

Morningside Neighborhood Association
MINUTES
February 13, 2019 Meeting
Painters Hall - Pringle Creek Community

Call to Order – Chair Pamela Schmidling – 6:32 PM

Introductions – All in attendance introduced themselves along with their street location or agency affiliation. (Attendance sheet was circulated)

Minutes – After motion to approve by Geoffrey James and Second by Alan Meyer, Minutes to January 9, 2019 meeting were approved

Police Report – Officer Scofield reported SPD is seeing more property crime activity in this area. Most incidents involve entry into unlocked cars or unsecured. We need to be aware of property security issues. He mentioned that it is difficult for them to catch the criminals as they are often long-gone by the time the theft or damage is discovered. Devices and “apps” such as Ring® do help them in identifying the culprits. He also mentioned another phone app that alerts residents to possible criminal activity in their neighborhood. Alan Meyer asked Officer Scofield if he knew about a new “Watch” program, in which- upon request – police will do regular security checks of homes of vacationing residents. Officer Scofield was aware of that program, and added that the parties conducting the checks are volunteers. Chair Pamela S. asked Officer Scofield if he and other officers would be willing to make regular presentations at our meetings on “rules of the road” that citizens may or may not be aware of or clear on. Officer Scofield said he could, and that regular traffic enforcement officers (motorcycle policeman, etc.) might be the best resource for this. He added that SPD looks at traffic issues on three fronts: engineering; education; and enforcement. Someone asked Officer Scofield whether or not it was proper to call the non-emergency number for SPD to report suspicious activity; Officer Scofield said that it is. Chair Pamela S. added: If you don’t ask for a call-back, SPD will not call back. Officer Scofield agreed – saying that often, persons making the report wish to remain anonymous, but that SPD would like persons witnessing crimes to be available to provide details for their investigations and/or testify when criminals are brought to court. Officer Scofield left some cards with phone numbers to use for reporting crimes or contacting SPD for specific enforcement issues.

Code Officer Report – Debra Romano reported that since the last report made to us in November 2018, there were 40 new cases in our neighborhood. Several of them concerned illegal dumping along Strong Road. She said that one citizen took it upon themselves to go thru some of the litter to find names and addresses, which they reported to City. Officer Romano explained that citizens should report the dumping, but not go through it, as it effectively disturbs evidence the City would be officially collecting in their investigation of the matter, and render it unusable in court action. Also, there is always the danger of disposed hypodermic needles and other dangerous paraphernalia being in the dumped material. Officer Romano said that there was also a trailer full of trash abandoned along the road. She went on to say that litter dumped within the road right of way (which normally includes roadsides) is the

City's responsibility to clean-up; litter dumped on fronting property is the responsibility of the landowner to clean up. There were some questions to Officer Romano about trees and shrubs interfering with traffic in the vicinities of Bluff and Fairview and Bluff and Halsey; and she said she would look at them to see what should be done. She gave her phone number for contact in case of any other compliance related questions (503) 540-2488. Muriel Meyer asked about whether or not trees or shrubs obstructing view of stop signs was a matter they dealt with, and Officer Romano said that is the case. Richard Reid asked about whether or not data is kept on the matters they receive complaints about and act on, and she said they do keep records.

Parole and Probation Report - Officer Max Casueiro (sp?) of Marion Count Sherriff's office said if there are any questions concerning parole and probation, and activities of parolees, we should call the Sherriff's office, and someone will address the issue. He said that much of his office's case load is mental health-specific, and there have been 416 mostly property crime related incidents. He said that Parole and Probation works on a zero-tolerance policy for parolee's criminal conduct. He said there are several different focus units handled by Parole & Probation: Gangs, Drugs, etc. However, they have one parole officer for every 60 to 80 people getting out of jail that they must keep track of. There were no questions.

Presentations

Salem Parks Foundation – Pat Norman gave a brief overview of the function of the Foundation, and announced "It is that time of year" to submit grant requests. She said she brought along grant application forms. Applications are due by March 30th, and decisions made by May. MNA Parks Committee Chair Muriel Meyer asked if we can apply to SPF for a grant for project in the same park as one for which a grant was awarded in previous year. Pat N. said: Yes – they have no formal rules prohibiting such; however, they try to spread the grants around the city as much as possible. Pat N. said they are looking for grant applications to fund establishment of wildflower gardens in neighbor parks. She said this grant money is from a consistent donor to SPF. The Foundation can take donations for all types of specific uses and specific parks as well. She also mentioned a new fund raising activity: bottle and can donations via SPF-dedicated bags delivered to Bottle Drop. Richard Reid asked if SPF will take part in the Comprehensive Plan process, and Pat N. said "No, the Foundation is only concerned with raising funds for park projects.

Mountain West – Richard Berger announced that Mountain West and Brownstone Development have reached an agreement with Heritage School on the access/egress design issues in their planned multi-family residential development in Sustainable Fairview. The matter hence cleared the Planning Commission, and will go to Council for final approval.

City Traffic – Aaron Edelman from Salem Public Works Dept. gave a presentation on the pedestrian crossing soon to be installed on South Commercial St – between Kegler Lane and Kuebler Blvd. intersections. This will have yellow flashing crossing signals and an intermediate island/safety refuge at the center of the road. This installation is in response to a pedestrian fatality that occurred in the vicinity in 2017. He said he expected minimal impact to traffic during construction.

Tony Martin, Assistant City Traffic Engineer interjected to say that the City is really pushing pedestrian safety. He went on to cite State law which requires every driver to stop for pedestrians crossing streets at intersections as well as crosswalks. Further, law does not prohibit pedestrian from crossing anywhere else, but makes them responsible for their own safety, and may limit liability of motorist in vehicle-pedestrian accidents outside of the intersection crossings.

Alan Meyer, MNA Traffic Committee Chair, asked if he could enter the conversation with his report related to work of the City's Safe Crossings committee of which he is a member. He described the process being used by the committee to review and rate 15 crossing areas of highest concern to the City; five of them are considered high priority, and most are in Morningside Neighborhood.

In scattered commentary that followed: Tony Martin added that the proposals for the new flashing light crossings are "perfect? No; Better? Yes!" Larry George mentioned another crossing improvement proposal by Fred Meyer; Pamela S. brought up the situation that we are still waiting for the traffic signal that was proposed nearly 30 years ago for the Commercial Street intersection at Ratcliff; Janet Bubl expressed concern that, over time, much of the work that had already been done toward getting these matters addressed had been forgotten or disregarded and may need to be redone; Tony M. added that he would not be advocating for a flashing yellow crossing at Ratcliff, and finally clarified that the crossing being installed between Kegler Ln and Kuebler Blvd. is NOT funded by Grand Ronde Tribe (Tribal & governmental administrative reasons) – but by City transportation funding sources.

Finally, Tony Martin mentioned a request received by his department from a resident on Ratcliff for marking a crosswalk at Clark Creek Park. For several reasons, a crosswalk would not be proper for the site (lack of sidewalks, etc.) He proposed replacing the "See-Saw" playground sign with a "People Crossing" Yellow caution sign, and asked if this could be approved by MNA Board. A motion was made and seconded for the action, and was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Discussion on the topic concluded with Aaron E. promising to keep MNA updated on progress toward completion of the originally-discussed crossing. Pamela S. asked that he or someone from his office attend MNA's annual meeting in May to help inform the neighborhood on that and other projects.

Helicopter Noise – Morningside residents Julie and Paul Mather gave the board an explanation of their concerns and complaints about the noisy unannounced low-level Military "Special Ops" helicopter traffic over the neighborhood a few weeks ago. They circulated the Statesman Journal Newspaper article on the matter, as asked that MNA Board write a letter of support for their complaint to the proper Military authority.

Discussion ensued including: Are we sure this is not just a one-time thing (occurrence?) Mather said they were not sure why such an exercise was needed over a city neighborhood and at night (11:30 PM.) Larry George added that – in his long military career, such training is done to depict all types of terrain and situations. Someone mentioned that our local Air National Guard agreed to not have such night flying exercises over South Salem after 10:00 PM, and to keep passes as much as possible over the industrial – rather than residential – areas. Mather added that Military gave advance warning of the

Helicopter Noise (continued)

exercise to Independence Airport community (where they did refueling), but not to Salem. Suggestion followed that contact with Military might better be done through City channels; Mather said they had not-yet written a letter on the matter, and had hoped that Council member (and MNA Board member) Brad Nanke would be present at this meeting (Nanke absent due to illness.) Pamela S. told Mathers that MNA has no influence in the matter, and that they should go-ahead and contact City or other Government parties to pose the issue to Military authority at Lewis-McCord.

Land Use – Geoffrey James reported nothing new, except to affirm the Planning Commission’s approval of the Mountain West multi-family development in Sustainable Fairview (Richard Berger’s presentation) and that it will now go to City Council for its approval. Janet Bubl asked Richard Berger about what kind of auto charging station(s) will be installed in the complex. He said he was not sure, but will check on that and report.

Parks – Muriel Meyer reported MNA has received two grants – latest one for \$7,035 – enough to complete the planned improvements at Clark Creek Park. Since 2013, MNA has received \$35,018 in grants for improvements to Morningside, Hilfiker and Clark Creek Parks. She reported there is another grant request in the works to provide a resting bench in the multi-use play court at Morningside Park (this to solve the problem of court users moving picnic tables to the court for seating.) Also, she will be looking into locations for possible wildflower garden planting grant applications. There was brief discussion of a past unfulfilled grant project for Clark Creek Park playground – which failed due to handicap access limitation and other safety concerns about the site.

Pringle Creek Watershed – No report

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Pamela Schmidling reported the next meeting will be on March 19th, at which Search and Rescue will be discussed. Pamela S. said she has a list of Morningside Neighborhood CERT members.

Liquor Licenses – Pamela Schmidling reported there have been no new applications or issues since last meeting.

Transit – No report

Communications – Richard Reid cited issues in the letter submitted to City by Pamela S. several weeks ago, as action points which the committee is trying to address. He reported on progress from recent work of the committee. He distributed to those present, printed copies of the subject Communication Committee report. Topics were: Outreach to Morningside neighbors (including businesses) – for a hopefully well-attended annual meeting; better “give and take” between MNA and City; collaboration with all Neighborhoods – including closer work with City Webmaster to consolidate and improve access to neighborhood information; partnership in Comprehensive Plan update; Use of 81 sources of data; and reference to the City’s 2016 document “Strategic Communications and Citizen Engagement” in future MNA business and meetings – to keep us from wasting time and energy “reinventing the wheel.”

Other Business

Neighborhood Association Chairs Meeting – Pamela Schmidling reported the next Quarterly meeting of Neighborhood Association chairs will be on April 25th. She said that 17 of the 18 Neighborhoods were represented at the meeting. At the last meeting, they heard reports on and discussed: Union Gospel Mission; Library; Land Use Project*. NA Chairs also heard reports from City Police and Fire departments. The April 25th meeting will start at 5:30, will include Mayor and Councilors.

*Geoffrey James is one of the two representatives from Neighborhoods on the Land Use Plan Update Advisory Committee – and Geoffrey J. reported that the first meeting of that committee was focused “top-down” on Staff involvement, and he expected to see more attention given to his advisory committee’s involvement in upcoming meetings – next Land Use meeting will cover “Top 20 indicators” (of successful planning?);

Announcements – Chair Pamela Schmidling asked if there were any announcements for the committee; there were none.

Concerns - Jessica Preis, City’s Neighborhood Partnership Coordinator for South Salem (everything south of State Street), and assistant to Irma Dowd, said she enjoyed hearing what we and other Neighborhood Associations are talking about. She was previously involved in Neighborhood Gardens and Just Walk programs. She is likely to be our contact over the next few years. She mentioned something about a Coordinator’s meeting coming up next week at Westminster Presbyterian Church. She offered to come back to our future meetings. There were some questions and comments about related activities, function and history of South Salem Connect program, and mention of Salem Leadership Foundation.

Good of the Order – Muriel Meyer – Said that, in preparation for the May 15th MNA Annual Meeting, she is making an organizational sheet and proposed agenda which hopefully will improve coordination of activities (including prize drawing) at the meeting. She said that Board members will get packets with information about staffing needs, etc.

Adjournment – Chair Pamela Schmidling adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.