

Morningside Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2015
Painters Hall – Pringle Creek Community

Called to Order at 6:30 PM – by Chair, Pamela Schmidling

Introductions: Pamela Schmidling, Janet Bubl, Bernie Yows, Scott Schaefer, Al Tocchini, Geoffrey James, Theresa Byrns, Carol Sheets, Sam Hall, Keith Keever (Salem Parks Supt.), quorum not-yet present;

Committee Reports -

Parks – Pamela S. mentioned incomplete maintenance problem at Clark Creek Park – leaf clean-up crew left old discarded towel on ground instead of removing it;

New Arrivals -

Chap Millbank, Muriel Meyer, Alan Meyer, Ken Hetoel, McKenzie Farrell and M. Tangney (Salem Police) arrived shortly after beginning of committee reports – quorum now present;

October Meeting Minutes – approved as presented on Website;

Committee Reports (resumed) –

Pringle Creek Watershed – Chap Milbank – PCW committee met and voted to support the Minto-Brown Island Park master plan; Geoffrey J. posed a suggestion to Chap M. that PCW committee consider pressing ODOT to make the new Pringle Creek realignment at Kuebler/I-5 interchange accessible for public by tying it in to the nature trail in the Fairview Industrial/Commerce park area, and added that city would need to secure access through a 30 acre property near Marietta Street to complete the link; there was some discussion about possible parking issues for general public, and remedy may require consent of new retail development owners to allow parking for creek trail users; Chap M. said he would present the idea to the PCW committee at next meeting; McKenzie F. commented that this would be an excellent opportunity for “connectivity” of neighborhood walking/biking routes;

Fairview Park Master Plan Hearings – Keith Keever – First of four meetings will take place at Painters Hall at 6:30 PM on November 18; it will be an informational meeting with plenty of visual aids to share site features, opportunities and constraints; explain city’s definition of “community” parks; ties to the comprehensive plan; design, trails, connectivity, access, who neighbors are - - all details to be discussed; Keith reiterated that first meeting is intended for gathering input in the plan from the public; second meeting will phase into developing general plan and addressing contentious issues; Keith encouraged participants to plan on attending all four meetings (passed around announcement cards with meeting dates, etc.); Theresa Byrnes asked if it was OK for people to visit the proposed park site, and right now it is not, because it is not yet city property, and Sam H. explained that there is a lot of demolition activity going on Sustainable Fairview property, and safety concerns would require SF- scheduled and guided

tours only at this time; discussion followed that tentatively sets such a tour on a Saturday following the first Planning meeting, and before the second if possible; Keith K. and Sam H. answered questions about the feasibility of restoration and use of one of the buildings (New Breton - - -??); Keith K. mentioned that Landscape Architect Tracy Johnson has been contracted to help develop the plan; Pam S. suggested the tour be held on Saturday, Dec. 12 in deference to holiday conflicts and so tour observations are fresh in minds of attendees – there was general agreement to this;

Police Report – Officer Tangney – Two recent burglaries on Ratcliff – culprit breaking into vehicles and homes – broke in while occupant was home and was chased away - they think they know who the culprit is, and are gathering details; talked about good neighborhood observance – cited recent incident in Battle Creek area; encouraged neighbors to observe and communicate, not to leave valuables in cars, not to leave garage doors open, understand that thieves are looking for opportunities; talked about the Halloween safety program that was successfully held to inform kids on safe behaviors – lots of help from local homebuilder – had over 1,000 attendees at the event; mentioned “Coffee with a Cop” program – downtown business is offering free coffee for people to come and get acquainted with their city police persons and discuss their concerns; mentioned an increase in bike thefts – particularly high-end bicycles, ordinary cable locks are easily cut, suggests more solid lock systems to secure bikes; discussed other home/property security measures such as spare key placement – better to leave it with trustworthy neighbor, than the typical hiding places; mentioned CERT and informational programs on Cascade Subduction Zone; finally, about City seeking input from citizens on how it can communicate better with them;

Traffic – Alan Meyer – Mentioned upcoming 36 hour closure of Kuebler at I-5 for construction;

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Pamela S. said that the recent training session was well-attended, though they hope to attract more of the younger citizens to get informed and to participate;

Liquor Licenses – Nothing new since last month;

Transit – Representative not present, so no report/discussion;

City Council – Brad absent/ill, so no report;

Announcements – None;

Round-Table Discussion of MNA Board Communications procedure – Pamela S. –

This matter has been discussed in past, but no official action taken; McKenzie F. gave overview of what she recalls as being discussed about the process; Pam S. mentioned the biggest problem is when City asks for MNA Board review, they often do not allow enough time for entire Board to weigh-in and for input to be incorporated into response; Several minutes of discussion on the process, and who sends the final version of response to City – general agreement it should be the Chair – but problem is arriving at

and acknowledgement/ratification of final version by entire Board; Janet B. mentioned the problem that not all folks use email, and process seems to rely on email; Mention was made that Board has not voted outside of a meeting (Secretary thinks we may have once or twice in recent years on emerging topics); Pam S. mentioned that all NA's are trying to get City to allow more time, but not getting anywhere with this yet (possibly because of conflicting deadlines i.e. Land Use decisions; Geoffrey J. suggested possible process in absence of email; Pam S. preferred the communication be written by the person who proposed it, and rest of board edit and agree on draft before she signs and forwards final to City; Alan M. mentioned that care is necessary in use of "Reply All" on emails – citing his recent email communication with just the Board that got sent to City as well; By-laws on the subject are pretty vague (Muriel M.); By-laws should be/are available on MNA Website; more discussion of amending and distributing by-laws; Janet B. suggested we write a process or procedure statement about Board communication – not try to put it in the By-laws; Bennie Y. recommended that some marking like "PRIORITY" be put on important communications among the board so the member will know that the matter is urgent – to help speed the process; McKenzie F. added that email communications should start with what action we want done; – which brought up mention of an MNA board comment to City Council that still had "DRAFT" watermark on the signed document; after some lengthy discussion on the matter, it was decided that watermark should not be used – just print "DRAFT" plainly on the communication being circulated for input/edit;

Other Neighborhood Issues – first, Pam S. thanked Theresa B. and Carol S. (not currently board members) for attending and participating;

Fred Meyer gas station on Madrona near Commercial – nothing MNA could do about it because it was a Staff decision to allow it;

Street Lights – discussion of priority list and process of getting on the list; lights are being turned-over to city by PGE (and SE?) for administration; new lights are LED and much more efficient than old; lights have a 40 foot radius of coverage – most intense directly under the light, light spacing depends on the location/site – but ideal spacing is to slightly-overlap the coverage; Lights said to cost \$125 each, with Salem piggy-backing on Portland/Metro lighting acquisition (does not include the pole, etc.); right now MNA has only two locations on the priority listing;

Good of the Order – called for by Chair Pamela S. –

Geoffrey J. - Reported he recently attended a meeting of neighboring neighborhood association to make presentation on the proposed shopping center development(s) at Kuebler and I-5; the SGNA and/or SESNA chair(s) plan to be at MNA's December meeting to discuss the impacts of the Shopping center development on our neighborhoods and possibly coordinate a comment on proposed land use changes that will be needed for it;

Pamela S. – announced she is sitting on other committee to help City improve communications with citizens (same program as mentioned in Police report?); Committee needs to get more younger people involved in the program – cited revival of high school requirement that HS Seniors participate in at least one community activity – this could be one – also again – get them involved in CERT – committee will be talking to school district about this;

Morningside (Park) Slide – brief discussion of relocation – best in place where slide can go on sloped ground so ladder/steps to high platform are not needed – Pamela S. said such place already available at Clark Creek Park;

Meeting Adjourned - at about 7:45 PM.

Minutes Taken/Submitted by:

Alan Tocchini

MNA Board