

Morningside Neighborhood Association
December 8, 2021 Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order – 6:30 PM by MNA Chair Pamela Schmidling

Introductions – 24 in attendance, including nine board (quorum), two guest speakers, and 13 guests.

Police Report – No officer was present to report.

City Council Report – Ward 3 Councilor Trevor Philips – announced: impending retirement of City Manager Steve Powers, and praised him for his accomplishments for the City. He reported on several recent actions and initiatives of Council to strengthen Code for tree protection in development; relax mandatory parking requirements for care homes to accommodate higher density in areas served by Transit and other services they may require; begin process to update City’s Comprehensive Plan; Climate Task Force; and mentioned upcoming public hearing on proposed Meyer Farm development. He also announced City Councilor Chris Hoy has been appointed to fill-out State House District 21 term being vacated by Brian Clem; and will still maintain his Council involvement. He fielded several questions from the Board relating to: Penalties for land developers who violate City tree ordinance, and confusion about applications of old and new rules; Whether or not recently-enacted SB2021 requiring higher density in development will override City and CCR’s, and impact on tree canopy goal. There was brief discussion of tree plantings led by Friends of Trees.

On another subject not related to Council: MNA Board Member Dr. Phillips gave his assessment of the Omicron strain of Covid-19, preparedness for impending spread to Salem; and measures to take to limit its spread and severity.

Note: Upon conclusion, Dr. Phillips left the meeting due to impending presentation and discussion on this meeting agenda of an active land development permit application on which Council has scheduled a public hearing at January 2022 meeting.

Guest Presentation – Jennifer Arnold and Roy Hankins, Emerio Engineering, Surveying and Design – contracting for the developer who is applicant for proposed Meyer Farm property subdivision and development – addressed MNA Board and audience on changes made to their original plan and the application as result of earlier public responses. Changes had to do with project Phases, which trees are included in the project inventory, and elimination of a planting strip on the portion of 12th Street improvement that fronts on the riparian “Open Area.” Arnold and Hankins fielded many questions and comments from Board and audience which concerned tree removal, lot size, street layout and likely traffic impacts at each end of Hilfiker “coupler” between Battle Creek/Pringle Road and Commercial. They explained the constraints imposed on their design by City and State authorities.

Committee Reports –

Traffic - Alan Meyer announced work has begun on Reed Road improvement.
Committee Reports (continued)

Land Use – Geoffrey James recited items on the City Planning Commission’s agenda that affect Morningside. He shared a new map of Neighborhood Plan which shows a proposed trail connecting Fairview Park, “The Woods” donation and proposed Reed Road Park with Hilfiker Park (concept proposed Morningside Neighborhood Plan.) Mr. James also shared the donation by one of the Fairview residential developers of a parcel of land to add to Fairview Park.

Parks – Muriel Meyer gave update on the status of SPF grant application for improvements at Morningside Park. She reported that the fee for MNA’s Website is coming due, and asked for Board approval of \$145.87 expenditure from Communications Fund. Motion was made, seconded and passed by unanimous vote. There was some discussion of City Website/ MNA Website link and other communication breakdowns; Muriel and/or Pamela will talk to Irma Dowd about the problem.

C.E.R.T. – Pamela Schmidling gave guests an overview of the program, what it does, location of MNA’s emergency stash shipping container at Morningside United Methodist Church property, concerns about recent lack of meetings and training sessions, and lack of involvement in the ice storm clean-up. She invited all who are interested to join and help revive MNA’s Community Emergency Response Team.

Liquor Licenses – Pamela Schmidling said she has not received notice of any new applications for the past several months, and will look into it (again) to see if City is forgetting to notify her.

Transit – No report.

Volunteer Hours – Muriel Meyer – 5, Alan Meyer – 3, Geoffrey James – 5, Al Tocchini – 8 hours.

Neighborhood Issues –

Geoffrey James - reported on MNA’s “Meyer Farm” subcommittee’s work to review, identify concerns, and submit testimony at City Council hearing in January. He said Council will address the City’s Land Use Planning Goal 5 implementation deficiencies, and budgeting for remedy.

Charles Faulk (guest) – commented on the need for City to contact “Tribe” to conduct an archeological survey before approving any new development Meyer Farm land. Local lore is that in about 1720, near what is now the Meyer home site, Kalapuya people planted oak trees that form an arrow pointing north. He also commented on the U.S. Government’s purchase of tribal lands in the mid 1800’s for \$50,000 (which was to be paid for at \$500 per year in cloth and other goods.) Note: Discussion returned to letters and testimony regarding Meyer Farm, and the new timing for getting letters in to City, since Council hearing was postponed to January.

Adjournment – Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.