

Morningside Neighborhood Association
December 11, 2019 Board Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order – 6:32 P.M. by Chair Pamela Schmidling

Introductions – All present introduced themselves; an attendance “sign-in” sheet was passed around; 17 people were present, including 11 current MNA Board members (enough for a quorum.)

Approval of Minutes – November 13th meeting minutes were approved as written.

Police Report – SPD Officer Andy Connolly – Began with warning about not leaving shopping items inside vehicle and be observant when placing items in trunk as thieves may be watching and can break into vehicle open the trunk and steal the items. He also repeated the seasonal warning about starting and “warming-up” unattended car – added that one-third of cars stolen in Salem were stolen under this situation. He added an item concerning fire safety: people using unsafe heating source as seasonal cause of apartment or house fires. Regarding traffic safety: He warned of difficulty for drivers to see pedestrians and lane markings due to wet windshields and glare from wet pavement; also to slow down and give more attention to traffic lights and to watch for kids in crosswalks. Ensuing questions and comments included:

Pamela S. – Concerned about number of motorists driving without lights in the early AM and early evenings. Officer Connolly acknowledged the problem and said he tries to shine his cruiser spotlight on them to remind them turn them on. He also added that the rumor about gangsters purposely driving without headlights on attacking motorists who flick their headlights at them is unfounded. There was a brief discussion of whether or not it is necessary to call “911” about vehicles driving in dark without headlights on.

Trevor Phillips – Reported that recently there have been several package thefts from front porches in Cambridge Woods area – especially in vicinity of the corner of Warrenton and Churchill. There was brief discussion of possibility thefts were viewed from neighbors’ security cameras, and if so, make it available to police to help identify the culprit.

Muriel Meyer – Added to the discussion of vehicles driving without lights – saying counted four in one trip recently. She also reported seeing a lady in a powered wheelchair that was unlit and bearing no reflectors or flagging riding in traffic lanes on Ewald (Madrona?) near Pioneer and Fred Meyer. Officer Connolly said that situation is worthy of making a phone report to the Police’s non-emergency number. Officer Connolly also said that he will keep a lookout for her and offer her his traffic safety vest to make her more visible.

Code Compliance Officer Report – Officer A. Hinkle – Reported that grass mowing season has ended; there is now only one derelict structure in the neighborhood and that it is in the process of being rectified by new owner. He talked a little about people illegally residing in RV's; also about abandoned vehicles. He also announced that a new officer has been hired to handle south side of town, and that it should result in more-timely handling of complaints.

New Board Member Proposal – Pamela S. announced that Barbara and Dennis Kalnoky (present at this and last meeting) expressed desire to join the MNA Board. After a brief introduction and statement of why they are interested, Alan Meyer moved the Board accept their offer to join; Trevor Phillips seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimous vote. Pamela S. said that this leaves only one vacant spot on the 15 position Board.

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan Meyer – Progress is being made on construction of the new Strong Road (through Fairview – to Pringle.

Land Use - Geoffrey James – Four items to report.

- Big subdivision off of Reed Road was approved by City. Brad Nanke said there are still questions about widening of Reed Road along frontage. Alan M. said there is a need for a center (left turn) lane on Battle Creek as Reed Road. Geoffrey James said he was concerned about the tendency for too many “call-ups” on development plans – said it unnecessarily adds cost to the development.
- Status of Costco – Matter is still a Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA.) City Council did not get a chance to look at the appeal before it was sent to LUBA. Geoffrey J. said he is concerned there are too many issues at LUBA, and they have no deadlines to address items (less chance for speedy decision on issue.)
- Simple Industrial lot partition on Fairview Industrial Drive will be approved.
- Concerned about predicted increase in population within Urban Grown Boundary – 60,000 in next 15 years, and 100,000 in next 30 years. We will be seeing a lot more duplexes and other multifamily dwelling developments. Someone (result of our “Our Salem” planning event?) is asking for a survey on what we want to see in city’s future developments. Richard Reid asked if we can do a survey of our own neighborhood, as we already have a plan that was adopted by City. Geoffrey J. added that the Neighborhood Plan is posted on both Neighborhood and City Websites. Alan M. asked: What has happened with the Fairview Woods developer’s notice of appeal to LUBA? Geoffrey J indicated it is the same (appeal backlog) situation as for the Costco matter.

Parks – Muriel Meyer –

- Got a letter from Jennifer (at SPF?) regarding Clark Creek Park work under extendable grant fund term. Clark Creek Park play court work is complete, except for nets which have a custom size issue. Someone added that the nets are good quality and have a 5 year warranty.
- The Clark Creek Park playground tunnel slide has been replaced (original burned and rendered unusable by vandals).

Pringle Creek Watershed Council – Pamela Schmidling – announced that if there are no objections from Board, she want to eliminate it from our regular agenda. Reason is the PCWC is no-longer added, and Pringle Creek is being addressed by the larger North Santiam Watershed Council. There were no objections voiced on elimination of the topic from our regular agenda.

C.E.R.T. – Pamela S. – reported she has been helping clear out the central CERT cache at the Airport (fire station?) She went-on to say our Neighborhood cache is located in a shipping container behind Morningside Methodist Church. She described what is in the cache, and explained to new MNA Board members and visitors the role and function of CERT and how to get training to be a part of it. She described CERT role as “triage,” and said that those interested in taking part can sign up online. Training is a 30 hour course. CERT is currently concentrating on training Trainers.

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

Transit – Bob Krebs – Not too much happening right now. Ridership is up now with Saturday and evening service in effect. Sunday service will start in May. He announced that lots of businesses are subscribing to the Bus Pass Program (\$24 per month per rider.)

Communications – Richard Reid – said there is nothing additional to report.

City Council Report – Brad Nanke – Last Council meeting of the year was two nights ago. Next meeting will be in mid-January. He expects Council will be discussing “tents downtown” issue on which council gets a lot of email. He went on to discuss current proposals and costs for constructing, operating and supervising the camps (\$1 million); extended warming shelters availability to every night (\$215,000 per year.) Currently, moneys will have to come out of City’s Contingency Fund.

There was some discussion about the proposed \$8 per month per household and \$37 per month per businesses site to be collected from utility users and what it will be used for. Right now, it will go to the General Fund. Also discussed was the proposed payroll tax payable by each employee within city. The latter will go up for vote in next election. There was also some discussion of the difference between Referral and Petition

Geoffrey J. brought up the subject of car camping at church lots and city parks. City rules do not allow car camping. New rules will soon go into effect blocking camping in City and on confiscation of individuals' unattended property. Janet Bubl mentioned a program in Eugene by which storage pods are provided for homeless citizens to safe-keep their belongings. Alan Meyer commented that our actions are treating the symptoms and not the causes of the problem. Still, we need to get them under-roof. Brad N. added that the \$215,000 for warming centers extension includes pay for staff; necessary because we are overloading volunteer help sources. Trevor Phillips, who is on the City's Homeless Task Force, added that in his job as Emergency Room Physician, he sees a lot of this. And for the 200 ill persons they are able to house (hospitalize or treat?) there are another 400 out there not getting care.

Announcements – Pamela S. had several announcements –

- Related a story about an elderly gentleman from Oregon City, who became disoriented in our Neighborhood, and was helped by the people at the business in the old gas station at Madrona and Pringle. They were able to contact his family for him, who came and rescued him; apparently successfully, because his truck was no-longer parked at the location.
- All CERT caches may soon be required to have (building?) permits from the City; adding that this doesn't make sense, as CERT is funded by the City.
- Recent newspaper article about a group trying to acquire old Hillcrest Juvenile Detention-school property to create a housing and service center (proposed name "Hope-crest") for the homeless. Their purchase offer is more than that already accepted by State from a group that withdrew its offer. Some officials are concerned the property is too big for the intended purpose. There are also some potential transit issues that would impact accessibility to and from the facility: e.g. city road is too narrow and winding to accommodate safe boarding and exit at the facility. Someone also mentioned that – within the next two years - there will over 200 new beds available at new Union Gospel Mission and other facilities around town. Visitor Ben Reddaway mentioned programs in Salt Lake City and New Your City which requires new local hotels (e.g. Marriott) and motels (e.g. Motel 6) to provide rooms for homeless. Someone commented that beside the transit problem, there is a Civil Rights conflict in the idea of housing homeless at old Hillcrest property – as the property has a security fence.

Good of the Order – No further business.

Adjourn – There being no further business to discuss, Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 7:56 P.M.