

Morningside Neighborhood Association
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – 6:34pm by Chair Pamela

INTRODUCTIONS – 13 persons present in the beginning, including 13 current MNA Board Members. 2 additional persons joined later.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A Motion to approve the August Minutes passes, with no corrections.

POLICE REPORT – Not present

TRAFFIC – Alan

Alan circulated a couple of emails from Kevin H at the City of Salem about Reed Road & 12th Street at Hilfiker. Al suggested some ways we can alleviate traffic on Reed Road until it can be improved.

Alan notes Lindburg Rd will not connect to Old Strong Road, but instead will cut through Pringle Creek Community**. Since New Strong Road is not finished, there will soon be additional traffic on Reed Rd due to new housing developments. Alan underscored the need to keep pressure on the City about Reed Road improvements. There is some concern the City is looking at each adjacent housing development individually and not considering the combined traffic impact. General consensus among the Board that Reed Road is an unsafe road and needs immediate attention.

***CORRECTION – After the meeting it was learned that the new section of Lindburg Rd. will in fact connect with Old Strong Road/Lindburg Road. The connections with Pringle Creek Community are for interior streets (per Alan/Al).*

Bennie asks about 12th street and Hilfiker. Alan says it is a two-lane road which is not delineated. Due to parking irregularities it has become a safety hazard. Fortunately, it is a low speed area, so the likelihood of a high-speed collision is low.

Brad has 2 additional emails from City staff about Reed Road and the proposed light at Ratcliff, which he will forward to Pamela. Pamela asks Brad about obtaining copies of traffic reports.

Barbara asks if traffic studies must be resubmitted as development plans change (e.g., changing from single family to multi-family). Geoff says if the criteria or density change sufficiently, there will be revised traffic reports, which are available to the public.

Bennie says speed humps for Albert Dr have been approved but there are no City funds. Pam suggests neighbors can pay to have speed humps installed. Al suggests speed humps could be installed when the surrounding roads are improved. The roads surrounding Albert Dr are currently in a state of disrepair.

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LAND USE – Geoff

To recap last month, a new development along Reed Road is moving to higher density housing. The developer must improve the frontage along Reed Rd. and put a sidewalk in on their side of Reed Rd. Our Neighborhood Plan shows sidewalks wide enough to accept bicycles and connecting to Fairview Park. These improvements are to be made sooner rather than later.

Brad says some of this might be covered in the 2 aforementioned emails from City staff, which he will forward to Pam.

A revised plan has not yet been submitted to the City by the developer.

PARKS – Muriel

Sprinklers were replaced at Morningside Park, alleviating the excess water problem near the tennis courts.

There is new signage at Morningside Park about dogs off leash following an unfortunate dog attack. Dennis asks about getting similar signage posted in the park behind Leslie School. Muriel says she will send the required info to Dennis.

Brad comments about basketball players at Clark Creek not observing social distancing and/or masking guidelines. These basketball games appear to be an organized private event. Pam is concerned about the lack of bathrooms to support so many kids.

Pam and Muriel have both followed up with the City about the Clark Creek Park development and rock removal. Muriel says the project will start in July.

The next grant application to Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF) is coming up soon. Muriel suggest we write the application to benefit Fairview Park. There is enthusiastic support from Board for this idea.

Muriel requested input from Kim at the City Historic Preservation Office about the August 20 hearing. The August 20 hearing covered written testimony for historical preservation projects. Muriel circulated Kim's email response to MNA's written testimony for a History Plaza and State Heritage Tree in the future Fairway Park. The HLC Group was impressed with MNA's written testimony. The HLC Group wants to work more closely with the Neighborhoods and was delighted to hear from MNA. Kim has provided a written summary from the HLC Group on taking the next step towards a History Plaza and State Heritage Tree in the future Fairview Park.

The Native Tribes may be interested in assisting with the History Plaza. The State Heritage Tree will be pursued separately through City Council. Al will contact the Heritage Tree Program overseer.

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CERT TEAM/LIQUOR LICENSES –

Polk County CERT is working on settling animals. Marion County CERT has not been activated. Marion County CERT personnel at the Fairgrounds are volunteers in an unofficial capacity.

No new liquor license applications.

COMMUNICATION FUND/COMMUNITY HOURS MEETING

Muriel 5 hours
Dennis 5 hours
Al 3 hours
Richard 4 hours

TRANSIT – Bob

Bus service is up to 95% of what it was before Coronavirus, however, ridership is still down. In addition, bus service is currently ending 2hrs early at 9pm. Sunday service is now delayed until 2021 due to Coronavirus. Some exploratory discussion about running bus service from Salem to Albany.

They are working on app that will let riders know when the next bus is coming, similar to transit apps currently in use across large metropolitan areas.

There is a vacancy on the budget committee for this District. It is a 3-year term starting January 31st. Interested persons should contact Bob.

Bob is in his last few months as the Director of Subdistrict 6. His position will become available after January 1. Interested persons should file an application with the appropriate office. Selections will be made in late March or early April.

COMMUNICATION – Richard

Richard will be working with Irma on a new improved Agenda template.

Brief discussion about the suitability of the MNA logo.

Our Salem discussion at Salem City Council will take place September 23. Richard would like to provide written input, to ensure the Morningside Neighborhood Plan is included in the Comprehensive Plan. Alan says there has been a City task

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force working on this for some time now. Trevor clarifies the Fairview Park Plan is separate from the Morningside Master Plan.

Motion to have Richard submit a comprehensive communique to the City in advance of the September 23 Our Salem discussion. Motion passes.

CITY COUNCILOR REPORT – Brad

As previously discussed:

- Albert Drive
- Reed Road
- Pringle Creek
- Kuebler Rd. (Costco) comes up before Council on Sept 28 but could carry over to October 12. This is not a public hearing.

Some discussion about the process for transitioning City Councilors. Salem elects Councilors during the Primary. Most cities elect City Councilors during the General Election in November. This extended transition period in Salem allows for more training, but may have other ancillary effects.

ADDITIONAL/MISC –

Bennie asks how people without land lines can receive fire status updates. Pam reminds Bennie to sign up for Salem Alerts. The City of Salem has developed the Salem Alerts system to notify people in case of emergencies. Salem Alerts will work regardless of the type of phone you have (phone/land/etc.). Trevor provides a link to Salem Alerts via Zoom.

Sue said Morningside Methodist Church will offer their parking lot for people upcanyon affected by the fires (animal trailers etc.)

Trevor says Salem Hospital is being prepared to combat respiratory illness in addition to Covid. The hospital is safe and prepared to receive patients.

*ADJOURN – Pam adjourned the meeting on **7:50pm***