

Morningside Neighborhood Association

January 9, 2019 Meeting

MINUTES

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

Minutes – to December '18 meeting – approved with correct spelling of Scott Schaefer's name

Police Report – SPD Officer Schofield – asked about any enforcement related issues we might see in our neighborhood. Geoffrey James mentioned recent spate of reports of car drivers not heeding School Bus flashing signals and passing while bus was loading/unloading. Officer Schofield said that he can alert SPD's Traffic Control Division to monitor our neighborhood's schools. Someone commented on the ensuing traffic problem on the yet-unimproved Reed Road, and asked if SPD is watching it for speed, etc. violators. (Officer is aware of that, and SPD is watching when in the area.) Pamela S. asked Officer if he is aware of the frequent after-hours parking at Clark Creek Park. (Unsure of Officer's exact answer, but understand he will keep checking on it to let occupants know they are being watched.) Pamela S. thanked Officer Schofield for his efforts.

Committee Reports

Traffic – No report (Committee Chair Alan Meyer not present)

Land Use - Geoffrey James reported that Reed Road will be before the Planning Commission at their meeting on Tuesday, January 14th. This concerns Reed Road traffic and the new multi-family residential development near Heritage school. Josh Kay said he received a letter from the school to the City expressing concerns about possible access-egress conflicts with new development, as well as Reed Road traffic. Someone mentioned proposed changes in the Fairview Master Plan, which would eliminate the Village Center. Brad Nanke said that, since the matter has not yet been placed on Council's schedule for review, it was OK for him to remain in the meeting while this matter was being discussed; but that the change is probably a "done deal" if it progresses to Council for review. Janet Bubl said she recently read of a lot line adjustment application in the works for the Reed Road area. Someone mentioned is likely a "house cleaning" item to make way for turning Old Strong Road into a bike path connecting the new parks in Fairview and at corner of Reed and Battle Creek Roads.

Parks – Pam Schmidling (for Muriel Meyer who was not present) announced that the application for the Salem Parks Improvement Fund grant to fix and improve Clark Creek Park multipurpose court has been submitted. Also, she has sent a request to SPIF to have a representative come to our meeting next month to talk to us about its status, activities, etc.

1-9-19 MNA Meeting Minutes – Committee Reports (continued)

Pringle Creek Watershed Committee – No report

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Pamela Schmidling reported there will be a joint meeting with other Neighborhood CERT's at Temple Beth Shalom. (Pamela explained to visitors what "CERT" is, and where our Neighborhood's emergency cache is located.)

Transit – Bob Krebs gave a brief report that: Saturday and late evening service will begin the day after Labor Day this year; and, depending on funds, they are looking to begin Sunday service in May of 2020. He said they hired seven new drivers, and training is underway. Transit will also participate in upcoming job fair in hope of hiring more drivers and mechanics.

Communications – Richard Reid said he has received no response yet from City on recent item; hopes to convene MNA Communications Committee in near future to further discuss the subject. Pamela Schmidling reported she had recently written and sent a letter to the Mayor regarding four issues:

- 1) May meeting of the City budget committee always conflicts with MNA and other NA's Annual Meetings, and prevents attendance of NA events by City Officials, Councilors and Commissioners, unless we depart from our regular schedules.
- 2) She said there is apparently no sincerity in the City's slogan "Salem at Your Service", as she was told that Parks Department no longer provides services such as moving picnic tables for community events, and we will need to find other assistance, such as Inmate crews to help.
- 3) City's apparent decision to install a flashing light pedestrian crossing on Commercial between Ratcliff and Madrona ignores the greater-needed traffic signal for Commercial and Ratcliff which MNA requested long ago – but has yet to see installed. (Someone in attendance remarked about the crossing being needed to accommodate use of the bus stop, which is currently required to be away from intersection turn lanes; i.e. people running across Commercial to and from bus stop.)
- 4) Problem with "Auto-reply" – not knowing whether our communications are getting to the proper Staff person on-time.

Mayor's office said he would soon be meeting with City Manager to discuss the issues.

City Council Report – Brad Nanke began by saying he cannot talk about the Costco issue this evening, because an appeal of Council's decision to deny the new siting. Brad said the first meeting of the year will be next Monday, and three returning councilpersons, the returning

mayor and new Councilor Jackie Young from Ward 4 will be sworn-in. Second meeting will be on January 30, and will be a work session on River Crossing. Among issues being discussed are LUBA's demands regarding W.R. Greenway, land outside the Urban Growth Boundary. If decision is not to move forward (with River Crossing matter?) it will mean that \$8 million has been wasted on the plan; ODOT likely will issue a "No-build" on it for another 50 years . . .

Janet Bubl raised an issue about the recent widening of 12th Street at Fairview – where the new turn lane has made parking difficult – if not impossible for the convenience market at that location; also, delivery trucks serving the store must park in the turn lane. Another problem with the widening is that some lanes are becoming "turn-only", which may precipitate dangerous lane changes by motorists unfamiliar with the changes. More vigorous warning signage may be needed here.

Brad N. mentioned **new** storm water retention pits on Rural Ave are not adequately barricaded and so poorly-lit that pedestrians could stray into them at night.

Janet B. thanked Brad N. for seeing that the reflective marker posts were installed on a dangerous corner in Morningside and Bluff area where vehicles were running into a cement block retaining wall.

Other Business

Open Issues – Opened by Chair Pamela S. -

Annual Meeting Date – Bob Krebs moved to hold the meeting on May 15th, despite possible conflict with City business. Brief discussion ensued. Motion voted on and passed.

Special Presentation – Aubrey Wieber – Salem Reporter news correspondent introduced the recently-established On-line newspaper serving the Salem area. He asks for us to consider and let him know what kind of news MNA wants reported. The business is hoping to grow its subscriber base. There are three main writers (of which he is one); each writer is dealing with different areas of concern: Local, Legislative, etc. Monthly subscription rate is \$10. Annual rate is \$100. Philosophy is to own-up to and correct any mistakes, and listen to the concerns of its readers. They will make every effort to vet all of their publications, and quickly correct errors. They publish – Monday thru Friday. Advertising is not in their plan. Richard Reid asked about their photography, and who takes them. He said they currently take their own, but would like to hire a staff photographer in the future.

Adjourn – With no further business, Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned meeting at 7:38 PM.