

Morningside Neighborhood Association
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2018
Pringle Creek Community Hall

Meeting Called to Order – 6:32PM, by Chair Pamela Schmidling.

Introductions – Those present introduced themselves. There were at least 8 board members present – which is a quorum. There were also several visitors in attendance, including: City Council member Tom Andersen and his wife; local district legislative candidate Michael Hunter, and other neighbors. SPD officer Cpl. Smith stopped in before meeting to drop off information he intended to circulate and discuss with attendees, but needed to leave for police duties due to incident in Keizer that was drawing from SPD patrols in Salem. An attendance sheet was circulated by Chair Schmidling for attendees to sign; Al T forgot to retrieve it before leaving after meeting.

Minutes – “Minutes” for January meeting was approved by unanimous vote.

Councilor Report Tom Andersen (in absence of MNA board member Brad N. who was not present due to his campaign obligations) had several announcements –

- 1) Police Station Bulldozer Event – Friday, March 1 – Mayor Bennett will ceremonially pilot the bulldozer to initiate the demolition phase of site preparation for construction of the new police station (old DeLon/Lithia auto dealership location).
- 2) Downtown Homeless Issues – Councilor Andersen cited an ordinance which allows persons to sit or lie on DT sidewalks, that a meeting was recently held to consider changing the ordinance. The final consensus was that we cannot criminalize homelessness: citing severe (low/no income) housing shortage and widening wealth inequities; and the motion to create a DT Homelessness Task Force to ensure homeless persons are treated as human beings; there was lots of interest in this, and a meeting on the topic is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st at 6:PM at the Salem Public Library’s Anderson Room
- 3) Downtown Congestion Issue – Mayor has called for/appointed a task force to address downtown traffic congestion – particularly during rush hours – due to bridge traffic. Since construction of additional bridge(s) is far-off in the future, the task force is to focus on immediate solutions. Councilor Andersen cited the big problems are due to inadequate access and approaches to the existing bridges, and not the bridges themselves, which interferes with other traffic through town.
- 4) City Budget Process – different this time due to an added strategic plan. Councilor Andersen cited the adage “Squeaky wheel gets the grease” and that public will get chance to provide input in the early in the process; and used for example a recent *campaign* to provide Bocce-Ball courts in local parks (which got pledged city funding, but could not come up with matching money from proponents and subsequently failed).

- 5) Minto Brown Park – needs another ranger beside the currently on-staff ¾ FTE ranger hired to handle the additional use/traffic brought-on by the new bridge connection to Riverfront Park.
- 6) Tom’s Council Term – up at end of this year; and he announced that he will seek re-election to the Council, and so-far has no competitors.
- 7) Questions and Answers –

Pamela S. opened with asking Councilor Andersen if he could try to get the Council to not hold their budget meetings on the nights of our Board meetings. He said he can’t do much about it (the budget meetings conflict with SESNA meetings as well.) He said he will relay our concerns to City’s Budget Officer.

Geoffrey J. asked if there has been any Council consideration of impending traffic impacts due to the new retail developments near Kuebler Blvd and I-5. This has not been discussed, because the proposals have not cleared other reviews to be presented to Council. Dan R. expressed concern that City was not using an adequate traffic growth model to consider such proposals (i.e. current 1% model growth rate is ridiculous(ly low.) Councilor Andersen agreed. Geoffrey J. recounted other issues MNA has commented on without response from City staff. Andersen said that perhaps we should have a meeting with them to discuss this matter. Dan R. added that there had been no response to the letter we sent City last month regarding the Kuebler traffic concerns; he had asked the Mayor’s office if they received it; they did, but Mayor felt he could not respond because the “new development” plans have not been submitted to his office as of yet (several steps in the process.) As of now, the new developments (including new Costco location) were just rumors. Dan R. added that the recent Kuebler improvements were designed 12 years ago, and feared they did not envision accommodating something like a Costco. Meeting visitors expressed concern about impact to local residential access.

Pamela S. invited Councilor Andersen to our upcoming MNA Open House on May 16th.

Minutes to Previous Meeting – (Corrected per Geoffrey J.) were approved by unanimous vote.

Police Report – Pamela Schmidling – Passed around items left by Cpl. Smith. There was some brief discussion of officers’ view of (no) increasing frequency of crimes in our neighborhood.

Marion County Parole-Probation – no representative present, so no report. Pamela S. explained to the visitors that the reports are informational, and MNA has no sway in functions of that agency.

Committee Reports –

Traffic – Alan M. reported the letter about Kuebler development which he drafted got submitted (as previously discussed.) Geoffrey asked if Board could have a copy of it. Pamela S. said that she signed and submitted the letter as drafted because Board approved, and we already have copies of the draft.

Committee Reports (continued)

Land Use – Geoffrey J. – Yesterday, got notice of Public Meeting of Planning Commission on Tuesday, April 3, to discuss proposed retail development across Kuebler from Kuebler Station development. He passed around a map of the proposal. Alan M. commented that this new development – though technically out of our Neighborhood is the only possibly the only leverage we have left in influencing decisions affecting Kuebler traffic. Geoffrey J. – added that Kuebler Station (not yet under construction) developers are now leasing. Someone in attendance asked if the developments addressed wetlands, and Geoffrey J. said, yes – and cited ODOT’s nicely-done re-routing of Pringle Creek at the I-5 – Kuebler interchange, and other environmental measures. He said he hoped the area could be accessed by a trail in the future which would connect with the one in the Fairview Industrial area.

Parks – Muriel M. – Reported we got an \$800 grant to add to the \$2,000 grant already received for resurfacing and line painting the tennis and basketball court at Morningside Park. She said that the City drastically reduced its earlier estimate of the cost at more than \$10,000, and it now appears the \$2,800 will cover our share of the expense to get the job done. Muriel M. said that there is now another opportunity for us to get a Salem Park Foundation grant, and asked us to give her our ideas.

Geoffrey J. – added that the Hilfiker Park plan now calls for minimal development, but city will need to make a paved path to the proposed play area for handicapped access. Special attention will be paid to habitats and other natural concerns. The next steps for this will be”

- 1.) Plan goes to MNA board for our review and approval
- 2.) Then to Parks Board
- 3.) City Council for Approval

Back to current needs at Hilfiker – pathways need new layer of wood chips. City will provide chips at no costs, and installation – as in the past – could be done by volunteers. We will need to organize a work party (possibly announce at Open House) and do the work shortly thereafter.

Pamela S. – said that Clark Creek Park’s ball court can use similar improvement as will be done at Morningside Park. This is a bigger court and will cost more. Clark Creek Park has \$1,985 from donations that could help in that direction. There was some comment about past failed application for grant to improve the Clark Creek playground – due to site’s terrain not being (user-friendly) serviceable to handicap access to the equipment.

Janet B. – said she would like to see Clark Creek’s needs be addressed before Hilfiker, if possible. Hilfiker development is already funded. There was more related discussion on both parks. Janet B. moved MNA apply for SPF grant for Clark Creek Park multipurpose court restoration. Motion was seconded by Alan M. and passed by unanimous vote.

C.E.R.T. – Pamela S. gave meeting visitors an overview of what the program is, where it is based, how classes for participated are conducted throughout the year. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 20 at Morningside Methodist Church on 12th Street. She went over the kinds of (emergency) supplies that are stored there. She added that among the CERT team

word out to neighbors that they need to have their own household emergency plan and supplies as well. Pamela S. said CERT will have a booth at Open House to provide informational handouts and recruit volunteers.

Liquor Licenses – Pamela S. – said none were received this past month – nothing to report.

Transit – Bob K. not here – is out of town – no report.

Pringle Creek Watershed Committee – Ken H. and Brad N. not present – no report.

Discussion – Pamela S. said we need to vote on moving the May Annual Meeting/Open House from Wednesday the 9th to Wednesday the 16th to avoid conflict with City budget meeting and enable attendance by officials. Motion to do so made, seconded and approved by Board. Open house will be from 6:30 to 8:00 PM as usual. There was discussion about help needed to solicit businesses for raffle items, provide for treats and refreshments, and to print and circulate flyers to the neighborhood.

Open Topics –

Visitor Michael Hunter announced he will be running for the State Legislative District 19 seat and wanted to introduce himself to us and hear any of our concerns that he may be able to act on if he is elected. He said he has extensive experience with the Legislature in his recent role as a lobbyist there; also is a strong public safety advocate, with experience in law enforcement and parole and probation enforcement in Montana. He will be on he on the May ballot.

Chair Pamela S. – regarding the mix-up about Pringle Hall use for our last-month’s off-schedule meeting: She received a “not-so-nice” phone call from the PH over-seer about the disruption we caused for the Yoga group that was using the hall when we arrived. Pam had forgotten to call and tell them of our schedule change; she sent Pringle Community a written apology for the incident.

Good of the Order – no further announcement or comments.

Adjourn – Chair Pamela S. adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM