

Morningside Neighborhood Association

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2016

Painters Hall – Pringle Creek Community

Called to Order - 6:37 p.m. by Chair Pamela Schmidling

Self-Introductions – Pamela Schmidling; Janet Bubl; Muriel Meyer; Alan Meyer; Bennie Yows; Richard Reid; Sue Reid; Geoffrey James; Sam Hall; Scott Schaefer; Chap Milbank; Al Tocchini; Ken Hetsel; Bob Krebs; Later arrivals – McKenzie Farrell; Officer Stacie Metcalf, Salem Police Department

Minutes to March 9, 2016 Meeting – Approved with one correction – Fairview Plan (near bottom of Page 3) last paragraph . . . board did “NOT” get a cc . . .

Committee Reports:

Traffic – Alan Meyer – Nothing to report, except all the work at major intersections in/around the neighborhood;

Land Use – Geoffrey James – Three items –

- 1) Planning Commission approved Kuebler Station;
- 2) Fairview – City rejected proposal to dispose of contaminated soil by burying it in the tree grove;
- 3) Geoffrey asked Sam Hall to expound on the status of City’s review of SFA (and SFA-II) Amended Refinement Plan which was drafted to accommodate the new park. The problem is the city will not proceed to closing the park land purchase until the Refinement Plan is approved; and the City has to-date not started the review. The deadline for closing the deal with SFA II is May 1, and it appears that deadline will not be met. Sam handed out a summary report on the matter and showed the Board some maps to help him explain details of the plan. One of the revisions had to do with the land removed from the planned park due to PCC concerns about noise and light pollution; Sam has not been able to get the City to meet with him to determine whether the plan has too much or too little detail for them to approve it in time for the sale agreement deadline.

Parks – Muriel Meyer – Nothing new to report “They’re all still there.”

Pringle Creek Watershed – Chap Milbank – PCWC did meet, but Chap didn’t attend; Ken Hetsel did attend, and mentioned that there will be a Bird Watching session this Saturday – organized by PCWC;

More on Parks – Muriel reported that two Douglas-fir trees at Morninside Park blew down during recent storms, and have since been removed; Al Tocchini added that the relatively-small size of the root wad(s) indicates from a distance that the root system structure was compromised (fungal decay) – most likely by the lawn watering regime in place up to the past year or two One attendee suggested dogs were to blame . . .

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C.E.R.T. (continued)

C.E.R.T. – Pamela Schmidling – Announced there will be a meeting “tomorrow” Thursday 4/14; CERT is currently promoting classes for new volunteers, and is getting good sign-up traffic; Faye Wright NA’s CERT program is apparently off to a good start; Sue Reid announced that someone had donated a bunch of camping gear to Morningside Methodist Church rummage sale, and she suggested the items might be a good addition to the CERT cache – and could be donated for that use; Board appears in agreement.

Liquor Licenses – Pamela Schmidling – Nothing new to report.

Transit – Bob Krebs – reported temporary changes coming to the Industrial Drive bus route during the construction closures that affect the route; Bob mentioned that Transit Board is hoping to get funding to reinstate State Motor-pool-Downtown service AND student bus pass services; Salem has the dubious honor of having the least transit services of Oregon Cities (including small towns such as Tillamook!) Bob also said Transit hopes to get more funding for customized local service from ad sales on busses; a Transportation bill to be introduced in the next Legislature could help Salem solve its transit service problems; the city transit budget meetings are held on the second and third Thursdays in May; Bob serves on the Transit board representing Salem Transit, and Scott Bassett serves as Citizen’s Representative; A question was asked about the status of the proposed new South Salem Transit Station, and Bob said it will be located at Commercial and Baxter Road SE, and riders can go all the way to Keizer Station from there.

City Council – Brad Nanke absent (at City budget meeting), so there is no report.

Morningside Neighborhood 40th Anniversary Celebration/Open-house – Muriel Meyer and McKenzie Farrell conferred on the subject and posed some ideas for whom to invite to provide information for attendees; ideas include: Salem City Parks Dept.; Public Works; Fire Department; Police Department; Code Enforcement; Pamela suggested a presentation on crime prevention to address problems that usually increase during Summer; perhaps have McRuff the Crime Dog there for the kids; Committee is looking for people to help contact possible sponsors or providers of treats for Celebration attendees; someone asked whether or not donations are tax deductible; MNA is not a 501C3 organization; Pamela S. phoned Annie Battee for advice, and reported that Annie said contributions are deductible if they are addressed to City of Salem, and donors can specify what they want their contributions to go to – including neighborhood events; discussion progressed to yard signs, and Pamela S. said that the signs we were discussing at the previous meeting would cost \$825 to produce – according to quote from One Day Signs; suggestions were made that we might just order fewer and have each of the board members post them at their residence for their nearby neighbors to see; more discussion on grocery stores possibly donating ice cream; Muriel said she would draft a flyer which City could print, for

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some of the Board to give to possible sponsors; Bob K. suggested we contact Great Harvest Natural Foods for such; McKenzie F. recapped the discussion . . . more ideas were presented, including borrowing a soft ice cream machine from one of the other organizations to use at the Celebration; one final round of suggestions on which dignitaries to invite; Sam Hall said that Sustainable Fairview II would donate \$100 toward items for the event; someone suggested we use Nextdoor Morningside website also to announce the event, and Board members could distribute flyers to their immediate neighbors; printing cost would be paid out of our Communication Fund; someone suggested we have poster boards with maps from our neighborhood plan; Geoffrey James said that he has a printer that could print the large maps for these displays; someone suggested we also contact EPIC Fitness, Trader Joes and Starbucks for possible participation; (Discussion suspended for a report from Police officer who just arrived.)

Police – Officer Stacie Metcalf – has made reports to MNA in years past and has rotated back to this area and shift; Not much new to report, except to mention the Apartment Manager Workshop on April 13th & 14th – “training is excellent”; mentioned the current efforts to decide on the size of the new police station; ten new officers have been hired, and more to be hired; Alan Meyer asked about a recent auto accident on Battle Creek Road near Sunland where the car somehow crashed into a pole and the gate to the dormant development project on old Fairview property; Bennie Yows asked the officer how many days can a person park a vehicle on the street before police or code enforcement will address? Officer thought it is 7 days before a sticker will be put on the vehicle, and the owner has another 7 days to move the vehicle; someone said that anyone reporting such abandoned vehicles must give the exact address of its location, as well as the license plate number; Chap Milbank said that you can make such reports to City online; Al Tocchini asked the officer about aggressive door-to-door solicitor activities reported lately in the Next Door website, and whether or not solicitors needed to get a permit to do so from the City; Officer Metcalf said permits used to be – but are no longer required; discussion progressed to recent car-clout reports, nuisance wildlife feeding . . . do not leave out pet food; no further discussion.

Return to 40th Anniversary Celebration – McKenzie said she really wants neighborhood businesses to show up and participate, but we should not press them for sponsoring or donating; This could be in the form of a brief letter to accompany the flyer that Muriel is going to draft, and McKenzie asked that we give any suggestions we have for the letter content to Muriel; Ken H. commented that in addition to the yard signs, board members should personally invite at least five of their close neighbors to the event; brief discussion of question of how many flyers should be made and how much are we willing to spend; Scott S.?: “perhaps we could format posters, flyers or merchant letters so they are reusable?” No further discussion.

Meeting Adjourned – Pamela Schmidling – 7:52 P.M.