

Morningside Neighborhood Association
May 13, 2020 Board Meeting
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – 6:35pm by Chair Pamela

INTRODUCTIONS – 14 persons present including 13 current MNA Board Members (enough for a quorum). Janet is still not able to get on to Zoom. Previous attempts to connect using telephone were unsuccessful. Pam has asked Noel and/or Richard to help Janet get signed up with Zoom. Introductions were skipped. Lisa Cassidy introduced. Lisa was previously involved with MNA 5 years ago. She has been a resident of Ward 3 for 14 years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – There are no Minutes from the April meeting. A Motion to approve March Minutes (previously unapproved) passes.

POLICE REPORT – There is no Officer present, and no police report. Pam is going to work with Irma to get the Police hooked into MNA through Zoom.

TRAFFIC – Alan

The Grove Apartments on Strong Road off of Reed Road may begin leasing by end of the year. We may see increased traffic on Reed Road. There is general consensus from the group about increased traffic throughout the Salem area. Richards asks if there are traffic counts (traffic data) available from the City.

The City of Salem is putting in additional traffic cameras to catch speeders. Brief discussion re: increased numbers of speeders and increased incidence of traffic violations.

LAND USE – Geoff

The School District Food Service Building on Fairview Industrial is proposing a 5-10% increase in size on the west end of the property, which does not require a zone change. Plans are available for public comment. Pam will email a copy of these plans to the MNA Board for our review.

PARKS – Muriel

We have not heard back about the grant we applied for from Salem Park Foundation. Ours was the first application submitted. It is possible the Salem Park Foundation is not currently meeting due to Covid. Pam suggested that Salem Park Foundation may be holding the application period open through May 30.

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Muriel has a question about courts that are in use at parks (e.g., tennis & basketball). Lisa says the parks originally had signs prohibiting court use, but those signs have been taken down, ostensibly by locals. Pam says unlawful court use is also going on at Clark Creek Park, however, playground equipment remains unused. Benny says he has seen people using the courts at Morningside Park, usually older teenagers.

Muriel asks if people who live in motorhomes and/or trailers can camp next to a park. At least one RV has been spotted overnight at Morningside Park. Pam has also witnessed cars “spending the night” at Clark Creek. Pam says these types of occurrences must be phoned in to law enforcement. Currently only one (1) such place allowing overnight parking exists on Turner Road.

Dennis asks question about the legality of dogs off leash at parks. Muriel says dogs inside a park must be kept on leash or the owners risk fines. Pam emphasizes the importance of reporting violations to police (non-emergency line). The data from these calls will help to better allocate police resources in the future. Sue says Dog Parks are still open at Minto-Brown, in Keizer, and soon to be at Fairview.

CERT TEAM/LIQUOR LICENSES – Pam

CERT has been collecting PPE/Masks that people are making, through the month of May, at minimum. These masks will be held by CERT for future needs as the hospital is currently well-stocked. Al asks about the CERT preparedness for pandemics.

Trevor says Marion & Polk Counties are the hotspots in Oregon for Covid, however, hospital capacity and PPE stock are currently in good shape.

TRANSIT – Bob

Transit is running about 60% of capacity as ridership has dropped off. Sunday service has been pushed back to September. People are boarding the bus from the back door and drivers are not collecting fares or interacting with customers except to assist per the ADA. Trevor asks if Cherriots is still requiring masks. Bob says yes.

Cherriots has not had to lay off any drivers. Drivers which are not driving are disinfecting busses at the station. Cherriots is funded from property taxes and is not facing the same budget shortfalls as bus service in Eugene and/or Portland, which are funded from payroll taxes.

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COMMUNICATION – Richard - None

CITY COUNCILOR REPORT – Brad – In Budget Meeting, unable to attend

ADDITIONAL/MISC –

Alan asks Geoff about the status of the development in Fairview that filed for land use approval, for which comments were due by April 29. Geoff says the only comments came from Alan re: Reed Road, and there were no objections.

Geoff says the housing subdivision south of Reed promised to widen Reed Road on the south side (put in sidewalks). However, much of it is the proposed Reed Park, so the timing is unclear.

MNA expects all developments to improve Reed, on both sides, because those apartments and homes will be using unimproved Reed.

Pam asks how everyone else is liking Zoom. Alan says it is working well. Bob says you can use Zoom with a regular phone (w/ re: to Janet). Noel and Richard will pay for Zoom and be reimbursed from the Communication Fund.

Muriel asks a question about returning to Painters Hall for future MNA meetings. The Pringle Creek Community is currently asking people not to walk through due to Coronavirus.

Allan asks Muriel and Trevor about an active homeless campsite in the woods near the water tower.

Bennie asks about where to obtain masks (PPE). Barbara mentioned the Freckled Bee downtown. Sue mentioned the quilting shop next to Fitts.

*ADJOURN – Pam adjourned the meeting on **7:15pm***