

Morningside Neighborhood Association

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2017

Pringle Creek Community Hall

Meeting Called to Order – 6:31:20PM, by Chair Pamela Schmidling.

Introductions – Those present introduced themselves – there were 13 persons present at the beginning of the meeting SPD Officers Robert Dowd and Joshua Sharp. Attendance includes 8 board members – enough for a quorum. An attendance sheet was circulated by Chair Schmidling for attendees to sign.

School Bus Parking Facility Plan – David Hughes, Salem-Keizer Public Schools presented a plan to expand and improve the parking lot for current Schools Food Services facility between Fairview Industrial Way and Lindbergh Lane. The development is needed to replace site for which permit was revoked by County due to environmental issues and a site provided for temporary use by Walling Sand and Gravel. There are also plans to expand the bus parking lot on Gaffin Road. Hughes passed around copies of a map of the proposal for Fairview Industrial Way. They hope to have it in operation by the beginning of the next school year. It should be able to accommodate approximately 30 busses of various sizes. (District has approximately 230 busses.) He said this facility will also be temporary, as it will eventually be needed to accommodate the growing capacities of Food Services. He answered several questions from the attendees, including that there needs to extensive review of the plans to be sure about potential traffic and other impacts when the busses are going to and from the sites. Ideally, the parking facilities are sited for efficiency in transportation of students in the various parts of the district.

Other Schools Issue – MNA Board member Geoffrey James asked Mr. Hughes to comment on proposed Bond Measure to fund school expansions – specifically why it will cost so much (\$619.7 Million) when back in 1974 the District was able to do similar expansion for \$50 million. “Is there any one on the School Board who is concerned about this? It amounts to several thousand dollars per-capita expense for Salem residents over the time it is to be paid-off. Should MNA push for more economical levy – for say half of this amount?”

Back to Bus Lot Plan – Mr. Hughes asked if MNA would provide letter of support for the bus lot plans in the works. Motion was made to table the issue for consideration early next year. Motion passed.

Police – Officer Dowd – First asked if we have any questions we want for him to take back to the Department: Pamela S. asked him if SPD is aware of increase kid/skateboarders, etc. “hanging-out” at Clark Creek Park. Also, asked if cars may park there afterhours. Officer said he’d check on the kids, etc.; also that parking a car at the park is legal after-hours, as long as the park is not being used (Pamela said such cars are sometimes visitors to neighbor residences in the vicinity.)

Package Theft Sting – Officer Dowd reported success of joint Keizer and Salem Police Departments’ team sting operation to catch people stealing packages off of front porches – all three of operation locations were in South Salem – not far from Morningside Neighborhood.

Car Break-ins – are on the increase. One recently reported at parking lot in front of Trader Joe’s (witnesses were able to give vague description of vehicle of suspects.) Officer cautioned us not to leave valuables in our cars while out and about. Putting them out of sight in the trunk is still not fool-proof, as most sedans have fold-down backseat or trap-doors to trunk on the back.

Stolen Bicycles – Pamela S. said she reported to SPD an apparently-stolen bike abandoned at Clark Creek Park, and was told that SPD no longer picks those up. Officer Dowd confirmed that being the case, because storage space is limited.

Obstructive Basketball Backboard – Board Member Janet Publ – asked the officers if there were any laws regarding placement of these items along city streets? One such item is obstructing traffic on a narrow street near where she lives. She gave him the location, and Officer D. said said that Code Enforcement might be the best party to handle such matters – but he’d still check it out this evening if possible.

Pamela S. asked Officer Sharp if he knew what CERT stood for. After some coaching, he gave the right answer.

Approval of Minutes (moved on agenda to allow Mr. Hughes from SK Schools to give presentation on school bus parking problem.) Pamela S. said she did not see the minutes to November meeting; Secretary Al T. affirmed they were submitted (he’d sent her and Muriel M. copies same time). Geoffrey J. confirmed they were posted on the City Website. However, they may not have been posted on the MNA Web page; Pamela asked that we defer approval of these minutes until next meeting, so all can review them. Group agreed.

Parks Planning – Rob Romanek announced -

City has begun update for the Riverfront Park plan to determine what public wants to do with new 3.8 acre addition (area was used as a staging area for the Peter Courtney Bridge project. What the ultimate use of this site is to be will determine the amount of “capping” that would need to be done over the site which was contaminated during its long use as part of the pulp mill. Board Member Scott Schaefer suggested “parking” – and Mr. Romanek said that is a good bet, and that it would be the least difficult use for which to cap the contamination.

Hilfiker Park – planning process continues. Predominant recommendation from locals and other attendees at earlier public session was to keep development minimal – most like it for its natural appeal and open space. Geoffrey J. commented about the questions of access from the west side – should it be for vehicles or for non-motorized uses; Romanek acknowledged that, and the fact that rights-of-way almost-always can be widened, and could not guarantee the route would remain a pathway and not encourage unwanted traffic in the area. He said that the dates for the next meetings on Hilfiker Park

plan have been rescheduled to January 24 and February 13, 2018; post cards will be sent soon to the interested parties. (The discussion was lengthier than these minutes may indicate – but no actions proposed.)

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan M. not present – no report;

Parks – Muriel M. not present – no report;

Pringle Creek Watershed – Chap M. not present – no report;

Community Emergency Response Team – Pamela S. reported they are still trying to schedule a major disaster drill in Spring '18; host will be Sunnyslope or other nearby Neighborhood CERT group.

Liquor License Applications – Pamela S. said nothing new to report;

Transit – Bob Krebs not present – no report;

City Council – Brad Nanke not present – no report.

Announcements

Pamela S. expressed her concern that MNA is not getting the services it has been accustomed to get from City – there is only one part time employee to handle coordination with 18 neighborhoods.

Geoffrey J. reported hearing something from West Salem Neighborhood Association (draft By-Laws?) to the effect they are “an arm of the City.” This is contrary to his understanding of the NA’s roles. Not sure if an attorney has been consulted on the matter.

Other Concerns or Issues –

Dan Reid expressed his concern that the recent approval of a new crosswalk signal on South Commercial Street will start a spate of new applications for ones that someone may think are needed, which would further tie-up traffic on this street. Pamela S. said that the key to the approval of that signal was the generous funding from Tribe(s) – money talks!

Someone asked if it is known when the new traffic light at McGilchrist and 12th will begin operation. Someone said “soon.”

Good of the Order – no announcements.

Adjourn – Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 7:26PM.