

Morningside Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting
September 12, 2018

MINUTES

Call to Order - Vice Chair Scott Schaefer - called meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Due to lack of key to enter the building, the meeting took place on the front porch of Painters Hall in Pringle Creek Community.

Introductions – 14 persons in attendance introduced themselves – including 11 MNA Board Members, which constituted a quorum for votes on MNA business decisions (sign-in sheet was passed around and copy will be sent to City with the minutes.) Larry George needed to leave the meeting early, and was not present for voting on subsequent motions. Quorum was still present.

Minutes to August Meeting – were approved by unanimous vote by Board members in attendance.

Police Report – Officer Smith talked about traffic in the neighborhood. He fielded a question about the inadequate control speeding traffic on Wickshire, and explained that SPD is short on staffing right now with only two other officers beside himself on the shift patrolling all of south. They are trying hard – but finding it impossible to immediately respond to all calls.

Committee Reports

Traffic – Alan Meyer and Land Use – Geoffrey James – these two topics are overlapping and required discussing at the same time. The big traffic and planning issue is still the Costco and other retail development planned for the Kuebler/27th Ave area. On that matter, Geoffrey J. asked that we make sure that our recommendations are submitted to Aaron Panko at the City by the 5PM Wednesday, September 19th deadline, so they would be on the official record.

Geoffrey J. also wanted to re-stress the importance that all Board members are furnished with copies of internal and external correspondence regarding issues such as this that impact our neighborhood (so we are all kept well-informed.) It was pointed out that this was agreed upon at a recent past Board meeting. Board members and citizens still have a chance to weigh-in on the current issue(s).

Geoffrey J. reported that the developer of the new housing subdivision between Strong Road and 27th has filed for the partition that would create the 7 acre neighborhood park near the intersection of Strong and Battle Creek roads. Scott Schaefer asked if a traffic or pedestrian crossing signal would be installed at that intersection. The assumption is that there will be traffic control as well as sidewalks on the development frontage on the two roads.

Parks – Muriel Meyer - announced that she will be applying for a Park Improvement grant for Clark Creek Park. Also, Muriel M. reported she received word from City that the chips will finally be placed on the Hilfiker Park paths by the end of the week.

Pringle Creek Watershed – representative not present – no report

Community Emergency Response Team – representative not present - no report

Liquor License Applications – representative not present – no report

Salem-Keizer Transit – Bob Krebs - reported improvements are underway in the system, with new busses, and 7 day service coming soon. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony next week to celebrate the improvements. Someone asked about the kind of fuel the new busses use, and Bob K. said that most will be powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), however a few will be by diesel. Someone asked about bus fare rates for students and low-income riders, and he said that children under 11 years age will ride free if accompanied by a paying adult rider; student and low income rates will be \$.50 per ride or \$1.00 for day pass. Scott S. asked about the source of funding for these improvements, and Bob K. explained it comes from a statewide payroll tax of 0.1% of business payrolls, which is collected by ODR and distributed to Counties (presumably proportional to relative populations) and then to the transit entities within the counties. Scott S. asked if Salem Transit is planning for the highs and lows in future economies (thus payrolls and resulting funds), and Bob K. said that the agency retains a sizeable contingency fund which would hopefully help it weather the lows.

Other Concerns Several city-wide issues have recently arisen on which MNA Board members felt we needed to act on in behalf of our neighborhood:

City Utilities - Post cards announcing upcoming public meeting on proposed rate increases were recently mailed out. The meeting is scheduled early October on a day that is before our next MNA board meeting, and we have not been informed in time to discuss our position on this so written or oral testimony in our behalf could be presented. Comments ensued regarding built-in annual increases, reportedly necessary to maintain the systems. A motion was made, seconded and passed for MNA to send a letter of our concerns with request to postpone the public meeting until after our next meeting on October 9th so we can hear more about and formulate a position on the proposed fee increases.

Sue Reid reported she had recently taken a tour of the water purification plant and learned about the City's use of Activated Carbon to remove toxins from the water, and about plans for converting to use of Ozone a few years from now. The Ozone system will cost several millions of dollars to install, but will be less expensive in the long-run than the AC method.

Plastic Bag Ban – Discussion ensued of the proposal by Councilor Tom Andersen for City of Salem to ban stores from providing single-use plastic bags and to require them to charge customers a fee for paper bags, and a motion was made and seconded for MNA to oppose this. There was a brief discussion about whether or not the bags are being recycled. Al Tocchini said he learned earlier in the day of a program called "Bags-to-Benches" that will take a variety of plastic bags, melt them down for composite extruded plastic lumber, and build benches for public places. Al T. will query the source of this information and report back to the Board. The motion passed with three board members opposing

the motion. Richard Reid agreed to draft the letter to City – for usual Board review and Chair Pamela’s signature.

Good of the Order –

25th Street Bike Path and Sidewalk – Sue Reid - asked for clarification of MNA’s apparent opposition to the proposal which was headed by another NA. It was explained that MNA did not “oppose”; but, instead it “took no position” on the proposal, as we felt we had more pressing needs for sidewalks inside our neighborhood.

City Council Representation at MNA Meetings – Richard Reid - moved that MNA be more proactive on ensuring there is someone present at our meetings who can report on Council matters, and relay our concerns to the council. MNA area of concern includes more than one Ward (Brad Nanke and Tom Andersen) and yet we do not always have either of them or their representatives present at our meetings.) The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Adjourn – Vice Chair Scott S. – adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.