

Morningside Neighborhood Association  
**MINUTES**  
**March 13, 2019 Meeting**  
Painters Hall – Pringle Creek Community

**Call to Order – Chair Pamela Schmidling – 6:31 PM**

Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves; attendance sign-in sheet was passed around; quorum was present

Police Report – Officer Scofield – announced the upcoming “Coffee with a Cop” event scheduled for 9AM, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Marshall’s. He spoke about “POP Team” a new program for Salem Police focusing on addressing the root causes of criminal activity, rather than after-the-fact enforcement – “looking for preventive solutions.” Recent incidents in our neighborhood included a car wreck on Ratcliff in which teen driver who was racing another teen lost control and crashed into Clark Creek (no injuries, but his passengers fled the scene with the other motorist before police arrived.) Officer Scofield introduced his ride-along Police Cadet, Liza Chacova who gave a brief talk and answered questions about the program. Salem Police Department has the largest youth cadet program in the valley. Their training includes a two-week-long academy in which they are trained in traffic stop, police tactics, first aid and CPR. Participants must be enrolled in high school or college; anyone without a criminal background may apply. Participants do one ride-along per month to maintain their status. Officer Scofield said that many of the participants eventually become recruits for SPD.

Guest Presentation – Mark Wigg – representing SCAN – reported of an opportunity for City to acquire part of the abandoned Hillcrest Youth Correction property. A proposal is in the works for purchase and use of the developed part of the property by a health services organization or business. Specifically, the part of possible interest to SCAN and MNA is the undeveloped part of the property along Reed Road, which could be developed for Community-level recreation and as a connector for the planned Fairview and Reed/Battle Creek “Neighborhood” park and the “Old Strong Road” trail. He said there is enough flat land to provide space for ball fields as well as a bike and pedestrian trail. The property would cost about \$800,000 to acquire. Some discussion ensued regarding possible sources of funds to acquire the property, and the most-promising source would be Urban Renewal moneys. However, this property lies just outside the current boundary of the Fairview Industrial UR area; and he asked that MNA – along with SCAN make written proposal for such to the City. Geoffrey James made the motion that MNA do so, and he would be willing to draft the letter; Richard Reid seconded the motion; vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote.

Minutes to February 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting – were approved by unanimous vote as written and circulated to Board Members a few weeks ago via email.

Parole & Probation – no P&P representatives in attendance – no report

### **Committee Reports**

Traffic – Alan Meyer reported on the results of a meeting of Safer Crossings Committee which is charged with developing and using an objective “model” for prioritizing pedestrian crossings on streets in the city. Their proposed priorities will go before C.A.T.C. for its approval; and then to City Council in May. On other matters, Alan Meyer said he has put forth proposal for installation of a warning sign on southbound side of Pringle Ave. to warn motorists of traffic entering Pringle from New Strong Road (view obstructed by rise in roadway.)

Land Use – Geoffrey James – reported there have been no new applications. The Planning Commission is looking at two Zone Code amendments: one of them making mandatory the need for developers and their advocates to attend neighborhood association meetings to present their proposals. Pamela S. posed the question of “How would the Commission know if they had done such? Does Planning Commission review neighborhood association minutes and other communications with City? Geoffrey J. said that, in his business, he deals with several other cities around the Valley that have such requirements (some required at developers’ expense. However, those are not necessarily with Neighborhood Associations – but rather the requirements to contact all residents and interests located within at least 300 feet of the proposed development. On another land use matter: A Comprehensive Plan meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4 – from 4 to 6 PM – purpose is to get updates on citizen feedback from surveys (fact gathering, right now.)

Parks – Muriel Meyer – nothing new to report, other than she is trying to get City’s specifications for bench proposed for Morningside Park play court; as Al T. had proposed consideration of placement of a Trex® Composite Plastic bench that South Salem Lions Club is seeking to earn and have made through their Plastic recycling drive. Al T. gave attendees a brief description of the matter. Muriel M. suggested we consider putting bench at Hilfiker Park, as one is proposed for it, but hasn’t yet been installed.

Pringle Creek Watershed – Brad Nanke said they will be meeting later this week – nothing else to report.

C.E.R.T. – Pamela Schmidling – gave a brief description of the program for visitors. She said Morningside CERT will be meeting this Thursday, and will be doing family band radio check and other communication needs.

Liquor Licenses – Pamela Schmidling – reported she has seen no new applications. However, she did receive word that the gas station and convenience market at Pringle and Madrona will soon reopen. The original establishment had a license to sell beer and wine, but she doesn’t think this market will be doing so. The van service business will apparently continue to use the site for their dispatch and vehicle parking.

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Transit – Bob Krebs – had four announcements:

- 1) It is 178 *days to roll-out* of new bus services funded by payroll taxes in a bill approved by the 2017 Legislature (extended daily service will begin on September 3, and weekend service on September 7;
- 2) With the opening of the new Amazon facility in Mill Creek Industrial Park, Transit looks to start 30 minute service on Kuebler to add to 15 minute services to Aumsville. (Stops will be located only near signaled cross walks.)
- 3) Legislative House Bill 2219 includes plans to extend West Commuter Rail to Salem; HB 2603 is looking at double-tracking several stretches to minimize the conflict between Amtrak and freight train traffic. Double-tracking will have multiple-time saving for train commute and travel.
- 4) Transit is about to end its latest hiring campaign to staff its expanded services; Bob K. said they hopes to have all positions filled by the end of the month. He cited the jobs' competitive pay, health and non-PERS pension benefits as helping attract qualified applicants.

There was a question about the possibility of additional commuter rail extension to Eugene. There is no plan yet. As for the Salem proposal, there would be four trains per day; currently there are 8 trains per day between Portland and Wilsonville.

Communications – Richard Reid – presented three action items needing the Board's approval to proceed. These are letters to City concerning each of three issues presented by MNA Chair Pamela Schmidling in a letter to the Mayor which did not receive a response – other than vague apology from City Manager. He asked that we vote separately on each motion he is about to make, because Communications Committee felt each issue merited individual attention:

- 1) City should acknowledge emails sent to it from neighborhood associations. Motion was seconded by Al T. Discussion of the draft message ensued. Janet Bubl suggested that a word other than "must" be used, because it had a bureaucratic meaning that would be difficult for City to agree to and follow. Alan M. supported that suggestion. Vote was taken, and motion passed.
- 2) City should schedule its public meetings and sessions so they do not conflict with Neighborhood Association events. Motion passed.
- 3) City should fulfill its long-time commitment to place traffic signal and crossing of Commercial Street SE at Ratcliff Avenue intersect, before it considers adding the flashing yellow pedestrian crossing between Ratcliff and Madrona. Vote was taken, and motion passed.

Pamela S. said she will bring up her letter and its issues at the next meeting of Neighborhood Chairs. That meeting is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5PM.

Annual Meeting – Muriel Meyer – handed out flyers for attendees to distribute to their neighbors. She also handed out an organizational checklist and proposed agenda for the Annual Meeting. She has begun lining up sponsorships for the event: Roth's is providing food and water; Parks and Transit have

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confirmed they will attend. She said we had some generous gifts for drawing items last year, including valuable certificates from USPS store and others; hope to get similar items this year. To make sure all coming to the event have a chance to win something, we will hold three drawings throughout the evening.

Muriel also mentioned that UPS store will give a 25% discount to all copying related to the event. Discussion proceeded to "Signs" – both for Open House and for regular meetings of MNA. Small single-size corrugated plastic signs on wire stands cost about \$22 each; double side about \$34 each. Banner is in same price range. After more deliberation it was decided we need five signs. MNA has a considerable balance in our Communications account. There was some discussion of costs for signs and banners. Also discussed was the expense for mailing out post card announcements to all the neighborhood residents (estimated at \$800. Question was raised as to whether or not MNA could use City's bulk mail rate, and Pamela S. said that she would call "Brady" at City to see if that was possible. Josh Kay asked if we could afford printing and sending out post-cards, and the expenditures for the signs and banner. Bob K. moved that we approve the expenditures to the limit of our fund balance. Motion was seconded by Brad N; vote taken, and motion passed.

Councilor Report – Brad Nanke – reported that North Santiam Watershed Council (which includes Pringle Creek Watershed) met last night (Tuesday 3/12) and that items discussed were: Detroit Lake draw-down for the USACE project to cool water flowing from the dam to help improve fish runs, decision for which has been deferred until May; There is some push for legislation to fund an ozone-based water purification system to replace the carbon that was being used to attenuate the blue algae contamination that occurred last Spring/Summer. The Detroit Dam Operator is usually at these meetings. USACE has changed the design of the cooling system structure from a free-standing to one attached to the dam. This would reduce the amount and term of the water level draw-down; but is pending some consideration of impacts of the construction process (Blasting? Drilling?) would have on the dam and reservoir.

On Council matters, Brad N. that budget season is beginning; City has until April 15<sup>th</sup> to come up with a budget that aligns services with revenue. Some liken the exercise to "Thelma and Louise"; but it is more like paralleling the cliff rather than driving off. It will, however involve making cuts in people and departments. Proposed budget should be out in about 1-1/2 months.

Good of the Order – Someone made announcement about a MBAR (?) meeting.

**Adjourn** – There being no further business to discuss, Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.