

Morningside Neighborhood Association
January 8, 2020 Board Meeting
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – 6:29PM by Chair Pamela

INTRODUCTIONS – 14 persons present including 12 current MNA Board Members (enough for a quorum). Brief round of Introductions and Attendance Sheet completed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 11, 2020 Minutes approved as written.

POLICE REPORT– Lieutenant Brandon D, Salem Police Department (SPD)

- Reminder that most car thefts in the winter happen while people are warming unlocked cars, so “lock it up”.
- Leaving the house lights (not motion lights) on at night is the best deterrent against theft, and inexpensive to do.

Dennis asks if SPD is aware of or in coordination with Private Security Contractors working in the City. Officer Brandon D says unless the Private Security Contractors are on foot or in unmarked cars, SPD is not actively coordinating with Private Security Contractors.

Pamela explains the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to Officer Brandon D. Officer Brandon D says he is aware of CERT, and planning to get further education on CERT. Officer Brandon D says he has experience working a natural disaster from Hurricane Katrina.

Pamela asks about homeless camping downtown. Officer Brandon D says if they are not camping, and are allowing a path for the sidewalk per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) there is nothing that can be done.

Trevor says the City of Salem has announced a plan to remove garbage from the TJ Maxx/Nordstrom homeless enclaves.

Pamela suggested the homeless could perhaps use the old Subaru site on Mission and 25th Street.

NEW SECRETARY – After years of service, Alan T will hand off the Secretary position. Pamela nominates Dennis for the office of Secretary, and Alan T seconds the nomination. By unanimous vote, Dennis is elected as the new Morningside Neighborhood Association (MNA) Secretary, effective immediately.

Geoff reminds us the written record from Neighborhood Associations is important and can be called into evidence when the City is weighing decisions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRAFFIC – Alan absent N/A

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LAND USE – Geoff

The Reed Road Development goes before Salem City Council on Monday 1/13. During a previous MNA meeting, the developer has indicated they will add a sidewalk along Reed Road and Battlecreek Road as part of the proposed Reed Road Development. The latest development plans do not show any sidewalk along Reed Road, only Battlecreek. Geoff is planning to testify at Council on Monday 1/13 regarding this omission.

Janet said in her recollection the developer did not provide a plan at the time they presented before MNA, but only made verbal promises. Brad N says the developer is not required to present a written plan. Geoff said the developer did the bare minimum required in meeting with the Neighborhood Association, but provided no additional documentation.

Janet and Trevor propose a Motion for Geoff to draft a written paragraph to go on the record at City Council 1/13/20. The Motion passes unanimously.

PARKS – Muriel absent N/A

TRANSIT – Bob absent N/A

COMMUNICATION – Richard

Richard says the Salem Leadership Foundation is hosting their annual Celebration on 1/21 at the Salem Conference Center. Salem Leadership Foundation has been bringing schools, churches, neighborhoods, and (volunteers) together to accomplish good work in our neighborhoods. The five SLF Community Partnership Teams include the Neighborhood associations in those areas (Morningside is in the CPT called South Salem Connect). The Jan 21 Celebration celebrates the SSC, CPT that includes 8 Neighborhoods. SLF staff has asked Richard to make sure the other 7 Neighborhoods are aware and invited.

Richard will be speaking at the SLF Celebration.

Richard also reminded us of the City “Communication Fund”, which is a \$2500 pool allocated to the Neighborhood Associations as an incentive to support communication efforts. A list of credit opportunities are documented in a flyer that was handed out. Dollar amounts range from \$5 for sharing the City’s Facebook posts, up to \$50 for an active year of “on-line social media presence”.

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Janet has suggested individual MNA members can document eligible Communication Fund activities and we will submit these to the City for reimbursement along with the Minutes and Attendance Report every month.

Richard has floated the idea of adopting collaboration software for use in facilitating communication between MNA members and the City of Salem. Trevor suggested Google Documents. Noel has a professional IT background and offered to help Richard explore this idea furthermore.

CITY COUNCILOR REPORT- Councilman Brad N

Councilman Brad N says the homeless are using sleeping bags and sleeping under overhangs downtown to get around the Camping Ordinance (camping with tents). A recent interview of 28 homeless persons behind Rite Aid in downtown Salem found 19 to have mental illness. Most of these persons are well known to the City, and most have also refused services in the past. Leasing a covered space (e.g., the old Subara lot on 25th and Mission) to provide shelter for the homeless presents the City with additional costs and liability.

A new City Payroll Tax in May will exclude retired people, minimum wage earners, and people who do not work in Salem (including people who people work in Keizer). This tax might be advertised for Public Safety, Police, and Fire, but in reality the revenue will go towards several unrelated areas.

A Safety Crossing will be installed at Leslie School on Pringle Road. A proposed Pedestrian Safety Crossing at Ratcliff has fallen off the radar. Councilman Brad N will follow up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pamela has received an email re: two separate graffiti incidents at Clark Creek Park, cleanup of which has resulted in cost of \$706 and \$206 for removal.

Pamela says there was a sewer overflow at Clark Creek on 1/6. Also, grants requested to remove rocks from Clark Creek have fallen through, and will need to start over again.

Dan has passed out a flyer re: an upcoming Urban Farming Class as part of the Sustainable Living Center at Pringle Creek Community.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Geoff has indicated that the old Nordstrom building downtown has a new buyer.

ADJOURN – Pamela adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm