

Morningside Neighborhood Association
Feb 12, 2020 Board Meeting
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – 6:36PM by Chair Pamela

INTRODUCTIONS – 21 persons present including 14 current MNA Board Members (enough for a quorum). Brief round of Introductions and Attendance Sheet completed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 8, 2020 Minutes approved as written.

POLICE REPORT– Officer Connolly, Salem Police Department (SPD)

Staffing shortages are adversely affecting SPD. 6 new Officers have been hired. 5 Officers will be retiring this year. The resources do not exist to do any proactive policing. Current staff are overwhelmed and doing their best just to keep up with crime.

Vehicle thefts are still on the rise. The primary contributing factor is warming of vehicles in the morning. Reminder to keep valuables locked and out of sight and do not leave running vehicles unattended.

Reminder to use the police non-emergency line when appropriate. Also, an online crime reporting option exists through SPD for qualifying events. A fillable form is used to gather facts and submitted through the system.

3 Community Service Officer(s) have been hired on as Full-time Officers. The Community Service Officer is a part-time position with no benefits but is an excellent opportunity to get your foot in the door. If you know someone that would like to become a CSO please let them know of this opportunity.

Alan asks if the crime problem has become worse. Officer Connolly says unfortunately yes, crime has increased from his perspective in the last year and a half. Staffing shortages are the limiting factor for more effective policing.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER – A. Hinkle, Code Compliance.

There are currently no derelict or dangerous buildings in the neighborhood (good). Since December 11 there have been 47 new cases and 15 remain open.

There is one (1) new health hazard. This is not on the “Properties of Interest List”, however it is considered a public nuisance. The house is approximately at the 12th Street Cutoff and Commercial Street.

A new Code Compliance Officer has been hired and is currently completing training.

Code Compliance can be contacted by email or phone about any potential properties of interest and an investigation will be done.

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“Blight to Bright” is a \$100,000 fund used to demolish and/or clean up qualifying properties. The funds come from liens placed on properties.

SALEM PARKS FOUNDATION – Betsy and Bobby

The Salem Parks Foundation administers a competitive grant program for the improvement of local parks. Applications are handed out at the beginning of the year and are due by April 30, and must be signed by the Parks Chairperson and Neighborhood Association Chair. Grants are awarded in May.

The pool of money has historically averaged between \$10k-\$20k, however, much larger sums have been raised for specific projects, for example McKay Park, \$92k. Do not limit your application based on money.

Salem Parks Foundation is a 501c3. Donations to Salem Parks Foundation can be earmarked for specific parks and held there until needed.

DEVELOPER PRESENTATION – Steve Ward

Brad leaves the room.

Steve is currently developing 72 lots on 34 acres along Reed Road for single family units. Application has been submitted to the City but not yet approved. Property is in the process of being cleaned up. Trees will be delimited to allow for better sight lines and to discourage homeless encampments. Goal is to do grading in the fall and begin building in the winter. Lots will go on sale in 2021. Minimum Density requirements by Code are being met (6 units per acre) but not as dense as the original plan. These lots will be approximately 5000-8000 square feet. 5-6 builders will be subcontracted to do the work.

Re: Development District Funding (DDF). DDF money is tied to development projects and is administered entirely by the City of Salem. These funds can be devoted to parks, transportation, sewer, etc. Several million in DDF money will be available as a result of this and other adjacent developments. DDF money typically stays in the same neighborhood.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRAFFIC – Alan

Alan suggests DDF money should go towards the Reed Road improvement project.

Motion by Alan: The Traffic and Land Use Chairs will draft a letter to the City asking for DDF money to complete Reed Road Improvement Project.

The Motion passes. The letter will be signed by Pam.

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LAND USE – N/A

PARKS – Muriel

Muriel provides an updated budget on the current Clark Creek Park Project (currently at \$23,000).

Total Grant money rec'd by MNA from Salem Park Foundation over the last few years is \$13,800.

CERT TEAM/LIQUOR LICENSES – Pam

CERT training continues by the City. People have been trained but are not staying in the program. The number of CERT trained individuals is thus overstated by the City. There is currently 15 hours of training required every 2 years.

No liquor license applications to report.

TRANSIT – Bob

Saturday Service started in September. There has been a 10% increase in weekday ridership. The cost of passes has gone up. Sunday service starts May 3, every Sunday, except Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Years.

CITY COUNCILOR REPORT- Councilman Brad N

1. Upcoming: Goal Setting Policy Agenda Meeting.
2. Upcoming: Ceremony for the signing of a mutual agreement with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
3. The homeless crisis
4. City is taking steps to alleviate the housing crisis by loosening some regulations on multi-family housing
5. The Mayor's State of the City Address
 - a. The sit-lie ordinance is coming back to City Council in a few weeks.
 - b. There is still a push for a third bridge.
 - c. The City is receiving a flood of emails about the homeless

Bennie asks about Car Camping Pilot Programming. Private Property Owners who provide garbage and restrooms may allow people to camp in their vehicles. Car camping is not allowed in residential parking lots.

Brief discussion on using Shipping Containers to house the homeless, and why this is not practical.

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Brief discussion on using Hillcrest to help alleviate the homeless crisis, and why this is not practical.

Brief discussion on rules re: cutting of trees, tree canopies, etc.

COMMUNICATION – Richard

Southeast Salem Neighborhood Association is asking the City to put in 6 street lights in front of Spinnaker Point, along 25th from McGilchrist up to Hertz.

McGilchrist Sidewalk Project is waiting on a Tiger Grant.

Ward 1 is putting on a City Council candidate forum at Ike Box February 23rd from 5-6pm

The Quarterly Chairs Meeting has been pushed to February 27. Please forward ideas and concerns to be shared at the Quarterly Chairs Meeting with Richard.

Fly Salem has \$675,000 raised to help bring in Air Service and are looking for an ODOT grant. There is a fundraising wine-tasting event on the 22nd.

South Salem Connect (8 groups) will convene to discuss, communicate, and collaborate on future projects.

Re: Slack Collaboration Software. We will resolve to try the demo before the next meeting. Slack is free.

Noel says Slack is ubiquitous in the IT world. The primary advantage is being able to see an entire conversation at a glance.

Barbara commented that not everyone has received the demo

Janet has expressed concern about equal access to information. Janet has also voiced concern about having virtual meetings, which are against the MNA bylaws.

Pam has expressed concern about committing more time to learning and using a new software program

Richard has said there are too many days in-between meetings, which is not keeping up with the pace of the City. Slack would enable better communications and allow for better preparation in-between the meetings.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Open

Muriel mentions May Open House – start thinking about it for next time: invitees, donations, location, etc.

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Pam recommends we let the committee know in advance which businesses we plan to prospect for the Open House, so there is not a doubling up of efforts.

ADJOURN – Pamela adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm