

Morningside Neighborhood Association
July 10, 2019 Board Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order – 6:35 P.M. by Chair Pamela Schmidling

Introductions – All present introduced themselves; an attendance “sign-in” sheet was passed around; 26 people were present, including 10 MNA Board members (enough for a quorum.)

Police Report – Salem Police officer Sonja Lawrence reported an uptick in property thefts from open garages, yards and vehicles; including home entries gained through open garage and by removing in-window air conditioner units. She asked us to secure our property and be vigilant. She answered questions related to security camera reporting network program (SCRAM) and was not certain that camera systems other than Ring ® would work with that program. There was some more talk about fireworks noise, and the inability of SPD to address the vast amount of uses of illegal fireworks around the city and keep up on ongoing general law enforcement issues. She went on to say that SPD realizes the fireworks noise has a serious impact on pets and urban wildlife. She encouraged persons to report such nuisances to SPD’s nonemergency phone line. All reports will be recorded and may eventually get enforcement attention.

Approval of Minutes – June meeting minutes were approved with correction in Traffic report of name of street on which the new intersection sign was change from Strong Road to “Pringle Road.”

Guest Report #1 – Patricia Farrell, City of Salem Park and Natural Resource Manager had two items to report:

- 1) She showed maps from the master plan for the new Battle Creek Park (in SS Gateway NA), and since the park is designated a Community Park, she asked us to take the online survey and submit our opinions on the plan proposals. (So far, there have been 828 responses to the questionnaire. She said that since the first public workshop, City has made minor changes to the plan. She also passed out fliers announcing a special presentation on the history and naming of Battle Creek to take place at Salem Public Library Louck’s Auditorium on August 7th at 6:00PM
- 2) She gave us an update on progress of Fairview Park development. She said they are about 30% through with the design and will get cost estimates in the next few months for development of the multi-use field (including Tennis and Pickle Ball courts) in 2021. Restrooms would likely be installed in future phases. Part of the

She also reported: The master plan for Hilfiker Park has been approved, but development is further-down-the-road. Geoffrey James asked why the City does not hire an in-house designer on these projects, instead of spending so much money for private consultants; she explained that such staffing is very expensive to maintain; adding that staff can efficiently handle the less-complicated projects, but consultants

are needed for the more-complicated ones. Muriel Meyer asked if anything will be done at Hilfiker Park entrance to address soft soil and puddling in the entrance during rainy periods. Patricia F. said she is aware of the problem and will see if something is being done about it.

Guest Report #2 – Eric Olsen, Developer of Fairview Addition presented his firm’s proposal for low density housing development in Fairview Woods. He was here to fulfill procedural requirements for Neighborhood Association review on such proposals. Public hearing on the matter was held on Tuesday July 9, and had been continued for further hearing due to the large amount of public testimony being presented. Objections to the development center on its (lack of) compliance with the Fairview Master Plan (which was adopted and entered to City Code several years ago.) Olsen’s contention is that the subject area is a troublesome piece for several reasons including its attraction to homeless campers. His firm’s plan would minimize removal of specimen trees as compared to typical housing development, would minimize street width by excluding sidewalks, but would instead include pedestrian pathways through the development to comply with plans for such in the original plan. He submits that the low-density development would sustain the aesthetic values of open space, while discouraging currently-occurring unauthorized activity such as homeless camping. Later in the discussion Olsen pointed out that since the Fairview Plan was adopted, no one has come forward with any offers to buy the property for preservation.

Questions and discussions ensued about how the site would be maintained (who would pay for maintenance.) Olsen envisions an HOA would manage and maintain the integrity of the development; the development would not be gated, and limits would be placed on fencing style and locations for specific purposes. Concerns were voiced about whether or not the future owners could close the area from outside public use that they feel was inferred in the Fairview Master Plan. Also: what measures would be taken to ensure future lot owners maintain the tree cover?

Some in attendance passed out copies of their hearing testimony which outline these and other concerns. Chair Pamela Schmidling called for a tabling of discussion on the matter due to meeting time constraints. Geoffrey James reminded the group that MNA would need time to review the materials they prepared; could do so before the next public hearing, and give its recommendations.

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan Meyer – reported that the caution sign is now in place on Pringle Road near the new Strong Road intersection. See attachment to the minutes.

Land Use - Geoffrey James – reported there were three issues currently being addressed:

- 1) Madrona subdivision – proposed house on uphill side will not meet clearance requirements

- 2) Hillcrest Property – being disposed of in three parcels – two of which will connect Fairview Park with the proposed park at corner of Reed Road and Battle Creek Road
- 3) Fairview Woods – which was discussed this evening

Parks – Muriel Meyer – reported the bench for Morningside Park has been ordered; also that paving of Clark Creek Park play pad has been delayed until the fixtures (Basketball backboards, etc.) are delivered and installed.

Pringle Creek Watershed Council – Pamela Schmidling reported is no longer in existence. Pringle Creek is now being handled by the overarching North Santiam Watershed Council. Brad Nanke is on NSWC but may leave to assume Legislature post. Nanke not in attendance tonight due to related meeting scheduled this evening. (Thus, no Council Report.)

C.E.R.T. – Pamela S. reported will meet next Tuesday (7/16). (Geoffrey James asked for clarification of time and place for the meeting.)

Liquor Licenses – Pamela S. said there are no new applications to report.

Transit – Bob Krebs – reported “59 Days” to new service roll-out. Transit will have a table at Farmers Market to inform public about new service. Transit Board is considering whether or not to provide free Saturday service on the first week of roll-out. He said service will extend to 11PM and more service to rural areas.

Communications – Richard Reid – said the committee had nothing new to report; however he wanted to report on the last Neighborhood Association Chairs meeting which he attended in Pamela Schmidling’s behalf. He said there are some new opportunities for Board members to gain Neighborhood Communication \$ for their neighborhood association by attending certain meetings and events and participating in certain activities. (He passed out copies of the program to the Board members present.) The next Neighborhood Association Chairs meeting will be on September 26th – and he urged all of us to go to it. On another matter, Richard shared his finding of a program called “Future Search” which is designed to get citizens together to act on new ideas and programs that benefit the community and the world

Good of the Order – Brad Nanke *may* be leaving City Council and MNA Board – possibly to assume Legislative Representative Post held by Denys Boles who will be replacing late Senator Jackie Winters. No MNA meeting in August unless action needed on matters such as Fairview Woods (Vice Chair would preside in that event, since Chair Pamela will be out of town on that date.)

Adjourn – There being no further business to discuss, Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.