

Morningside Neighborhood Association

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Leslie Middle School, Room 213

3850 Pringle Road SE

Agenda

Call to Order and Introductions: Chair Larry George called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: The December minutes were approved as corrected.

Police Report: Crime statistics at the end of 2009 show a downward trend. Various other issues were discussed

Committee Reports

Traffic: Lloyd has sent the letter to the City concerning our project priorities for the coming year.

Lloyd also voiced concerns that the issues regarding the intersection of Kuebler and Stroh were not addressed. Board members felt that traffic problems have been increased at this intersection and not decreased.

There was also discussion about re-opening Boone Road.

After the discussion, Lloyd made the following motion:

The board send a letter to the city council including the following:

- 1) The built configuration of the intersection of Kuebler and Stroh is not as it was presented to the neighborhood association. The association was repeatedly told that access at this intersection would be "right in-right out" only.
- 2) The new configuration has caused even more traffic to infiltrate a neighborhood which was already severely impacted by cut-through traffic.
- 3) While awaiting funds to do extensive work (elevation change) to allow the segments of Boone Road to be reconnected, the city investigate low cost opportunities to reopen Boone Road immediately at its current elevation.

This motion passed, and it resulted in the following letter.

To: Salem City Council
Public Works Staff

From: Morningside Neighborhood Board

Subject: Traffic in the Cambridge Wood Neighborhood and Reopening Boone Road

Date: January 19, 2010

At its December 2009 meeting the Morningside Neighborhood Association Board asked City Council that funding be provided to allow for the reopening of Boone Road between Stroh and Southampton in the Cambridge Woods neighborhood. The request was based on 1) the design of the Stroh and Kuebler intersection to allow left turns from Kuebler onto Stroh, which had not been discussed with the neighborhood association and 2) the city's ongoing assertion that Boone could only be reopened if its grade was reduced to increase safety.

At its meeting on January 13, 2010 the board unanimously approved the following motion:

- 1) The board reaffirmed its position that the built configuration of the intersection of Kuebler and Stroh is not as it was presented to the neighborhood association. The association was repeatedly told that access at this intersection would be "right in-right out" only.
- 2) The current configuration has caused even more traffic to infiltrate a neighborhood which was already severely impacted by cut-through traffic and has been called a "poster child for poor connectivity" by public works staff.
- 3) While awaiting funds to do more extensive work (elevation change) at the crest of the closed segment of Boone Road, the Board specifically requests the city investigate low cost opportunities to reopen Boone Road immediately at its current elevation.

Many streets in Salem are as steep as the current elevation of the now closed Boone Road. Minor work could be done

now to reopen the street and begin the process of increasing connectivity in this neighborhood.

We look forward to working with the council and city staff on this long-standing and troublesome neighborhood problem.

Lloyd Chapman
for the Morningside Neighborhood Association Board

Land Use: Jeff began this segment with an update on the Minetti office building. The Conditional Use permit was approved, and the planners are working on the cite plan.

The location of Rick,s Bargain Shed will become an office building.

Plans for Simpson Hill are still evolving. There will be more information about that at the February meeting.

Parks: Muriel reported that the second phase of the application process for Hillficker Park is underway.

Pringle Creek Watershed Council: No report.

South Salem Connectors: This community progress team met for the first time in the New Year. Mr. Sherwood said that morale was high. DJ Vincent added that the Connectors are focusing of after school activities in partnership with parents and teachers.

Airport Activity: Operations were down during the holidays, and there were noise complaints. The master plan is still in process, and the City is still trying to bring back air service.

City Councilor Report: The Council has met to discuss an ordinance that would consolidate planning process related to

the zoning code. Brad also gave a quick update on the Strong Road issue.

Council also has been discussing the town square concept, a topic that generated much discussion.

Neighborhood Liaison Report: Tony Whittler informed everyone that this was her last meeting.

There was some discussion about cedar trees at the corner of 13th and Morningside.

Sidewalk funding was also discussed.

Announcements: None.

Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF) Update: Lela Jackson reminded everyone that money from the Salem Parks Foundation was available for small projects. She also explained how to apply for this funding.

Capital Improvements Program Handout --On Point sent with the January Salem Community Connections

Proposed Revision to Chapter 64--Neighborhood Association Program: Due to lack of information, this discussion was deferred until more information was received.

Neighborhood Issues and Concerns: There was some concern about part of Morningside being dangerous for pedestrians and cars.

Open Issues

