Methodist Church where the CERT cache is located. Contact and coordination with the church will be necessary before setting the date After some discussion of possible dates for the event, it was decided the best would be in Spring – possibly the main topic of our 2020 MNA Open House. Brad N. said he would contact the church to see if the event can be held there. He said that CERT training is scheduled for October at Chemeketa Community College. Pamela S. reported 33 persons attended Tuesday night’s meeting (CERT meets Tuesdays and Thursdays) and she will be attending Thursday night as well. Janet B. asked for affirmation someone will be contacting the church soon to schedule the MNA / CERT open house on 5/13/20. Pamela S. and Brad N. will work on it.

**Liquor Licenses** – Pamela S. - No new applications to report.

**Transit** – Bob Krebs – Night and Saturday services have begun. Transit has hired 40 new employees to implement the improved service. Weeknight service will be until 11PM (last roll-out) and weekend service will go from 6:30 AM to 9PM. Most routes are half-hour service intervals. Some are hourly. A new route will serve new Amazon facility and vicinity on Cordon Road from Liberty Street. There was a question and brief discussion of Red Line bus service (a service for elderly and disabled for which individuals need to call and book.)

**Other Business** –

**Street Lighting** - Mention was made of recent notification that street lights will be installed on and near Sunland Ct. SE (memo to effect circulated.)

**MNA** - Pamela S. said she was notified by City that our Association is in compliance with rules for neighborhood associations.

**City Council Report** – Brad Nanke – said there is nothing related to revenue on the agenda for the next meeting of Council. He added to early discussion of the payroll / operating fee issue to go before the voters, saying that studies showed approximately the same number of Salem residents work outside of the City as do residents of other cities work in Salem (about 22,000).

Regarding the budget – City spent \$5 Million of Reserve funds to keep programs going last fiscal year; this cannot be sustained and other revenue sources will be needed to keep current level of services. He said there is a proposal to raise solid waste disposal fees and other flat rate fees with utilities bills (i.e. impervious surface drainage, etc.) Tourism promotion to bring in more outside money would require additional funding for

programs such as Travel Salem. Some adjustments are being made on the Flood Plain overlay zone (meeting to discuss on October 14<sup>th</sup>) which will ultimately require and raise expense for flood insurance for some citizens. The new rules will not recognize any landscape features or modifications that help in flood control which were not engineered specifically for flood control in deciding flood zone boundary locations. (e.g. railroad fills, stream crossing structures, etc.)

**Good of the Order** – Nothing to report.

**Adjourn** – There being no further business to discuss, Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 7:44 P.M.