

Morningside Neighborhood Association
Wednesday, August 12, 2009
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Meadow Creek Village
3988 12th Street cut off SE

Call to Order and Introductions: Chair Larry George called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the June meeting were approved as submitted.

Police Report: Officer Jake Pratt explained that most of the crimes were lower at this time this year than last year. He also gave information about National Night Out and encouraged everyone to get involved. Questions were taken from the audience.

Compliance Services Report: Compliance Services has combined with Neighborhood Services and Youth Services. The new division is Neighborhood Enhancement Services. The division has moved up to the third floor of City Hall.

The major item in the Morningside neighborhood is the collapsed building at 3223 12th. This building was intended to be a carport, but someone wanted the space for a swimming pool that weighed more than the space could hold. The division has considered the building dangerous and is talking with the owner on an action plan. Questions were taken from the audience.

Parole and Probation: Tabled.

Senior Food Stamp Program, Tammy Mazon, Food Stamp Resource Coordinator: This presentation explained some new things happening with the Food Stamp program for seniors and people with disabilities. First, the Food Stamp program will have a new name: SNAP, which stands for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program.

Second, several non-traditional sites will be opening in Marion County. These will include the Keizer Senior Center and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Finally, the State of Oregon is beginning an electronic food stamp application. Using this, anyone who is applying for food stamps can do so via the Internet. This application will be extended to include any type of benefits provided by the Department of Human Services. It is hoped that this application will launch in November.

Blueprint for Biking, Salem Keizer Top 12 List, Eric Lundgren: tabled.

Transit System Redesign: Transit District General Manager Allen Poluck reminded everyone that the transit system will be undergoing its first redesign in 30 years beginning September 8. Information about this can be found on the Transit District's web site and at the Customer Service desk in the transit mall. You can also get information at the Transit District phone number, 503-588-2877.

Committee Reports

Traffic: There was some discussion about the issue with Peck Street. More should be forthcoming. It is hoped that reader board messages will minimize the accidents on that street.

Land Use: The first topic was Sustainable Fairview. At the south end of the property there will be a project called Simson Hills. The project should be completed by the time of the September meeting.

The other major item up for discussion was the MINNITI variance. The applicant's architect explained their proposal to the Morningside Board, and questions were taken from the audience. The presentation emphasized the proposed parking lot in the City street right of way. The Board was more concerned about the four Variances and asked many questions regarding why the 12 ft. setback is not complied with and why half the required parking spaces are missing. Vice Chair Lloyd Chapman summed up the concerns by concluding that the applicant has asked the architect for a 16,700 sq.ft. building that does NOT fit the site, and to somehow make it work. To make it work means zero setbacks and only half the parking can fit on the site.

The Board of Directors initially reviewed the application and site plan and emailed the Land Use Chair with their concerns. The board voted on this proposal, and asked that Jeff write a letter to the City Hearings Officer explaining its opposition to the variance. The motion passed with 7 in favor, 2 opposed, and one abstaining.

Parks: No report.

Pringle Creek Watershed Council: No report.

South Salem Connectors: No report.

Airport Activity: This committee had its meeting at which a representative from one of the life flight companies at the hospital spoke. Their helicopters are different than those that fly at the airport. Other airport activities were discussed.

City Councilor Report: None.

Set 2009-10 Civic Involvement Goals: Everyone was encouraged to think about this for the September meeting. Lloyd pointed out that instead of always responding to events in our neighborhood, we ought to be more proactive in choosing topics that we can address and make happen.

Neighborhood Liaison Report: Information was passed out about the remaining free concerts in the Salem parks.

Chair Larry George received the Distinguished Service Award in July.

National Night Out was held in August, and this will be followed up with National Neighborhood Day on September 20.

Neighborhood Issues and Concerns: Concerns were expressed about the gravel trucks doing their work around the neighborhood.

Open Issues: Larry informed everyone that water issues at his home were resolved. He said he had a leak in his house that got repaired, and he was pleased with the service he received from the City.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.